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United Nations Technical Co-operation Activities

Report of the Secretary-General

Other Entities and Programmes

SUMMARY

In response to Governing Council decision 79/22, DP/1983/18/Add. 1 to the Secretary-General's Report on United Nations Technical Co-operation Activities provides an overview of the activities of the organizational entities other than the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development which also have responsibilities for technical co-operation programmes. It describes the main trends and activities undertaken during 1982 by the Regional Commissions, the Centre for Human Rights, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Centre for Human Settlements, the Centre for Transnational Corporations, the Conference on Trade and Development, the Environment Programme and the Industrial Development Organization. It also provides information on funding, with regard to source and volume, and gives an account of the major programme areas, and information on action taken in response to resolutions from the General Assembly and various governing bodies.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present addendum to the Report of the Secretary-General on Technical Co-operation Activities is the fourth to respond to Governing Council decision 79/22 requesting, inter alia, an overview of the work of all relevant organizational entities of the United Nations. It also contains information on the use of the resources of the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation as it pertains to the programmes and activities of these entities.

A. Economic Commission for Africa

2. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) provided regional and subregional advisory services, financed from the Regular Programme amounting to \$1.3 million, in economic integration, development of conventional and non-conventional sources of energy, public finance, budgeting and management, social welfare, training, statistics, transport and communication and administrative and programme support to the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOC).

3. UNDP contributed \$9 million to support projects in intra-African trade, statistics, national accounts, transport and communications, co-ordination of the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa, and technical support to least developed countries (LDCs). Support was also given to regional training institutions and research centres, namely, the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre, the African Regional Centre for Technology, the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing, the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research, and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

4. The contribution made available by UNFPA for 1982 amounting to \$2.9 million was utilized to maintain ECA's population infrastructure, regional advisory services in demographic statistics, information and clearing house activities, national workshops in population and development, the Regional Institute for Population Studies, the Demographic Research and Development Institute, and the Regional Centre for Population Studies of the Central African Customs Union.

5. The Voluntary Fund for the Decade for Women provided \$350,000 to strengthen national machineries for the integration of women in development, information, training, supply of equipment and to support the infrastructure of the African Training and Research Centre for Women. The United Nations Environmental Programme provided \$179,500 for ECA's Environmental Co-ordination Unit. ECA also received direct grants from donor governments and organizations amounting to \$3.05 million to cover expert services under non-reimbursable loan arrangements and bilateral technical assistance programmes.

6. The Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) provided \$1.8 million for projects in intra-African trade, manpower, industry, natural resources, building materials, agriculture and the MULPOCs.

B. Economic Commission for Europe

7. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) continued in 1982 as an executing agency for technical co-operation projects, in keeping with General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 and further guidelines of the Commissions. The subsidiary bodies of ECE took into account the interests of developing countries in their work programmes and contributed to programmes designed to assist these countries. ECE undertook regional and subregional projects in electric power, energy, transport and statistics, with the financial assistance of UNDP. With UNFPA funds, ECE carried out demographic research activities in the region, and also undertook certain environmental protection activities with financing from the Environment Programme (UNEP).

C. Economic Commission for Latin America

8. The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) provided a wide range of technical assistance in response to requests from Member States of the Latin American and Caribbean region. Special effort was made to strengthen regional and sub-regional interinstitutional co-operation with the integration process in Central America and with the secretariat of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI).

9. Together with its two sister organizations, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), the Commission provided advisory services and conducted regional training courses in socio-economic planning and policy, and demographic analysis and population matters, with funding from UNDP, UNFPA and UNEP. ILPES trained 36 fellows from 15 Latin American countries and CELADE awarded 35 fellowships to participants from 13 countries. As in previous years, the demand for training exceeded available resources.

10. Projects financed from both the Regular Programme and trust funds were carried out in social development, including integration of women; international trade, particularly export promotion and its financial and monetary implications; water resources and energy; transport; industrial development; agriculture; and critical poverty.

11. In keeping with the recommendations of the nineteenth session of the Commission, activities aimed at encouraging technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) stressed the regional implications of transport and facilitation of international trade, drinking water supply and mineral resources, environment and styles of development, economic and social

planning, economic and social information and documentation, export financing, scientific co-operation, and transnational corporations.

