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SUPPORT

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUDANO-SAHELIAN OFFICE (UNSO) AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian Region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

Report of the Administrator

Summary

This report describes the activities carried out by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) under its mandate to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, under a joint venture of UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The report summarizes the principal thrust of UNSO planning, programming and resource mobilization operations carried out in connexion with the preparation of activities dealing principally with deforestation control, range management, water resource management, sand dune fixation, and integrated and supplementary livelihood systems projects. It also describes the co-ordination and inter-organizational co-operation activities of UNSO in the exercise of its desertification control mandate.

The Council's attention is drawn to document DP/1983/41, UNSO-UNDP/UNEP Joint Venture, which recommends continued UNDP support to the joint venture.

INTRODUCTION

1. This annual report is submitted to inform the Governing Council of the technical co-operation activities carried out by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in 1982, within the framework of its mandate to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, under a joint venture of UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. The Governing Council, in paragraph 6 of its decision 81/4, requested the Administrator to continue to report annually to the Governing Council on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region. In its decision 82/26, adopted on 18 June 1982 during its twenty-ninth session, the Governing Council requested the Administrator to continue to support the administrative and programme costs of the joint venture of UNDP and to ensure the timely and effective provision of assistance, through UNSO, for combating desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region. Subsequently, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1982/55 of 29 July 1982, inter alia, expressed its satisfaction at the progress made by UNSO in assisting the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in implementing the Plan of Action; welcomed the decisions of the Governing Councils of UNDP and UNEP on their continued contributions to the joint venture; expressed its gratitude to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations that are contributing to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action; and strongly urged all Governments to intensify their assistance in response to the priority requirements of the countries of the region in implementing the Plan of Action.

2. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 37/216 of 20 December 1982, expressed its satisfaction with the progress made by UNSO in assisting the Governments of the region in combating desertification under the joint venture; invited the Governing Councils of UNDP and UNEP to strengthen and further their support for UNSO in order to enable it to respond more adequately to the pressing needs of the countries of the region; expressed its gratitude to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations that have contributed to the implementation in the region of the Plan of Action; and urged all Governments to respond favourably to requests for assistance from the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian region in combating desertification.

3. The 19 countries now covered by UNSO's desertification control mandate ^{1/} have a population of 213 million and an area of 12.4 million square kilometres, of which 80 per cent are arid or semi-arid, compared to a world average (excluding Antarctica) of 33 per cent. It is estimated that over 90 per cent of the rangelands and 85 per cent of the rainfed crop lands of the Sudano-Sahelian region are affected in various degrees by desertification.

4. In the face of the worldwide recession of 1982 and the widespread decrease in the level of donor contributions to multilateral assistance programmes, UNSO intensified its resource mobilization efforts and managed to increase the resources mobilized as well as the level of assistance it extended, under the joint UNDP/UNEP venture, to the desertification control programmes of the Sudano-Sahelian region and adjacent countries.

5. The level of funds mobilized and allocated by UNSO through the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities for desertification control activities during 1982 amounted to \$13.6 million.^{2/} Another \$6.8 million was mobilized by UNSO for additional inputs provided directly by the donors to complement the financing of these activities. At the time this report was being prepared, UNSO had also obtained indications of interest in the amount of \$9.2 million for additional projects from donor agencies, subject to formal approval by their Executive Boards. Approval of these further contributions and their earmarking through the Trust Fund for specific projects was expected in early 1983.

I. MAIN FEATURES OF DESERTIFICATION CONTROL PROGRAMME OPERATIONS IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION

6. During the past year, UNSO has continued to mobilize resources and assist Governments in the formulation and implementation of projects or programmes in the areas of deforestation control, range management, water resources management, sand dune fixation, and planning and co-ordination. Other activities, involving integrated approaches and alternative or supplementary livelihood systems aimed at easing pressure on the land, received increased support. All projects and programmes supported by UNSO continued to focus on the main causes and manifestations of desertification in the region and in response to priority requests of the Governments.

