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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The plight of the Sudano-Sahelian countries has been under continuous consideration by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies since 1971. The Assembly has repeatedly expressed its support for the recovery and rehabilitation efforts of the Sudano-Sahelian countries, at both national and regional levels, urging, inter alia, all States Members of the United Nations and other potential contributing sources, as well as United Nations organs, agencies and programmes, to help solve the pressing problems posed by the severity of droughts in the region. In this connexion, the General Assembly adopted, in particular, the following resolutions: 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973, 3253 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974, 3512 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, 31/180 of 21 December 1976, 32/159 of 19 December 1977, 33/133 of 19 December 1978, 34/16 of 9 November 1979, 35/86 of 5 December 1980 and 36/203 of 17 December 1981. The Economic and Social Council adopted, in particular, the following resolutions: 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, 1797 (IV) of 11 July 1973, 1834 (LVI) of 14 May 1974, 1874 (LVII) of 16 July 1974, 1918 (LVIII) of 5 May 1975, 2103 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, 1978/37 of 21 July 1978, 1979/51 of 2 August 1979, 1980/51 of 23 July 1980 and 1981/55 of 22 July 1981.

2. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 36/203, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to report to it, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

3. The report deals with the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) under the mandate of the drought-related medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the eight countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region which are members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), namely, Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta. As explained in section VI below, which deals primarily with UNSO-assisted priority projects, in order to provide a comprehensive description of the situation at hand, the report also refers to some of the more important and directly relevant activities undertaken in those eight countries by UNSO under its mandate relating to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. 1/ UNSO carries out the mandate on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and under a joint UNDP/UNEP venture.

1/ The activities of UNSO regarding the group of designated countries of the Sudano-Sahelian and adjacent regions, including the eight States members of CILSS, relating to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, are described in detail in the report of the Governing Council of UNEP to be submitted to the General Assembly, in accordance with Assembly resolution 36/190. The present report should therefore be read in conjunction with the report of the Governing Council of UNEP.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AT ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

4. At its twenty-eighth session, held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 June to 1 July 1981, the Governing Council of UNDP adopted decision 81/5 on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

5. In that decision, the Governing Council, inter alia, noted with satisfaction the decisive role played by UNSO in helping to combat the effects of the drought through the mobilization of resources necessary for the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme of the States members of CILSS; took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/36/208 and Add.1); commended the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the results achieved by UNSO, and for his continuing priority attention to the pressing needs of the drought-affected Sudano-Sahelian countries; expressed its gratitude to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals that had contributed to the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region; called upon all Governments to make special efforts to enable UNSO to respond more fully to the priority requirements of the States members of CILSS, including voluntary contributions to be made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities; invited UNSO to continue its close co-operation with CILSS with a view to hastening the implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region; and requested the Administrator to continue to enhance the capacity of UNSO to respond effectively in the field to the priority requirements of the States members of CILSS through the greater use of resources available to the Programme, particularly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

6. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 81/5, UNSO has taken a number of actions which are described in sections V to VII of the present report.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1981

7. At its second regular session of 1981, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 24 July 1981, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1981/55, in which it, inter alia, took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/208 and Add.1); expressed its profound gratitude to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals that had contributed to the implementation of the recovery, rehabilitation and development programme in the Sahel; called upon all Governments to make special efforts to increase the resources of UNSO through voluntary contributions, including those to be made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, so as

to enable UNSO to respond more fully to the priority requirements of the Governments of the States members of CILSS; and requested UNSO to continue its close co-operation with the States members of CILSS, with a view to hastening the implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region. Furthermore, the Council took note of the progress made in the implementation of the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5 of Council resolution 1980/51 aimed at increasing the assistance of the competent organizations of the United Nations system and enhancing the ability of UNSO to respond more adequately to the priority requirements of the States members of CILSS; invited the Secretary-General to pursue further the consultations envisaged in paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1980/51, with a view to working out specific arrangements for joint undertakings between UNSO and the appropriate organs, agencies and programmes of the United Nations; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its second regular session of 1982 a report on the implementation of Council resolution 1981/55.

8. The appeal of the Council that joint interagency undertakings should be worked out was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 36/203 (see para. 10 below) and served as a basis for consultations involving the United Nations organs, agencies and programmes concerned on the most efficient means and methods of increasing the United Nations capability in responding to the needs of the Sudano-Sahelian countries. The results of these consultations are described in the report of the Secretary-General which is to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 in response to Council resolution 1981/55.

IV. ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

9. At its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/36/208 and Add.1); the report had been submitted to the Assembly through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with Assembly resolution 35/86. 2/

10. Having considered the report, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/203, in which it, inter alia, noted with satisfaction the decisive role played by UNSO in helping to combat the effects of the drought and to implement the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme adopted by the States members of CILSS, and in mobilizing the necessary resources to finance priority projects; took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General; expressed its gratitude to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals that have contributed to the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and

2/ The Assembly also had before it the report of the Governing Council of UNEP on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/36/144, annex).

rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region; strongly urged all Governments to make special efforts to increase the resources of UNSO, including voluntary contributions through the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, as well as other bilateral channels so as to enable it to respond more fully to the priority requirements of the Governments of the States members of CILSS; requested all organs, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and increase their assistance through joint undertakings with UNSO, in response to requests from the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian countries, for the implementation of their recovery, rehabilitation and development programmes (see para. 8 above); invited the Secretary-General to pursue further the consultations envisaged in paragraph 5 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/51, with a view to working out specific arrangements for joint undertakings between UNSO and the appropriate organs, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system (see para. 8 above); commended the Administrator of UNDP for the results achieved through UNSO in assisting the States members of CILSS in the implementation of their medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme; reaffirmed the role of UNSO as the central point and principal body responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of United Nations agencies to help the countries of the Sahel to implement their recovery and rehabilitation programme; noted with appreciation the effective manner in which UNSO is discharging its responsibilities in responding to the priority requests of the States members of CILSS within the framework of their programme; invited UNSO to continue to strengthen its close co-operation with the States members of CILSS and with the Committee, with a view to hastening the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

11. The General Assembly also adopted a number of other resolutions which relate closely to the activities of UNSO in medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programmes, including resolutions 36/175 on specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries; 36/177 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; 36/179 on the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development; 36/180 on special measures for the social and economic development of Africa in the 1980s; 36/186 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa; 36/190 on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; 36/192 on international co-operation in the field of the environment; 36/193 on the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy; and 36/194 on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The General Assembly also adopted resolution 36/210 on assistance to Chad (see paras. 50 and 51 below), resolution 36/211 on assistance to Cape Verde (see para. 44 below), and resolution 36/220 on assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Gambia (see para. 53 below).

