After a general introduction, defining terms and limits, there will be an overview of the state of development in 1990 (taking particular account of Dean Nielsen's Jomtien round table paper 'Using distance education to extend and improve teaching in developing countries'). The thematic analysis of developments 1990-2000 will consider use of technologies directly in school (e.g. broadcasting, various uses of computers) principally to raise quality; use of technologies indirectly in school (e.g. teacher education and possibly management support) principally to raise quality; and use of technologies out of school, principally for access. This section will look, among other things, at: computers in schools to support teaching and for school linking; school broadcasting including interactive radio instruction; open schools and supervised study centres; range of modalities for teacher education; technology-based non-formal education. Following will be an assessment of experience, taking account of outcomes; conditions for success; costs. and funding arrangements. The paper will conclude with proposed lines of development for 2000-2010.

Throughout the paper we will consider questions of gender and of access to technology for different groups within society. While its main concern will be with developing-country experience it will also take reasonable account of industrialized country experience both for breadth of coverage and because of the relevance of some northern experience to the solution of southern problems.

The paper will take account of a range of technologies, and different applications of them to basic education, from print to radio to computers. They need to be considered together both because of the blurring of the engineering distinctions between them and because of the need to make allocation decisions among them and between them and conventional education.