7. The more important projects UNSO formulated or supported in 1982 in these priority areas are described below. No in-depth analysis of their expected results at the field level is attempted in this report, since the impact of desertification control measures carried out since the adoption of the Plan of Action will be the subject of a comprehensive report by the Executive Director of UNEP on the assessment of the progress of the Plan during the first seven years of its implementation. The report will be made available to the Council after its publication. Admittedly, the influence of individual projects is generally limited in relation to the over-all problem of desertification control, and their results do not become evident until the medium to long-term. These individual projects, however, have important catalytic, pilot and demonstration effects in the desertification control programme of the Sudano-Sahelian region. At this stage, moreover, positive results have already been felt in raising the consciousness of the Governments and

populations of the region of the importance of desertification control programmes and projects, as reflected in the number of countries that have prepared or are in the process of preparing national plans or strategies for combating desertification, as described in section (e) below. Desertification control and the need to give it high priority in Government development plans have also been stressed in recent policy statements by Heads of State or highest level officials of the Governments of The Gambia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Somalia and the Sudan. The Government of Niger has also made desertification control one of the main features of its round table discussions with donors.

8. Other general features of the UNSO desertification control programme have been the emphasis on the use of national administrative structures and personnel and the active involvement of the people affected in the projects it has supported. The emphasis on national involvement is reflected in the fact that over 40 per cent of the total volume of trust fund assistance provided by UNSO is Government-executed, a policy that is designed to help develop the technical expertise of national personnel and enhance their capacity to manage programmes and project operations. The necessary backstopping is provided by UNSO headquarters and regional office staff, the resident representatives of UNDP, and the United Nations system agencies, which act as co-operating agencies, to help expedite the procurement of equipment, training and logistic support.

9. The active involvement of the people affected is one of the most important dimensions of UNSO-assisted projects, UNSO's view being that projects should not simply be formulated and dictated from above. The purported beneficiaries must be fully involved in, and understand the benefits of, the projects to be carried out; it should be clear to them how the projects will improve their living standards and circumvent some of the constraints of the ecosystem in which they live. Experience has shown that it is insufficient to exhort the people to reduce the size of their herds, to control overgrazing, to stop cutting firewood and planting cereals in marginal lands or to tell them of the harmful effects of these practices unless viable alternatives are put forward. Despite the difficulty of this task, which is made all the more arduous by the often limited carrying capacity of the ecosystem involved, it is important to have projects that increase the productivity of their work or that provide them with alternative or supplementary livelihood systems to increase their income, and that are presented, technically speaking, in a manner that makes sense in terms of their life styles and expectations.

A. Combating deforestation

10. The widespread cutting of trees and woody shrubs for fuel, construction and general utility purposes continues to be one of the major causes of desertification. The Sudano-Sahelian countries rely on fuelwood for 80 to 90 per cent of their energy requirements. For this reason, UNSO has continued to support their efforts in the ecologically sound development of forest resources for fuel and other purposes, in the development of renewable

substitutes for fuelwood, and in the production of fuel-efficient cooking stoves to conserve energy. Because bushfires have been contributing to the degradation of savanna and rangeland ecosystems, UNSO has also initiated projects aimed at bushfire control.

Forestry

11. The expanded assistance of UNSO to countries in the fields of afforestation and reforestation has been reflected in various new projects. In Benin, a project for multipurpose tree planting with a total cost estimated at \$1,405,400, has been designed, of which \$306,900 is being contributed by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND). The Netherlands Government has undertaken to contribute \$825,000 through the Trust Fund to the project and the remainder will be contributed by the Government of Benin. In Niger, UNSO has mobilized resources for two large-scale projects: the establishment of a green belt around the city of Tahoua, with an earmarked contribution from the Netherlands of \$480,335; and Operation Gao which aims at the induced and natural regeneration of 300,000 leguminous, soil enriching Gao (Acacia albida) saplings in the department of Dosso. This last project will be financed over a five-year period through an earmarked contribution of \$1,101,000 to the Trust Fund by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), which provided some preparatory technical assistance in 1981.

12. In Upper Volta, UNSO is providing funds for two major forestry projects: reforestation in the Saponé region, with a contribution of \$320,000 from AGFUND to the Trust Fund and \$80,000 from UNSO general resources; and village and family woodlots in the department of Koudougou, with a \$1.4 million contribution by SIDA through the Trust Fund.