V. FUNCTIONS AND MODUS OPERANDI OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SUDANO-SAHELIAN OFFICE; THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST
FUND FOR SUDANO-SAHELIAN ACTIVITIES AND
MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

12. The functions and modus operandi of UNSO, the background and circumstances leading to its establishment, as well as information on the methods and modalities of the resource mobilization activities of UNSO and on the operations of the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Fund), 3/ have been elaborated in detail in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session (A/36/208, paras. 12-28), and will not be repeated in the present report.

13. As a result of the expanding operational capability of UNSO and the dynamics of project planning and implementation, the number of UNSO-supported projects under the mandate of drought-related recovery and rehabilitation has increased since 1975 from 52 (21 regional and 31 national), costing at approximately \$153 million 4/ to 119 (28 regional and 91 national), requiring a total financing of more than \$701 million. By early in 1982, close to \$450 million had become available from various quarters, including bilateral and multilateral sources, more than \$60 million of that amount was contributed by and through the Trust Fund.

14. In 1981, UNSO mobilized \$30.9 million to finance priority drought-related recovery and rehabilitation projects, and desertification control projects of the Governments of the States members of CILSS. This figure does not include the resources provided by the Governments of the Sahelian countries; it includes only resources provided through the Trust Fund, amounting to \$14.7 million, and an additional amount of \$16.2 million mobilized through bilateral and multilateral channels to complement the financing of the projects in question.

15. 1981 was a year that witnessed an intensification of the resource mobilization efforts of UNSO, as well as a significant increase in consultations with donor and recipient countries alike. These contacts included the initiation of a number of important joint UNSO/donor fact-finding, programming and project formulation missions to countries suffering from drought and desertification. As a result, UNSO was able, despite the currently difficult world economic climate and the resulting difficulties for multilateral assistance programmes, to maintain the momentum of donor involvement in the CILSS countries.

VI. NEW UNSO-SUPPORTED REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PRIORITY ACTIVITIES
IN THE AREA OF DROUGHT-RELATED MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM
RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

3/ In 1981, the main contributors to the Trust Fund were the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

4/ All figures quoted are in United States dollars.

16. The priority projects for which UNSO has been mobilizing resources continue to be those which are part of the First Generation Projects adopted by the Conference of Heads of State of CILSS, held at Banjul in December 1977, and those included in the joint CILSS/UNSO strategy for combating desertification in the Sahel, approved by the Conference of Heads of State of CILSS, held at Ouagadougou in January 1980.

17. As described earlier, projects assisted by UNSO in the area of medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation cover a wide range of activities, and are concentrated basically in the transport infrastructure and agricultural sectors (for details, see A/36/208, para. 33).

18. So far, UNSO support has been provided to the countries of the Sahel largely on an individual project basis and mainly within the sectors mentioned above. In the course of the programming and project work, however, a greater appreciation has been progressively generated, on the part of all concerned, of the need for a more systematic, multisectoral and comprehensive approach to dealing with the problems posed by drought and desertification. As a result, increasing attention is at present being paid to these issues within the context of national planning exercises and the formulation of development strategies, which should create an even more productive framework within which UNSO-supported programmes and projects will be developed and implemented.

19. As part of this development, a number of new trends are emerging, mainly in terms of the order of sectoral priorities. In particular, there is growing emphasis, on the part of the Governments concerned, on range management and conservation measures, the control of water resources with special attention to surface-water harvesting, improved food production, intensified reforestation and afforestation, the development of national capabilities through expanded training activities, increased institutional support for the establishment or strengthening of national units to deal systematically with the problem of drought-related recovery and rehabilitation and, last but not least, the development of new and renewable sources of energy. This last area is of particular importance, since more than 80 per cent of the energy consumed by the population of the Sudano-Sahelian region comes from wood resources, and urgent measures are required to prevent major ecological damage, further threatening the already fragile ecosystem of the Sahel.

20. As follows from the preceding paragraphs, many of the activities falling under the scope of the UNSO mandate of drought-related recovery and rehabilitation are closely related to those undertaken under its mandate for the implementation, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Consequently, in order to provide the General Assembly with a representative picture of the activities conducted under the aegis of UNSO, the description of UNSO-supported regional and national activities in the Sahelian countries which follows, gives also a brief account of some of the more important projects undertaken in the CILSS countries under the desertification control mandate of UNSO, especially those projects which clearly have a bearing on the medium-term and long-term drought-related recovery and rehabilitation in the area.

21. Since the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session (A/36/208 and Add.1) contained relatively detailed information about the main features of UNSO programmes in the States members of CILSS over the past few years, as well as some general information pertaining, for instance, to the structure and functions of the Institute of the Sahel and other bodies with which UNSO deals, the present report limits itself more strictly to developments which occurred in 1981, providing ancillary information only to the extent that is required as supporting background information. Wherever applicable, the present report should therefore be read in conjunction with the above-mentioned report (A/36/208 and Add.1).

22. It should also be kept in mind, when reviewing the activities summarized below, that in carrying out its mandates, UNSO takes fully into consideration the substantive lessons to be drawn from past and ongoing related undertakings being carried out under the auspices of UNDP and other bodies. In extending its support to the Governments of Sahelian countries for the purpose of formulating and implementing their priority projects, UNSO draws fully on the UNDP resident representatives for programme and administrative backstopping, as well as for co-ordination in project development, so as to make sure that UNSO-supported activities have proper linkages with other undertakings being implemented in the same or related sectors or subsectors. The network of UNDP resident representatives is thus of particular importance to UNSO; their active participation in the formulation and implementation of UNSO-supported projects, as well as their supervisory, monitoring and evaluation functions in respect of UNSO-sponsored activities are essential for the effective discharge of the mandates of UNSO in the Sahel.