12. At the interregional level, ECLA collaborated with the Economic Commission for Africa in activities to promote and support co-operation between the two regions in international trade, manpower development and utilization, and science and technology for development. This programme was endorsed as a framework for future ECA/ECLA joint activities by a meeting of government experts held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 1982.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

13. Under the Regular Programme for Technical Co-operation, 35 government requests for technical and advisory services were met by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) through 27 missions which stressed the needs of the least developed and island developing countries. Owing to resource constraints, some requests were deferred to 1983.

14. The Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific (UNDAT), financed mainly by ESCAP donor countries and UNDP and partly by the Regular Programme, provided short-term consultancy services to the island developing countries. Thirty-seven such consultancy missions were fielded and UNDAT's resident experts carried out missions in statistics, public administration and physical planning.

15. Regular consultations with the authorities of the Pacific island developing countries enabled the ESCAP Pacific Liaison Office in Nauru to improve its technical assistance programme through a better understanding of their needs. Co-operation with the South Pacific Commissions, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation and the University of the South Pacific was further strengthened.

16. The Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC) gave special attention to the training needs of the LDCs. Two courses, one on planning, budgeting, accounting and auditing, and one on public enterprise management were held in Nepal. Another course on project planning and management was conducted in Bhutan. Similar courses are scheduled to be held in other LDCs during 1983.

17. Within its own work programme, the APDC has embarked on research studies to assist countries in the formulation of development policies. The selected programme areas are energy planning and management, food security, human resources mobilization, integration of women in development and South Asian co-operation.

18. Regional and sub-regional projects financed by the UNDP continued to deal with manpower training and development, agricultural machinery, industrial development, science and technology, trade promotion and co-operation, natural resources and energy, public administration, remote sensing, regional

co-operation in shipping, ports and inland waterways and household survey training in connexion with the development of national statistical capabilities relating to the National Household Survey Capability Programme. ESCAP also supported the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin and co-operated with UNCTAD and the ITC as associate agency in the implementation of trade-related projects in the region and in furthering economic co-operation among developing countries.

19. UNFPA provided institutional support to the ESCAP Population Division and its population information services. Funds were also made available to ESCAP to: (a) provide regional advisory services on demography, vital statistics, population census and surveys, and data preparation and processing to countries of the region; (b) provide technical assistance and training in demography and population statistics; (c) carry out studies on fertility levels and trends; and (d) provide fellowships for demographers for training at the International Institute for Population Studies in India.

20. Extrabudgetary assistance contributed significantly towards the implementation of ESCAP's work programme, including programme support activities to regional research and training institutions. Contributions, both in cash and in kind, were received from Australia, China, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, and Sweden. Non-reimbursable loan experts were also provided.

21. Co-operation given ESCAP by the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO and UNEP was also an important factor in the execution of its programme.

E. Economic Commission for Western Asia

22. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), with support from UNDP, provided advisory services to Member States for the improvement of statistical operations and applications at the national level with special emphasis on the establishment of household survey capabilities, national accounts, foreign trade, statistics, population and labour statistics. Advice was also given in development planning and finance, transport and communication, science and technology, social development, human settlement, national accounts and economic statistics.

23. A regional training programme (Workshop II) under the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD) was organized in Amman, Jordan to develop industrial technological capabilities in petroleum-based industries. This programme is to continue with another workshop in 1983. A nine-country survey was carried out toward the establishment of a regional training institute for banking and financial studies. The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics in Baghdad, Iraq, provided courses in economic and social statistics, and fellowships from the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait enabled candidates from various countries to study abroad.

24. UNFPA supported publication of "A guide for Arab students and researchers in the field of population"; "Population and development in the Middle East" and "International migration in the Middle East". In addition, advisory services in the fields of demography and population statistics were provided to Members States of the region.

25. With support from the Voluntary Fund for the Decade for Women (VFDW) a report was prepared on the conditions of working women in Bahrain. It also provided for three case studies on community self-help activities in disadvantaged urban areas in Amman (Jordan), Alexandria (Egypt), and Damascus (Syria). A project to improve animal and poultry stock and processing of food products (Yemen Arab Republic) was completed. Training of 35 administrators of social services centres was organized for Lebanese non-governmental organizations. A one-month regional training workshop on audio-visual materials for female extension workers was held in Amman, Jordan. In addition, assistance was provided to community development programmes in the Sultanate of Oman. Evaluation of the first stage of the pilot ECWA/VFW project on training of women in maintenance of electric and household appliances (Jordan) was undertaken with follow-up advisory missions scheduled for 1983.