13. In Ethiopia, a national project for the establishment of fuelwood plantations in the towns of Dese, Debre Birhan, Nazret and Dire Dawa has been formulated. This project was presented to the fourth meeting of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control (DESCON IV), which met in Nairobi from 15 to 17 February 1983. The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) has already indicated its interest in assisting the establishment of fuelwood plantations around the town of Nazret. Negotiations are currently underway regarding the financing of these components.

14. In addition to these projects, UNSO has provided assistance in the formulation of projects for the establishment of fuelwood plantations around urban centres in Somalia; and a programme involving 13 activities for the protection and ecologically sound exploitation of the Casamance forest in Senegal. Missions are also being arranged for a reformulated project for the development of Acacia senegal in the Organisme Régional de Développement (ORD) of the Sahel of Upper Volta; and the protection of mangroves in Senegal and the Gambia, where they are a major source of fuel and an important element in the countries' food chain and series of varying but interacting biomes.

Development of renewable alternatives to fuelwood

15. To help reduce the demand for fuelwood and the concomitant cutting of trees and woody shrubs, UNSO is attempting to increase its support of projects for the development of alternative, renewable sources of energy. In Senegal, a project for the study, development and marketing of fuel substitutes such as peat, to supplement the use of fuelwood, went into full operation in 1982, following feasibility studies initiated the previous year. The project is being financed through an earmarked contribution of \$755,310 to the Trust Fund made by DANIDA in late 1981. In Cape Verde, field operations commenced in 1982, involving the installation of wind turbines in urban, village and sparsely populated rural areas, and the training of personnel in their installation, modification and maintenance, with contributions by DANIDA to the Trust Fund and from UNSO general resources totalling \$1,496,000.

16. In Niger, UNSO and the UNDP energy account are jointly financing a World Bank mission to formulate the terms of reference for an energy master plan which aims at the reduction of fuelwood consumption through the use of various energy alternatives. In Mali, agreement has been reached, after initial delays, to carry out, with UNIDO as executing agency, an UNSO-financed feasibility study for a production facility for solar energy equipment.

Design, development and production of fuel-efficient stoves

17. Another approach UNSO has followed for reducing fuelwood consumption is the development of fuel efficient cooking stoves. Following a joint DANIDA/UNSO mission, preparatory activities and an earmarked contribution to the Trust Fund of \$398,800 by DANIDA, a project commenced in 1982 for the experimental design and production of improved cooking stoves and their promotion and distribution in The Gambia. The project involves cooking stoves utilizing groundnut husk briquettes in urban areas as well as the improvement of the efficiency of wood cooking stoves in rural areas.

18. In Upper Volta, a project for the improvement of the efficiency of wood cooking stoves is being carried out with an earmarked contribution of \$238,000 to the Trust Fund by SIDA. In Mali and Niger, UNSO and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women are jointly financing preparatory, consciousness-raising activities for the launching of large-scale projects for the widespread production and utilization of improved cooking stoves, involving local artisans and materials. Similar project activities are being extended to Mauritania. The projects are being carried out in close co-operation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and under the aegis of a regional programme co-ordinating mechanism financed by an earmarked contribution of \$210,000, by SIDA through the Trust Fund.

Bushfire control

19. Another cause of desertification, especially in open woodlands and to a lesser extent rangelands, is the uncontrolled burning of bush. UNSO has therefore formulated a number of projects for bushfire control, an area in which little activity has been taken so far. Major projects were formulated

in 1982 for bushfire control in the Gambia and in the Bafata Gabu area of Guinea-Bissau and presented to DESCON IV in February 1983. Formulation missions were also organized in late 1982 and visited Benin and Guinea in early 1982 to formulate projects for the protection of woodlands and grasslands from bushfires. Resource mobilization activities for these projects are now underway.

B. Range management

20. Rangeland degradation is one of the principal manifestations of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region. As it provides a livelihood for the major part of the population, especially in the region's northern reaches, there is a need to protect as well as to ensure optimum socio-economic returns from the range ecosystem.

21. In the Sudan, a major project costed at \$1.4 million was finally approved in 1982 for the management of grazing resources around permanent water supplies, with a contribution of \$910,000 to the Trust Fund by SIDA toward the cost of financing the project, which aims inter alia at protecting the lands from overgrazing and trampling. In the Gambia, a \$400,600 project financed by a contribution of AGFUND to the Trust Fund was approved in December 1982 for pasture development and protection of lands around livestock watering points, which are especially susceptible to trampling by the livestock. In Senegal, a major project for the operation of a centre for pasture seed production has been formulated. The cost of the project is estimated at \$2.8 million, of which \$2.3 million are required from external sources. Negotiations are underway with the Government of Yugoslavia, which has indicated an interest in providing substantial services and materials for the project. It is envisaged that the reseedling of rangelands with improved varieties will enhance their productivity and drought resistance.