A. Regional projects

Construction, improvement and maintenance of a region-wide system of all-weather feeder roads

23. Of special prominence among UNSO-supported regional activities is the programme for the construction, improvement and maintenance of a region-wide system in the Sahel of all-weather feeder roads, executed by the Office for Projects Execution (OPE) of UNDP. The estimated cost of the programme, comprising almost 3,900 kilometres of roads, is over \$150 million (at 1980 prices). Of this amount, approximately \$105 million had been secured by the end of 1981 for the construction of some 2,150 kilometres of roads, either on a bilateral or multilateral basis, or through contributions to the Trust Fund. Of these \$105 million, UNSO is providing \$60 million for 1,600 kilometres of roads from (a) contributions to the Trust Fund by Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and Saudi Arabia; and (b) contributions of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, the United States of America and the United Nations Capital Development Fund under joint action arrangements with UNSO.

24. The construction programme is being carried out for the most part by government public works departments, and provides for road-building and maintenance equipment and spare parts, construction and operating costs, and technical

co-operation components. Particular attention is being paid, in implementing the programme, to the widest possible participation by the national services in constructing the roads and to questions relating to the establishment of continuous and systematic feeder road maintenance practices, sustained training activities and, in general, the strengthening of the supporting governmental infrastructures.

25. As of January 1982, approximately 1,300 kilometres of feeder roads had been constructed and were in use in the Gambia, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta. Of these, close to 300 kilometres were constructed in 1981.

26. In 1981, important negotiations with bilateral donors were concluded, which will lead to a further significant expansion of the road programme in Mauritania. In addition, following an in-depth socio-economic analysis, financing for a further extension of the feeder road system in Mali and Senegal was negotiated with donors. Further details on the specific aspects of this major regional programme are provided in the account of UNSO-assisted national projects (see paras. 44-90 below).

27. As mentioned previously, the feeder road programme, which began as a venture primarily designed to ensure year-round access to isolated, drought-prone areas, to foster the recovery and rehabilitation of the Sahelian region and to mitigate the effects of possible future droughts in the region, has become an important element of the over-all development process in the Sahel, in that the roads constructed have already acquired the character of a permanent transport infrastructure in the countries concerned and in the region as a whole. Considering the substantial progress made by the feeder roads programme since its inception, and the increasing need to protect and preserve this important investment, UNSO announced in 1981 that it would look carefully into the maintenance needs of the programme.

28. In January 1982, UNSO fielded for this purpose an appraisal mission composed of independent, high-level road engineers and transport economists. The mission, in which the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was invited to participate in view of its experience with labour-intensive road building and maintenance techniques in other parts of Africa, visited the Gambia, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta. During its visit to those countries, the mission team carefully inspected all of the roads constructed under the programme, in order to:

- (a) Assess the quality of the work performed;
- (b) Appraise the current condition of the roads, one to three years after their completion;
- (c) Assess, in a preliminary fashion, the socio-economic impact on the regions concerned resulting from the opening of the roads;
- (d) Draw up, in the light of the above considerations, a practical scheme for the medium-term and long-term maintenance of the roads.

29. The consultant report, which was made available after completion of the mission, gives a very positive assessment of the achievement of the road construction and maintenance programme, not only because of the efficiency with which the roads have been built, but also because of the manifestly positive socio-economic impact which the opening of these roads has had on the regions they link or traverse. In particular, the report points out that:

(a) The construction standards used by the programme are well adapted to local needs for all-year transportation;

(b) Regarding the modalities for the implementation of the programme, execution by government "force account" (en régie) through autonomous national road construction and maintenance brigades has proved successful, notably because of the flexibility of this arrangement to respond to the potential of the individual national public works departments under the aegis of which the brigades function and to the practical on-the-job training opportunities they provide;

(c) In terms of average road construction costs (\$25,000-\$30,000 per kilometre), the programme has proved most efficient compared with other programmes under which similar roads were built in this region;

(d) Concerning the socio-economic impact of the roads constructed, it has been established that, in most cases, the volume of traffic generated by the opening of the roads has systematically exceeded the most optimistic estimation made before the start of the programme;

(e) Because of the difficult climatic conditions in the Sudano-Sahelian region, the need for the establishment of an adequate maintenance system is evident;

(f) This system, or systems, must be sufficiently flexible to adapt to the conditions in each country, and must be able to cope with different constraints as they occur: current maintenance requirements, unforeseen damages resulting from natural causes (unstable rainfall patterns) and periodic major rehabilitation (refill of road surfaces with lateritic material).

30. In this context, the consultant report puts forward preliminary proposals for detailed maintenance scheme for the five countries. The scheme is costed at nearly \$10 million, for a period of five years, during which the maintenance capacities of the concerned national services are to be built up or increasingly reinforced, with a view to eventually taking the full responsibility for the future maintenance of the roads. The proposals include:

(a) The provision of a technical assistance team composed of one or two civil engineers, located in the Sahel region, to build up and back up the national services concerned; in addition, the services of a chief mechanic and accountant, to be used in the region for trouble-shooting and training, are envisaged;

(b) A five-year financial provision to cover the operational cost of the maintenance programme, including procurement of spare parts, fuel and lubricants, and salaries of local personnel; the use of these provisions will be determined on a case-by-case basis according to demonstrated needs;

(c) Very carefully developed on-the-job training programmes at all levels, including financial/administrative training, designed to reinforce national capabilities to plan and carry out specific equipment and road maintenance activities, so that the national services can take these responsibilities over gradually or at the close of the project.

31. On the basis of the consultant report, UNSO has already undertaken a series of action vis-à-vis potential donors and it is hoped that the international community will respond favourably and accommodate the financial requirements necessary to implement this critical maintenance programme which is not only essential to secure optimal returns from the road network already built but is needed as well to back up its proposed extension.