F. Centre for Human Rights

26. Under the programme of advisory services in human rights and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/154 an international seminar was organized in 1982 in Colombo in collaboration with Sri Lanka. It examined national, local and regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia region and submitted a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

27. Also, 32 fellowships were granted in subjects mainly dealing with the protection and promotion of human rights in a specific legal, social, administrative or economic context.

28. At the request of Equatorial Guinea, two constitutional experts were provided to assist its national commission in the drafting of a new constitution.

G. Division of Narcotic Drugs

29. The Division of Narcotic Drugs provided advisory services, programme support, equipment and fellowships in the field of drug control and also supported national, regional, and multilateral efforts to cope with abuse of dependence-producing drugs placed under international control. It provided training in methods for the identification and analysis of drugs of abuse seized in illicit traffic, disseminated technical information and supplied

reference drug samples, and it organized or participated in conferences, workshops, and seminars in various regions to improve international drug control programmes, and organized study tours and awarded fellowships.

30. The Division assisted individual governments in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of multi-sectoral programmes to reduce illicit supply of drugs, interdict illicit drugs, and lower the demand for the same.

31. With support from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), assistance was given to national authorities in law enforcement, communications, training, research, drug-demand reduction, dissemination of information and encouragement of community participation. Two interagency meetings improved co-ordination and participation of relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system in the Division's programme.

32. Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Turkey received assistance, and 14 fellowships in identification and analysis of drugs of abuse were awarded to nationals of 11 countries. Half of the Fellows were trained at the Narcotics Laboratory Section of the Division.

33. Throughout, the activities of the Division were intensified during 1982 -- the first year in a five-year programme of action to implement the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy adopted in General Assembly resolution 36/168.

H. Office of Legal Affairs

34. The Office of Legal Affairs provided substantive backstopping in 1982 for technical co-operation projects executed by DTCD in Barbados, Grenada, Swaziland and Trinidad and Tobago. The Office collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and UNESCO in the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. Other activities included 18 fellowships in the United Nations/UNITAR Fellowships Programme in International Law. The Office also administered programmes sponsored by the Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowships on the Law of the Sea, in collaboration with the Law of the Sea secretariat.

35. The Office also advised and assisted units within the Secretariat at Headquarters, UNDP, the regional commissions and other United Nations bodies, on matters pertaining to the framework of legal rules through which technical co-operation programmes proceed. Most of this work is of a continuing nature, including (a) drafting and interpretation of constitutive instruments of UNDP and other United Nations bodies; (b) advice on agreements with governments and executing agencies; (c) advice on operational questions -- administrative personnel, financial, contractual and the problem of privileges and immunities, terms of reference or studies of bodies to be established.

I. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

36. About 83 per cent of the resources expended on technical co-operation during 1982 by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) were provided by UNDP (including cost-sharing contributions to projects by recipient governments). HABITAT had 82 UNDP-financed projects in 56 countries, of which 14 were initiated in 1982. Several (22) were also supplemented by trust fund contributions for associate experts. These projects concentrated on development of human settlement policies; formulation of human settlement development plans; low-cost shelter, infrastructure and supporting services; and the building up of institutions and their management.

37. Voluntary contributions to the HABITAT and Human Settlements Foundation (HHSF) funded 72 small-scale projects and missions designed to meet human settlement needs arising out of natural and man-made disasters as well as longer-term development requirements. These missions covered low-cost housing design and construction, audio-visual materials for slum and squatter settlement upgrading, domestic energy requirements, building finance and material research, planning in disaster-prone areas, information systems, and training. The limited resources of the HHSF are generally used for preparatory assistance, and activities with a demonstrated multiplier effect, and which are likely to have a significant effect on the overall development of human settlements.

38. Regular Programme funds were used mainly for specialized short-term advisory services, training and field projects with emphasis on supporting human settlements activities in the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. In 1982, more than 35 such missions to 28 countries were fielded. Short-term services by interregional advisers resulted in two approved funds-in-trust projects and proposed projects for four countries.