22. On a regional basis, a joint UNSO/UNESCO/Sahel Institute mission reformulated a regional pastoral training programme to extend ongoing activities and expand the training to middle-level technicians. Contributions of \$550,000 from UNDP and \$120,000 from UNSO general resources will cover project activities until the end of 1983.

C. Water resource management

23. Because of the paucity and critical importance of water resources in the Sudano-Sahelian region, UNSO has increased its assistance to projects involving groundwater development and the optimum utilization, conservation and harvesting of surface water resources. In Mauritania, complementary activities to a major project for the construction and rehabilitation of small earthen dams are to be financed by a contribution of AGFUND to the Trust Fund of \$558,000.

24. UNSO has also fielded a formulation mission to the Gambia to develop a project for the construction of small dams along tributaries of the Gambia River. Arrangements are being made for a similar mission to Guinea, with

experts of the Government of Italy, for the preparation of a project for the construction of small rural multipurpose dams. These missions will be followed by resource mobilization efforts for the financing of the proposed projects.

25. In 1982, UNSO continued to extend its support to the programme for the ecological rehabilitation of the Fouta-Djallon massif. A formulation mission was carried out, followed by intensive meetings with the Government of Guinea, UNDP, FAO and the Organization for African Unity (OAU), for a project aimed at the agro-sylvo-pastoral development of the massif and the rehabilitation and enhancement of its natural resources. Currently, announced contributions to the project are \$500,000 from UNSO general resources, \$500,000 from UNDP, \$700,000 from the Government of Guinea and \$400,000 from the Organization for African Unity. In addition, UNSO and the Government of Guinea formulated a pilot project with an estimated international financing requirement of \$1,030,000 for the protection and integrated development of the Kakrima Valley in the massif, which was presented to DESCON IV in February 1983 and for which resource mobilization activities are continuing. The Fouta-Djallon massif, where the Gambia, Niger, and Senegal Rivers, amongst others, originate, is a vital source of irrigation water for the countries of the western Sahel. The protection and rehabilitation of the massif is important, therefore, for restoring its ecological equilibrium and productivity for the benefit of the populations living along the mountain range, as well as for ensuring optimum and more regular river flows which affect the riparian flood plains and pasture lands in the western Sahel.

26. In Somalia, a major project for the rehabilitation of rural reservoirs costing \$3,627,000 has been prepared with a \$3 million equipment contribution from the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The Government of Australia has contributed an additional \$306,360 to the Trust Fund for the projects, and the remaining cost of the project will be funded from other sources.

27. For the development of groundwater resources, UNSO carried out a joint mission with the Government of Yugoslavia to Mali to formulate a project aimed at strengthening the National Department of Natural Resources operational capacity for hydrogeological exploration and exploitation. UNSO is now discussing with the Governments of Mali and Yugoslavia the modalities of possible co-operation for the financing and implementation of this project. In October, UNSO also fielded a mission to the Gambia which formulated with the Government a proposed National Plan, to which the Government has given highest priority, for the ecologically sound management and use of the country's groundwater resource potential.

D. Sand dune fixation

28. The increasing destruction of the vegetative cover in the areas of the Sudano-Sahelian region most seriously affected by desertification has been contributing to the formation of moving sand dunes, which have been

encroaching on agricultural lands, towns, roads, rivers and other widely used areas.

29. In Mauritania, where a comprehensive research project on the nature and extent of sand movements in the country and the formulation of an operational programme for the control of sand movements were carried out in 1981, a major project has been approved with financing involving a contribution of \$2.3 million by DANIDA to the Trust Fund, a contribution of \$450,000 from UNDP, an equipment contribution by UNCDF of \$1.4 million and a comprehensive training programme to be financed by the Government of Algeria. The project is part of a regional programme for sand dune fixation to be presented to DESCON IV, which also includes another project for dune fixation in the Brava area of Somalia (at an estimated cost of \$2.8 million) and a third project for sand dune stabilization and reclamation in the Darfur region of the Sudan (at an estimated cost of \$1.1 million); resource mobilization activities for this project are being pursued. It is envisaged that this regional programme will facilitate a region wide cross-fertilization of information and experience on the most effective methods of sand dune fixation, using popular participation as well as up-to-date technologies.