Programme of strengthening agro-meteorological and hydrological services

32. The programme, which is currently entering its second phase, aims principally at (a) strengthening the communication system for the utilization of the data gathered through the meteorological and hydrological observation network in the region, in order to make the network fully operational; (b) continuing the training of national personnel for operating the programme satisfactorily; and (c) developing means whereby the hydrometeorological data processed by the programme is put to effective, practical use by the farmers of the Sahel. Therefore, during the second phase, covering the period 1982-1986, it is foreseen that the programme will intensify its applied research activities and develop its collaboration with other agricultural research institutions, as well as with related CILSS and UNSO activities. Continuing UNSO support of agro-meteorological and hydrological programmes in the CILSS member States constitutes an element in the ongoing AGRHYMET programme which, at both regional and national levels, also benefits from the support of UNDP, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and a number of donors.

Institute of the Sahel

33. UNSO has continued to support the Institute of the Sahel, an agency of CILSS, with a view to reinforcing and establishing firmly the Institute's operational capabilities. Architectural plans for the Institute's headquarters in Bamako were completed in December 1981 through a project jointly financed by UNSO (\$100,000) and UNDP (\$102,000) and executed by the Office for Projects Execution of UNDP.

34. In June 1981, the first intake of senior Sahelian veterinarians completed their post-graduate training in management and conservation of pasture lands at the Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaire of Dakar, under a programme organized by the Institute with a contribution of \$131,000 from UNSO and \$350,000 from UNDP. Following the joint evaluation of this programme by UNSO, UNDP, the

Institute of the Sahel and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the executing agency for the programme, UNSO, at the request of the Institute, provided an additional \$136,300 to cover the fellowship costs of the 1981/82 academic year. Sixteen Sahelian and two Guinean veterinarians are participating in the programme during 1981/82. The main objective of the programme, which falls under the UNSO desertification control mandate, is to build up national expertise in range management and pasture protection techniques, as part of the essential training effort required to develop and implement sound desertification control strategies in the Sahelian region.

35. UNSO has further allocated \$309,100 for the establishment of an environmental and ecological research unit, within the research department of the Institute, which will enable it to play a more active role in the promotion and co-ordination of problem-oriented ecological research by focusing, *inter alia*, on the competing, yet crucial, needs for increased agricultural production and for the protection of the fragile ecosystems in the countries of the Sahel. One of the first tasks of the unit will be the finalization and implementation of projects contained in the first five-year programme for ecological research approved by the Institute's Board of Directors. These include an evaluation of the effects of developmental actions on the Sahelian ecosystem, as well as research on indigenous plant species and their potentialities in the Sahelian region.

Design, development and production of fuel-efficient cooking stoves

36. Within the framework of its desertification control mandate, UNSO is supporting a regional programme of the States members of CILSS, involving the promotion and the production of various kinds of cooking stoves, including clay, sand, cement and metal stoves. The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has contributed to the financing of a regional team charged, under the auspices of CILSS and UNSO, with the co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of this programme; SIDA has also indicated its interest in participating in the financing of the national project which is expected to follow in the Upper Volta. Complementary financing is currently under discussion to cover the costs of national programmes in Mali, Mauritania and the Niger.

37. UNSO is also supporting the programme in the Gambia, through a \$398,000 contribution from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). A related project on the development of alternative sources of energy in Senegal, also supported through a DANIDA contribution, is to carry out work on related problems involving the development and marketing of fuels made from agricultural wastes, peat or other sources.

38. The daily use of these energy-efficient stoves in the Sahel should result in a substantial reduction in the demand for ligneous resources, with major and positive implications for the ecology of the region as well as for the recovery and future protection of threatened forest resources.

Seminar on the cultivation of jojoba

39. As part of the UNSO activities to contribute to the understanding of the

problems of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and to provide information on desertification control techniques applicable to the region, UNSO, together with UNDP, co-sponsored a seminar on cultivation of the desert shrub jojoba (*simmondsia chinensis*), which was held in the Sudan in February 1982. The Government of the Sudan acted as host to the seminar. Among the participants were representatives of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region and of the countries of the region covered by the Economic Commission for Western Asia. The seminar drew upon the existing knowledge in the Sudan of the feasibility of jojoba cultivation, and provided an opportunity to explore the potential of jojoba production in other countries of Africa and in the Middle East. Among other issues, the seminar examined ways by which jojoba, a drought-resistant shrub that produces an oil with extensive industrial pharmaceutical and other properties, could be planted and grown in desert-prone regions as a cover to inhibit the process of desertification, and to provide an alternative or supplementary source of income to the villagers.

40. The following CILSS countries participated in the seminar under UNSO sponsorship: Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta. Representatives of the Institute of the Sahel and the CILSS secretariat were also sponsored by UNSO.

Restoration and integrated biological development of the Fouta-Djallon massif

41. In 1981, UNSO continued to support, under its desertification control mandate, a joint OAU/FAO/UNESCO/UNSO effort for the restoration and integrated biological development of the Fouta-Djallon massif in Guinea. While recognizing that the Fouta-Djallon massif is outside the geographical scope of the present report, reference is made to this activity because the massif is the watershed for all the main rivers of west Africa. Indeed, the rains which fall abundantly on the massif under the Atlantic monsoon cycle have a critical effect on the flow of, inter alia, the Gambia, Niger and Senegal rivers.

42. The serious degradation of the massif's ecology that has been observed over the past few decades has caused increasing concern and focused the attention of the Governments of the subregion on the problem. The key to this concern is the increasingly rapid water run-off, caused by the degradation of the vegetation cover, which has in turn drastically affected the timing, length and utility of these rivers' yearly flood.

43. The present project will be jointly financed by UNSO, UNDP and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) with contributions from the Government of Guinea. Within its framework, studies will be undertaken in order to collect and process the necessary data concerning the scope and degree of soil erosion in the massif and its consequences to Guinea and the countries through which rivers flow from Guinea. The project will also establish pilot zones in order to develop a methodology to combat erosion and land degradation and help increase its potential productive capacity. It will be executed by FAO in association with UNESCO and WMO and in close collaboration with national reafforestation projects and the protection and development of the Kouloulo Basin Programme undertaken in the current UNDP country programme.