39. Short-term advisory services were provided in the areas of human-settlements, data-management systems using micro-computers, innovative use of building materials, low-cost technologies, human settlements finance institutions and human settlements manpower development. Fellowships were provided for training in human settlements planning and finance, manpower and development and training.

40. HABITAT is co-operating in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action on new and renewable sources of energy as it relates to human settlement problems. HABITAT is also discussing with the Outer Space Affairs Division means to implement the recommendations of the Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It will co-operate with Commission on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUS) in organizing training courses and workshops on the role of remote sensing in human settlements planning and management.

J. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporation

41. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporation (UNCTC) administers and implements advisory projects and training programmes to strengthen the ability of developing countries to deal with the economic, financial, fiscal, technical, legal and operational issues that arise from their interaction with transnational corporations (TNCs).

42. More than 100 advisory projects were undertaken and 20 training workshops were convened in response to requests for assistance from more than 40 developing countries. While voluntary contributions from governments to the UNCTC Trust Fund for Technical Co-operation were the main source of financing for these activities, UNDP provided a third of UNCTC's extrabudgetary expenditures for such projects.

43. UNCTC's services relate mainly to reviewing or drafting laws and regulations governing direct foreign investment, acquisition of technology at the national level and strengthening institutions, and monitoring and screening TNC projects.

44. A third of UNCTC's projects focused on foreign investment policies, laws, regulations and screening and monitoring arrangements generally or in specific sectors in nearly 40 African, Asian and Latin American countries. Of the remainder, about half related to petroleum and mining, and the other half to manufacturing, service and other natural resource based industries.

45. The training programme consisted of workshops on regulating and negotiating with TNCs and are organized with either a cross-sectoral or sectoral orientation. It covered Bolivia, Cuba, Grenada, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Republic of Cameroon. Regional and sub-regional workshops were held in Kathmandu, Nepal, for officials from Bangladesh, Maldives and Nepal; in Bangkok, for ASEAN countries, and in Bangkok again, for nine Asian countries; in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania for ten eastern and southern African countries; in Freetown, Sierra Leone, for 11 west and central african countries; and in Port Villa, Vanuatu, for 14 Pacific Island countries. Two interregional workshops on foreign investment and the Lima Declaration and on technology acquisition from TNCs were held in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, and in Sitguna, Sweden, respectively.

46. UNCTC's training programme also comprises study tours for government officials to visit other developing countries with TNC experience. UNCTC thus arranged for an official of the Ministry of Industry from Nepal and for two officials from the Foreign Investment Commission of China to visit the Centre to study its information system. UNCTC also organized a three-week study tour for four officials from the Maldives and Nepal to visit Sri Lanka, Malaysia and the Philippines to study foreign investment and technology acquisition legislation and administrative infrastructure as well as the experiences of those countries with transnational corporations. As a component of the

Nationhood Programme for Namibia, three Namibian officials visited New York for six months for training which combined courses at a university and a programme of orientation at UNCTC.

K. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

47. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) technical co-operation programme, funded mainly through UNDP, continued in 1982 to assist developing countries to strengthen their external sector, an important task in a period of rapid deterioration of the international economic environment. The main objectives of the programme were to enhance participation of developing countries in international trade negotiations, to improve trade mechanisms, procedures and related supporting services, to develop and strengthen institutional structures and to foster collective self-reliance through economic co-operation among developing countries.

48. Assistance in international trade ranged from on-going negotiations in the framework of the Integrated Programme of Commodities (IPC) to the fuller utilization of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), post-Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), Technology as well as money and finance through the Group of 24.

49. Through the provision of advisory services and training, UNCTAD continued to strengthen trade mechanisms with emphasis on the needs, procedures, and related support services of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. Training institutions received particular attention including the TRAINMAR programme which aims at developing a world wide network of training institutions in maritime transport.

50. Assistance also covered activities to strengthen such sectors as the management of external financial flows, an area of increasing importance due to the growing indebtedness of many developing countries.