30. The Somalia component of the regional programme will supplement an ongoing UNSO-assisted project for the stabilization of coastal sand dunes approved in 1981 which is being financed through earmarked contributions to the Trust Fund by the Government of Italy amounting to \$730,000 and by the Government of Australia amounting to \$231,000. In Niger, an UNSO-financed technological mission has been carried out by UNSO and FAO experts for the preparation of a project for the control of moving sand dunes which are encroaching upon the oases of the Bilma region.

E. Planning, co-ordination and monitoring

31. As of the end of 1982, 18 of the 19 countries covered by the UNSO desertification control mandate had been visited by UNSO interagency planning and programming missions which, together with the Governments concerned, prepared reports on the causes, consequences and means of combating desertification, as well as priority projects proposed by the Governments for desertification control. At the end of February 1983, a planning and programming mission visited Chad, and all countries covered by the UNSO desertification control mandate have been visited by such missions. The projects for which UNSO assistance has been requested represent the Governments' initial assessments of the problem as well as their priority programmes for dealing with it. These missions were followed by further assistance specifically aimed at helping the Governments in preparing national plans of action and/or developing desertification control co-ordination and monitoring machinery in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, and the Sudan. In 1982, UNSO initiated, with financial support from UNEP, further projects of assistance in the preparation of national plans for combating desertification in Djibouti, with UNESCO as executing agency; the Gambia, with the United Nations as executing agency; and Senegal, with the World Bank as executing

agency. Arrangements have also been made for assistance to the Government of Upper Volta, with UNESCO as executing agency, in the preparation of a national plan of action which is expected to start in early 1983. This will bring to nine the number of Governments that have developed national plans for combating desertification. A similar approach is being used in Benin, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, where missions will concentrate on soil erosion and general environmental degradation problems. On a subregional basis, UNSO helped finance and participated in a CILSS/UNSO meeting at Banjul, the Gambia, in October to review the joint UNSO/CILSS/Club du Sahel strategy for combating desertification in member States of CILSS.

F. Integrated and supplementary livelihood systems projects

32. Practically all of the projects supported by UNSO involve linkages between the specific sectoral and technical approaches described above. In addition, UNSO has initiated a number of multisectoral development projects aimed at the protection and ecologically sound development of specific regions. In Mali, a project was approved in 1982 for the integrated development of the Lake Region (Zone Lacustre), with an earmarked contribution of \$388,100 to the Trust Fund by the Government of Australia. This project will be dovetailed with a project financed by the Federal Republic of Germany under arrangements agreed upon by a joint Government of Mali/Fed. Rep. of Germany/UNSO mission which took place in December 1982. In Djibouti, a multisectoral project for the integrated development of the coastal plain has been formulated and presented to DESCON IV. AGFUND has agreed to make a contribution of \$250,000 to the Trust Fund towards the cost of the project.

33. Because of the low carrying capacity of the marginal drylands of the Sudano-Sahelian region, there is a limit to the productivity that can be achieved in the traditional agricultural and livestock sectors without damaging the region's ecosystem and causing desertification. Because the levels of production and income are already low, there is a need to generate or develop alternative or supplementary livelihood systems that will provide income to the people while dispersing the pressure on the land. One example of this is the ongoing project for the restocking of the gumbelt in Northern Kordofan province of the Sudan, which has been in operation for three years and has already shown indications of promising results. The drought-resistant Acacia senegal, besides helping stabilize the soil and provide a source of fodder and fuelwood, is the source of gum arabic, which provides the farmers with cash income and an alternative to pastoralism, thus easing the pressure on the land. Pilot projects for the growing of Acacia senegal are being elaborated for Upper Volta and Senegal.