B. National projects

Cape Verde

44. In resolution 36/211 of 17 December 1981, the General Assembly, inter alia, noted that the Cape Verde, one of the least developed, as well as a most seriously affected island country, and a member of CIILSS, is in need of increased substantial assistance to overcome its economic backwardness; recognized the strenuous efforts displayed by the Government and people of Cape Verde in the process of their socio-economic development, despite existing constraints; expressed its grave concern that the expected harvest for 1982 had been lost as a result of the failure of the seasonal rain and the recurrence of drought; and again requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for implementing the programme of development assistance to Cape Verde.

45. In the area of UNSO-assisted priority programmes, important activities dealing with feeder road and inter-island marine transportations systems, as well as local airports, have been carried out and are being developed.

46. In this connexion, an important feasibility study was carried out in October/November 1981, concerning the opening of priority feeder roads and the rehabilitation of the runways of the two airports on Maio and Boa Vista Islands. This study was carried out within the context of the planned integrated development of these two islands, which have been designated one of the main priorities of the Government's development policy. UNSO is already engaged, at the request of the Government, in the mobilization of resources to allow for the early implementation of this project.

47. With respect to desertification control activities, UNSO has continued to support a major programme aimed at strengthening Cape Verde national capabilities in the management, exploration and utilization of underground and surface water resources. The project, the total cost of which is \$1,075,000, is being executed by the Office for Projects Execution of UNDP and is financed in part by a \$770,000 contribution from the Government of Italy to the Trust Fund. The implementation of this project started in October 1981 and the construction phase, including the building of small earth dams, stone dykes and underground water catchment works, will start in September 1982. In the interim, detailed topographical and geotechnical studies and the preparation of final engineering drawings will be carried out. The project is being carried out in close co-operation with the UNDP-financed project entitled "Research and Development of Water Resources". In 1981, an evaluation mission took place to study the results of the joint efforts of UNSO, UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in this field.

48. Furthermore, UNSO has undertaken a four-year project for the development of the utilization of wind energy, involving the installation of wind turbines in urban, village and sparsely populated rural areas of Cape Verde, which have prevailing winds of an intensity and regularity that are favourable for harnessing energy through windmills. The total cost of the project, which is executed by the Office for Projects Execution of UNDP, is \$1,744,000. This requirement is financed

by a Government contribution in kind valued at \$248,000, an UNSO input of \$40,000 to finance pre-project activities, and a contribution by DANIDA to the Trust Fund amounting to \$1,456,000.

49. Since 1980, UNSO has also been financing a government-executed project for the development of the San Joao Baptista Valley. Considering the fact that the major part of the work force engaged in this project is made up of women, UNSO is at present negotiating the possible extension of the project with additional financing from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women).

Chad

50. In resolution 36/210 of 17 December 1981, the General Assembly, inter alia, expressed its deep concern about the massive destruction of property and the serious damage done to the economic and social infrastructure of Chad during the past 15 years, and urgently appealed to all Member States, the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system and international financial and economic institutions, to provide generous emergency aid to Chad, through bilateral or multilateral channels, to meet its reconstruction, rehabilitation and development needs.

51. The Assembly also pointed out that Chad was in a particularly disadvantageous position as a least developed, land-locked and drought-stricken country and requested the Secretary-General (a) to organize an international programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Chad to enable it to meet its short-term and long-term needs with respect to reconstruction, rehabilitation and development; and (b) to ensure that appropriate financial and budgetary arrangements are made for the establishment of an effective international programme of assistance for Chad and for mobilizing that assistance.

52. UNSO, within the framework of its mandates, keeps the situation in Chad under constant review, and is in the process of resuming its drought-related recovery and rehabilitation activities in the country, as well as initiating desertification control activities, as appropriate. It is expected that in the foreseeable future, UNSO will field two missions to review the existing situation and the needs of the country, one in the area of feeder road construction and the other in the field of desertification control activities.

The Gambia

53. In resolution 36/220 of 17 December 1981, the General Assembly, inter alia, expressed its deep concern about the extensive destruction of life and property as well as the severe damage to infrastructure which were inflicted on the Gambia as the result of recent events; noted that the Gambia also suffers from many of the serious problems common to countries of the Sahelian region, notably drought; and urgently appealed to all Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international development and financial institutions, to contribute generously, through bilateral or multilateral channels, to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country.

54. The feeder road construction programme in the Gambia received an additional contribution in 1981 from the Federal Republic of Germany in an amount equivalent to \$2 million. Part of this contribution was used during a construction period of five months in 1981 and 30 kilometres of new roads were completed as a result. In addition to the completion of the new roads, regular maintenance has been carried out on the 180 kilometres of roads built previously.

55. Following the implementation of the UNSO-financed large-scale project for the development of watering points under which 28 deep boreholes have been drilled and equipped, the Government requested UNSO to provide assistance to develop and strengthen the department in charge of their maintenance and repair. The cost of this project is \$270,320, of which UNSO has agreed to contribute \$100,320; by means of these funds, logistical support is being provided to build up a mobile field unit which will keep the stations in operation. It is expected that at the close of this project, the field unit will be in a position to maintain the boreholes and pumps without additional assistance.

56. Two projects for the provision of (a) animal drugs and veterinary equipment, and (b) pesticides and selected seeds for upland cultivation, were financed by UNSO in 1981 at a total cost of more than \$300,000. These projects, which are executed by the FAO Office of Special Relief Operations are designed to support ongoing activities of the livestock and agricultural services aimed at increasing the Gambia's food production capacity, and thus help alleviate the effects of the 1979-1980 drought.

57. Within its desertification control mandate, as mentioned in paragraph 37 above, UNSO is assisting the Gambia, with a \$398,000 contribution from DANIDA, in the production of improved stoves for use in rural areas.

58. Furthermore, a major project entitled "Survey and Energy Master Plan for the Gambia" was prepared with UNSO assistance and approved by the Government in February 1981. The total cost of the project is \$310,000, of which \$250,000 is being provided by UNSO from the resources of the Trust Fund, and \$60,000, as a contribution in kind, by the Government. The project, executed by the World Bank, has provided the Gambian Government with an analysis of the energy requirements of the country for the next 10 years, including renewable energy, and a proposed strategy to meet that demand. Since 80 per cent of the total energy used in the Gambia derives from wood and wood by-products, this project is particularly important from the point of view of the country's policies for the rational utilization, preservation and conservation of its forest and other natural resources. The preparation of the Energy Master Plan started in March 1981 and its final consolidation is expected at the end of the first trimester of 1982.