51. Support was given to sub-regional integration movements, preferential trade areas, customs unions, commodity associations, and a special effort was made to enhance the development of a General System of Trade Preferences among developing countries (GSTP), and their monetary and financial co-operation. Other activities have been to foster co-operation among State Trading Organizations (STOs) and Multinational Marketing Enterprises (MMEs). A South-South Trade Information System in support of the above activities is being developed.

52. With limited Regular Programme resources, UNCTAD continued to provide interregional advisory services in support of the Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (ECDC), mainly for short-term assistance to economic integration movements, trade expansion programmes, techniques of trade liberalization, monetary and payment arrangements and investment programmes.

53. Under the prevailing erosion of the UNDP resource base, developing countries find it increasingly difficult to assign to UNCTAD-executed programmes a level of UNDP resources commensurate with their growing requirements in the external sector.

L. United Nations Environment Programme

54. The technical co-operation programme approved at the ninth session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council amounted to \$2.2 million for 1982 against \$2.1 million already committed. In collaboration with its regional offices and the regional commissions UNEP provided advisory services and programme support to the regional environmental co-ordination units.

55. The North African Greenbelt Project, composed of national anti-desertification components in Algeria, Libya and Tunisia, is based on internal technical co-operation and exchange of information and expertise. A similar project for Egypt and Sudan is evaluating the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer as a source of water. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 10/18, UNEP is surveying African institutions involved in anti-desertification programmes to compile a subject directory and thus enhance the exchange of information among similarly affected countries. UNEP and UNSO provided technical assistance to Bolivia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mali, Oman, Sudan and Uganda to develop projects for consideration by the Consultative Group for Desertification Control (DESCON). UNSO, on behalf of UNEP, provided technical assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian countries to develop one regional project on "sand dune fixation" and another on "arresting dune formation" for Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta. Both projects will be submitted to DESCON for external financing. UNEP co-sponsored a regional meeting and a workshop organized by ECLA and ECA to review the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to co-ordinate activities in the Latin American-Caribbean and African regions respectively.

56. UNEP collaborated with governments in projects in the Global Environment Monitoring System, the Regional Seas Programme, the International Reference System for Sources of Environmental Information (INFOTERRA), the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, and the general area of conservation and desertification control.

57. The UNEP Governing Council approved decisions on: (1) horizontal co-operation among developing countries in promoting solutions for achieving environmentally sound development supported by additional bilateral and multilateral funding; (2) ways and means of enabling UNEP to address serious environmental problems more adequately; and (3) the mobilization of additional resources from within the United Nations system, the Environment Fund and multilateral and bilateral donors. Accordingly, UNEP has developed a clearing-house which aims at matching requests for assistance in environmental matters with available multi- and bi-lateral financial resources.

M. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

58. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) programme of technical co-operation amounted to \$93.5 million in 1982 with 73 per cent of these activities funded from UNDP, 24 per cent from the United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDF) and the various trust funds, and 3 per cent from the Regular Programme. Around 717 new projects with a total value of \$99.3 million were approved in 1982 compared to last year's figures of 687 new projects with a value of \$70.9 million.

59. Asia and the Pacific accounted for 37 per cent of project delivery; Africa 34 per cent; Arab States 6 per cent excluding African Arab States; the Americas 11 per cent; and Europe 4 per cent. Global and interregional projects accounted for 8 per cent. Of 1,005 experts appointed, 23 per cent or 235 experts came from developing countries. A total of 1,841 Fellows were placed, 19 per cent of them in developing countries. The chemical, agricultural, and engineering industries and institutional infrastructure received the highest priorities.

60. The LDCs received assistance in the order of \$22 million, an increase of 10 per cent over 1981. In keeping with recommendations of the Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1981, the LDCs programmes continued to emphasize the generation of technical skills, through national and regional training programmes; the establishment and strengthening of small-scale industries; the construction of pilot plants and workshops; and the development of human and institutional infrastructure to explore, exploit and process their natural resources, including low-cost energy.

61. Under the Regular Programme, UNIDO activities amounted to \$3.1 million. About a third was for training through individual fellowships, group training and establishment and strengthening of training facilities in developing countries. Large-scale group training was carried out in iron and steel industry and industrial information. Assistance for the establishment and strengthening of training facilities was given to institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. The LDCs received special attention, receiving one-fourth of the Regular Programme resources.