34. In all its activities, as was noted earlier, UNSO emphasizes national involvement, incentives and the participation of the populations concerned at the family and village levels. In the development and implementation of project proposals, provision is made for the utilization and training of national staff to help build up their expertise and managerial capability for carrying out project operations. The projects also provide for popular

participation by bringing in local leaders, school teachers, managers of co-operatives and the like in the critical stages of project preparation and ensuring their continuous participation throughout the implementation of the projects.

II. PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

35. As was noted in the introduction, UNSO, in 1982, intensified its resource mobilization efforts. This included the fielding of joint missions with representatives of donor Governments for the identification and formulation of projects. The involvement of donors at the earliest stages of project development has proved effective in increasing and promoting new interest on the part of the donor community in desertification control. In addition to traditional donors, AGFUND and the Governments of Australia and Norway have recently become active supporters of the UNSO-assisted desertification control programme of the Sudano-Sahelian region. The Governments of Italy and Yugoslavia have also intensified their participation in the programme. The Executive Director's personal efforts were instrumental in securing the participation of AGFUND in the programme.

36. As mentioned in paragraph 5 above, UNSO, as a result of its various efforts, mobilized a total of \$20.4 million (\$13.6 million through the Trust Fund and \$6.8 million in the form of direct inputs to complement the financing of UNSO-managed projects). At the time of the preparation of this report, UNSO had identified with the Governments of the region a total of 258 projects requiring an investment of \$710.2 million, of which a total of \$404.6 million have been committed from bilateral and multilateral sources, including the Trust Fund. This leaves a total of \$305.6 million in external resources required to finance the priority anti-desertification projects for which the Governments of the regions have requested UNSO assistance. Thus, despite the volume of financing that has been mobilized, there is a need for considerably higher levels of assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian region and adjacent countries to help combat desertification which can be provided only by a concerted effort on the part of the international donor community.

III. CO-ORDINATION AND INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL CO-OPERATION

37. UNSO continued in 1982 to maintain close working relationships with various bodies, both within and outside the United Nations system, on matters having a bearing on the problem of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

38. At the subregional level, UNSO continued to work closely with CILSS, participating in most of the planning and programming activities carried out by the CILSS Executive Secretariat and the Club du Sahel. As a principal partner of CILSS, UNSO also attended the Conference of Heads of State held at

Praia, Cape Verde, in January 1982 as well as the regular meetings of the CILSS Council of Ministers held in January and June 1982.

39. A series of meetings was also held by the Director of UNSO with the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of West Africa on the joint programming and financing of activities and the strengthening of co-operative arrangements between the Community and UNSO. As a result of these meetings, an agreement was reached on several joint project undertakings at the subregional level, including programmes for the systematic use of Acacia senegal in development activities in the northern Sahelian belt as well as the promotion of fuel-efficient cooking stoves. The possibilities and advantages of undertaking a joint programme for the development of village facilities for post-harvest storage, to serve inter alia as insurance against the risk of drought, was also discussed in detail.

40. In July, UNSO participated in the regional meeting of resident representatives of UNDP in Africa, which took place in Lomé, Togo. UNSO reviewed proposed and on-going desertification control projects with the resident representatives from the Sudano-Sahelian and related countries, including the relation of various desertification control activities and proposals to the country programmes of the Governments concerned.

41. Finally, UNSO continued to work closely with UNEP on the different aspects of UNSO anti-desertification activities. This included consultations on programme activities and administrative arrangements under the UNDP/UNEP joint venture, all aspects of the preparations for DESCON IV, the preparation of the Executive Director's assessment of the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the promotion of the exchange of information and expertise on desertification matters, and specific programmes for training and research for combating desertification. UNSO also participated in the Interagency Working Group on Desertification (IAWGD) and other meetings convened by UNEP.

42. As is evident from this report, the institutional arrangements for implementing the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region, where desertification is particularly acute, have continued to prove effective. Through close working relationships with the Sudano-Sahelian countries and the international donor community, UNSO was able in 1982 to expedite the flow of assistance for specific desertification control projects and to assist the countries in their planning, programming and project implementation activities at an expanded level. A continuation of the special arrangements for the region, which involve a joint venture of UNDP and UNEP, is recommended for the Council's consideration (see document DP/1983/41 UNSO-UNDP/UNEP Joint Venture.

Notes

1. The countries are Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon and Upper Volta.
2. This included \$7.4 million for new activities and \$6.2 million for complementary activities, modifications and new phases of ongoing project.