59. Early in 1982, work will start, with the assistance of UNSO, on the preparation of the national plan of action to combat desertification. This project was approved in 1981 but its implementation was delayed. Through the project, UNSO will support the elaboration of a drought-related recovery and rehabilitation strategy, as well as a desertification control strategy, based on the Government's second five-year plan 1982-1986.

Mali

60. The feeder road construction and maintenance programme in Mali received an additional contribution of \$1.1 million from the Netherlands to the Trust Fund for the completion of the Didieni-Goumbou-Nara road. In 1981, the remaining 60 kilometres of this road were completed by the national brigade, thus increasing the total number of kilometres built and rehabilitated under the current UNESO-supported programme in Mali to 344 kilometres.

61. UNESO also undertook to prepare a feasibility study for the Kati-Kolokani road (114 kilometres), which is a new phase of the feeder road programme in Mali. Based on this study, additional contributions have been mobilized in the amount of \$6,084,000, including a government contribution of \$225,000. A special arrangement between the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNDP and UNESO has been made to assure this financing. Construction in respect of this new phase of the programme is now under way.

62. In 1981, the project for the protection of animal health in the drought-stricken north-western part of Mali, to which UNESO had contributed \$100,000 and FAO \$150,000, was executed by the FAO Office of Special Relief Operations with technical support from the FAO livestock development project operating in the region. This project provided an adequate supply of vaccines and medicines, as well as necessary equipment and cold-storage facilities, needed to carry out a campaign against internal and external parasite infestation affecting weakened livestock in areas recently subjected to recurring severe drought spells (1979-1980).

63. A joint Government of Yugoslavia/UNESO project formulation mission visited Mali from 28 January to 6 February 1982 to develop a project designed to reinforce the operational capacity of the National Department of Hydrology and Energy. At the request of the Government of Mali, the mission reviewed the need for complementary activities in the following areas:

(a) Further exploration of underground water resources in order to determine their size, characteristics (recharge, directional flow of aquifers etc.) and optimal utilization;

(b) Development of a national capacity for the manufacture of pumps to be fitted on boreholes;

(c) Further development of the country's well and borehole maintenance capabilities.

64. The mission work was carried out in close co-operation with the ongoing large-scale UNDP-supported rural water supply project to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. The report of the mission is expected to be available in March 1982.

65. Regarding its desertification control activities, UNSO initiated and financed, at the beginning of 1981, at the request of the Government, a mission to formulate an experimental programme for the establishment of multipurpose village and industrial tree plantations in the Gao region. On the basis of the findings of the mission, the first phase of the project was launched in May 1981. The total cost of the project, which is being executed by the Government, amounts to \$380,000, of which the Government is providing \$530,000 and UNSO \$300,000.

66. With \$90,000 from UNSO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is carrying out a feasibility study for the establishment of a plant for the production of solar energy equipment and materials, including pumps, cooking stoves and solar heaters.

Mauritania

67. A financial agreement was signed in 1980 for a total amount of \$4.3 million under a joint action arrangement between the United Nations Capital Development Fund (\$2.8 million), UNSO (\$1.5 million) and the Government (\$250,000), to finance a project for the construction and maintenance of the M'Bout-Selibaby road. More than \$2.6 million of road-building equipment has been provided by the Fund to equip a special brigade for the construction and maintenance of the road; UNSO financing will be utilized to provide for the operational costs of the brigade, including the employment and training of local personnel, and technical assistance. Actual construction activities will start early in 1982. Extension of the project is currently being negotiated with the collaboration of a bilateral aid programme.

68. In 1981, UNSO, in collaboration with the Government, undertook the formulation of the extension of the project for equipment and maintenance of 36 deep bore wells. This new phase aims at making efficient use of the underground water resources, made available through the wells, by training the people living in the vicinity of the boreholes in simple irrigated cultivation techniques for the production of food staples, vegetables and fodder for livestock. Proposals to this effect, including the establishment of small irrigated perimeters, are at present under review by the Government.

69. UNSO is also financing a project, the objective of which is to provide the Ministry of Rural Development with the means of collecting the basic data on agriculture and livestock breeding, which can provide the statistical inputs necessary for planning the utilization of renewable natural resources and the development of the rural sector. The project also includes the study of Mauritania's fauna and fowl to define a medium- and long-range programme for the protection of threatened species. This project, jointly executed by FAO and the UNDP Office for Projects Execution at a total cost of \$1,180,000, was made possible through a contribution to the Trust Fund by the Italian Government of \$350,000; UNDP and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development are also contributing to this project. The project staff is being recruited and will start its work at the end of March 1982.

70. In addition, a large-scale programme of earth dam construction and rehabilitation in the region of Kiffa in south-western Mauritania, in which UNSO played a leading role in mobilizing financial resources amounting to \$4.5 million, has started. The quantitative aims of this project, which is jointly financed by UNDP, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Office of Emergency Operations and UNSO, are to repair 15 earth dams and to construct four new ones over a period of three years. Among others, these activities have been designed to ensure, with the full participation of the population concerned, that the use of the region's available natural resources is compatible with existing ecological constraints of the area. The project is being executed jointly by FAO and the UNDP Office for Projects Execution.

71. As part of its efforts to assist the Government in combating encroaching desert, UNSO has contributed an amount of \$140,000 for the preparation of a comprehensive medium-term and long-term programme of sand dune fixation. A research phase of this programme, focusing on a scientific analysis of the nature and extent of sand movements and providing an operational approach for the stabilization of the different kinds of moving sand dunes, has been completed. As a follow-up, in a second phase, a methodology to control sand movements has been devised, and a substantial programme of operational activities was approved by the national authorities in August 1981. UNSO is already engaged, at the request of the Government, in the mobilization of resources to allow for the early implementation of this project.

The Niger

72. The feeder road construction and maintenance programme in the Niger has been financed in the amount of \$6,279,000 under a joint action arrangement between the Government (\$200,000), UNSO (\$4,029,000) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (\$2,250,000). These funds provide for the construction of 140 kilometres of roads, 60 kilometres of which were built in 1981. In November 1981, UNSO, at the request of the Government of the Niger, agreed to finance the feasibility study for an extension of the current programme, covering an additional 204 kilometres of roads. The chief aim of this extension is to link the roads at present under construction in the south-eastern part of the country with the existing road network built with the support of UNSO in Mali.

73. A joint mission of the Government of the Netherlands and UNSO evaluated the first two phases of the ongoing project for the local manufacture of agricultural equipment and promotion of local craftsmanship for which UNSO has to date provided a total of \$2,090,000 through a contribution of the Netherlands Government to the Trust Fund. As a result of the positive findings of the mission, it was agreed to embark on a third phase designed (a) to support research on the kind of equipment most appropriate for local soils and conditions; (b) to promote a better understanding and hence use of this equipment by the rural population; and (c) to continue production and the training of nationals in the manufacture and utilization of this adapted agricultural material and equipment. The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$3,700,000, of which the Government has agreed to contribute \$300,000.

74. UNSO also financed a mission that prepared a detailed project document for erosion control in the upper reaches of the Maggia Valley. This project, for which UNSO is now actively mobilizing resources seeks to arrest, through carefully elaborated conservation techniques, the severe erosion in the upper reaches of the Maggia Valley, which is threatening the downstream large-scale Birni-N'Konni hydro-agricultural development programme with rapid siltation. It thus addresses one of the key concerns of the Government of the Niger, namely, self-sufficiency in food, as well as the conservation of productive soils in a region severely affected by drought and soil degradation.

75. In the area of desertification control, the highly promising project entitled "Establishment of a Green Belt around Niamey", which is being executed by the Government, utilizes all the experience gained in a similar undertaking carried out in the peri-urban area of Niamey with bilateral financing. The project was expanded in 1981 with an additional contribution of \$572,535, of which \$500,000 is being provided by the Government of Finland and \$72,535 by UNSO; the Government's input into the execution of the project is \$167,000. As a result of a formulation mission fielded in 1981, resource mobilization activities have been launched for a similar project aiming at establishing green belts around eight urban centres of the country.

76. Following the planning and programming activities which took place in 1981 to finalize the project "Operation Gao" in the Dallol-Bosso and Dallo-Maouri areas, a detailed proposal has been prepared which aims, over a period of five years and with extensive popular participation, at the protection and natural regeneration of gao trees (faidherbia albida) in an area of 4,000 to 6,000 hectares, and the establishment of 600 hectares of new plantations. The gao tree, which is leguminous and drought resistant, contributes to the fertility of the soil, produces fodder for livestock, and will also be used to create shelter belts. SIDA has contributed \$80,000 for the technical assistance component of the project and has agreed, subject to finalization of project details, to finance the external costs of the project's other components, which are \$1.1 million.

77. A project for the protection of oases against sand encroachment in the Bilma region of the country is also under preparation, following the fielding of a formulation mission in December 1981.

78. Subsequent to an official visit to the Niger by the Director of UNSO, during which the Government of the Niger confirmed the very high priority it attached to the preparation of a National Energy Master Plan and requested UNSO co-operation for its elaboration, an UNSO-financed World Bank reconnaissance mission visited the country in December 1981. The purpose of the mission was to identify with the Government the major issues and options in the energy sector, and act as a forerunner to a fully-fledged World Bank energy assessment mission; this mission, which is to be funded jointly by UNSO and the UNDP Energy Account and fielded in July 1982, is expected to prepare, inter alia, a detailed project document for the preparation of an Energy Master Plan for the country.

Senegal

79. In 1981, an additional contribution to the UNSO-supported feeder road construction programme in the Sine Saloum region was made available by the Netherlands through the Trust Fund. This contribution, in an amount of \$535,000, allowed the completion of the 65 kilometre road programme for Sine Saloum in December 1981. UNSO also financed in 1981 a feasibility study covering more than 160 kilometres of new roads in the region of Casamance; based on this study, a special arrangement was agreed upon between UNSO, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Senegal, for the financing of the programme costing \$6,601,000. The individual contributions are as follows: the Netherlands through the Trust Fund, \$1,000,000; the Federal Republic of Germany, \$2,830,500; Senegal, \$1,913,670; and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, \$1,188,000.
80. The desertification control pilot project for the development of the Tobor Forest in the Casamance region continued during 1981. The project aims at developing and testing a management plan which, in the long term, will protect the Casamance Forest, while permitting its rational exploitation through (a) facilitating its natural regeneration by the selected felling of dead and degenerating trees; and (b) systematic reforestation, within productive zones, with commercial varieties. During 1981, the project activities aimed at developing and testing a management plan which, in the long term, should protect the Casamance Forest, while permitting its rational exploitation. Those activities were successful in reaching several of their objectives, especially the technical ones; however, it appeared necessary to look in more detail into the matter of securing the full involvement of the local population in the optimal use of the resources of the forest, and a joint UNDP/UNSO mission will be fielded shortly to examine this specific aspect of the project.
81. Negotiations continue on the possibilities of financing a project for the development of fisheries in the Lake of Guiers; in addition, the integrated programme for sand-dune fixation, which includes the protection of vegetable cultivation in dune hollows in the northern littoral, continues to progress in developing solutions for control of this aspect of desertification.
82. To help reduce the demand for fuel wood and the concomitant cutting of trees and woody shrubs, UNSO is also assisting Senegal in developing alternative, renewable sources of energy. A feasibility study is currently being undertaken for the identification and possible development for fuel of agricultural waste products, such as groundnut shells, peat and elephant grass. This activity is part of a major project for the promotion and use of renewable sources of energy in the country, which is expected to start shortly. This project will examine, inter alia, the possibilities of producing fuel briquettes from agricultural waste as well as peat, and will be funded through a contribution of \$625,000 by DANIDA to the Trust Fund, and by an input from the Government of Senegal in the amount of \$170,000.

The Upper Volta

83. In 1981, UNSO contributed an additional amount of \$560,000 to complete the feeder road construction and maintenance programme in the Djibo region. As of December 1981, more than 135 kilometres of roads had been constructed. In addition, repairs are at present being undertaken to correct the damage caused to the roads during exceptionally heavy rains in May 1981. To this end, UNSO and UNDP contributed \$245,000.

84. In November 1981, UNSO undertook the preparation of a feasibility study, covering an additional 233 kilometres of feeder roads (Djibo-Dori-Falagountou), as an extension of the current programme. A special financing arrangement between UNSO, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the African Development Bank, for an amount of \$13.3 million, is now under negotiation. The construction work is expected to resume in May 1982.

85. In the context of its desertification control mandate, UNSO assisted the Government in the development of three new forestry projects in 1981. These include a project for the reforestation and development of the classified Tiogo Forest in the west-central department of the country; a similar project in the department of the Sahel in the north, which provides for the planting of the gum-arabic-producing acacia senegal, and can thus serve the purposes of soil stabilization, the development of a cash crop, and the production of fodder and fuel wood; and a village reforestation project in the region of Koudougou, the principal city of the west-central department of the country. In addition to funds available under the UNEP/UNDP joint venture, SIDA is providing \$96,000 for the preparatory phase of this last project, through an earmarked contribution to the Trust Fund. The full project, which requires an external contribution of \$2 million, will be reviewed for formal approval early in 1982.

86. UNSO is also supporting a project in the Sahelian region of the country (Oudalan) designed to achieve ecologically sound range management. The preparatory phase of this project, financed by UNSO in the amount of \$104,000, started in December 1981. The objectives of the project are to develop proper range management techniques and integrated activities in the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector, compatible with the ecological constraints of the region. Special attention is being paid to ensuring the widest possible participation by and involvement of the local population in all stages and components of the project.

87. A programme for the construction of small dams for irrigation purposes is also under elaboration, and a mission is being organized to look into the possibilities of providing support to the Government for the construction of small earth dams in selected parts of the country. The project will include a technical co-operation component to help the user communities make optimal and ecologically sound use of the water and maintain the dams properly.

88. Work continues on the project for the rehabilitation and management of the Saponé Forest near Ouagadougou, with \$333,500 financing from UNSO.

89. Early in 1982, a project will be concluded for the construction and equipment of 20 deep bore wells, to which UNSO contributed \$203,000 from the Trust Fund.

90. Early in 1982 also, work will start, with the assistance of UNSO, on the preparation of the country's national plan of action to combat desertification.

VII. CO-OPERATION WITH THE PERMANENT INTER-STATE COMMITTEE
ON DROUGHT CONTROL IN THE SAHEL AND OTHER MATTERS

The Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel

91. In all its activities, including the planning and programming of priority projects, as well as in resource mobilization, UNSO consults closely with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) at all its levels, including the Council of Ministers. Day-to-day contacts are maintained with the Executive Secretary and the secretariat of CILSS through the UNSO Regional Office at Ouagadougou; the Office and the secretariat regularly review the modalities of their co-operation to ensure continued relevancy and effectiveness. Such contacts are characteristic of the close working relationship between UNSO and CILSS. Additional co-operative undertakings, such as joint sponsoring of subregional meetings on specific drought- or desertification-related problems, transport infrastructure, socio-economic problems and the like, as well as joint visits to selected donor countries, are envisaged for 1982.

92. In January 1982, the Administrator of UNDP participated in the biennial Conference of the Heads of State of the States members of CILSS, held at Praia, and consulted with the highest representatives of the States members of CILSS on the best ways and means of further enhancing the role of UNSO in the implementation of the next stages of the Sahelian recovery and rehabilitation from drought, and fight against desertification in the region. The Heads of State noted with satisfaction the close collaboration which exists with UNSO, and the Administrator reiterated his strong and continued commitment to the implementation of the programmes and the fulfilment of the objectives pursued by the States members of CILSS and CILSS itself. It was further agreed that arrangements governing the co-operation between UNSO and the CILSS member States worked effectively and that the latter would continue to give full backing to UNSO in the discharge of its responsibilities.

Club du Sahel

93. During the period under review, the Director of UNSO and the Director of the secretariat of the Club du Sahel engaged in a series of consultations for the purposes of programme co-ordination and mutual co-operation, to strengthen the links between the two institutions.

Co-operation with United Nations agencies and other organization
and institutions

94. In carrying out its functions and responsibilities, UNSO continued to co-operate closely with a number of United Nations agencies and institutions, in particular with UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, the FAO Office of Special Relief Operations, the ILO, WMO, WHO, UNIDO, the World Bank, UNICEF, the United Nations University, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat. During the period under review, this co-operation has further intensified, in particular as a result of and in connexion with the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/51 and 1951/55; details of the results achieved in responding to these resolutions are described in the report of the Secretary-General which is to be submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1982.

95. UNSO also maintains close working relationships with concerned regional and intergovernmental organizations, notably with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the West African Economic Community.

96. As in the past, effective working relationships have been continued between UNSO and the UNDP regional bureaux for Africa and for Arab States on all relevant programme and operational matters; the bureaux and UNSO closely co-operate and mutually relate their respective responsibilities at all stages of programme and project formulation and implementation, thus ensuring complementarity of all their activities. Regular and productive contacts also exist between UNSO and other substantive sections and services of UNDP.

97. In 1981, representatives of UNSO participated in meetings and conferences dealing with problems of drought and desertification as they relate to the Sudano-Sahelian region. Of particular importance to UNSO was the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1981. UNSO actively participated in the preparation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s adopted by the Conference, and at the request of the Governments concerned, assisted in the elaboration of the consolidated country presentation to the Conference.

98. In November 1981, UNSO participated, as it did in 1980, in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. In this connexion, the General Assembly, by resolution 36/203, strongly urged all Governments to make special efforts to increase the resources of UNSO, including voluntary contributions through the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, as well as other bilateral channels so as to enable it to respond more fully to the priority requirements of the Governments of the States members of CILSS.
