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UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Information on the technical co-operation programme of the  
Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In response to Governing Council decision 79/22, this addendum to DP/1984/42 provides information on the activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

This report describes the main trends and activities undertaken by the Department in the fields of development issues and policies, natural resources and energy, development administration and finance, statistics, rural development, ocean economics and technology and social development and humanitarian affairs.

The report also describes the work of the Department in relation to evaluation and includes descriptions of a number of projects completed in 1983. Technical assistance recruitment and project personnel administration activities in 1983 are described, as are those of the World Food Programme and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation activities, prepared in response to Governing Council decision 79/22, provides detailed information on the main trends and work carried out by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. (Other information is included in DP/1984/42 and Add. 2 and 3.) Organized along the lines of DTCD's new structure, the report describes, as in past years, the scope and accomplishments of the projects executed during 1983 in the Department's main substantive areas: development issues and policies, natural resources and energy, development administration and finance, statistics, population, ocean economics and technology, and social development and humanitarian affairs.
2. The report also provides, in a special section on evaluation, brief summaries of a number of projects completed during the year, as well as a description of the trends in services carried out in support of the Department's technical co-operation activities. Included, too, is an overview of the work of the Department in conjunction with the World Food Programme and with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

### I. SUBSTANTIVE AREAS

#### A. Development issues and policies

3. DTCD implemented 240 field projects in economic and social development, including integrated rural development, in 75 countries. The 1983 budgets of these projects totalled \$35 million. In addition, Headquarters staff undertook 195 weeks of project-related and direct advisory missions in 1983.
4. In the field of integrated rural development, in addition to the technical co-operation projects, international seminars and meetings and publications, new projects were formulated in integrated rural development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal. A major subcontract in this field was executed in the United Republic of Tanzania and the Department took part in an international FAO-supported symposium on agrarian reform held in Mexico. The Department also provided substantive backstopping to the ACC Task Force on Rural Development.
5. In 1983, the Department began a series of interregional workshops on critical aspects of development planning with particular emphasis on the least developed countries (LDCs) and island developing countries: one was held in Lesotho on aspects of plan implementation; another was held in Benin on the subject of executing and monitoring development plans; a third was held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines dealing with aspects of planning of particular interest to island developing countries. Other international meetings related to development issues and policies in which DTCD staff participated were the annual advisory meeting and related technical seminar of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development; a meeting with UNFDAC aimed at developing a regional project of integrated rural development for establishing substitutes for narcotic crops in South America; and preparing the report on United Nations technical co-operation for the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. DTCD, through its field projects, had the substantive responsibility for the preparation of the international donors' round-table conferences in Benin, Guinea-Bissau and Malawi, and participated in the round-table conferences for the countries of Asia and the Pacific.

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6. Among the missions which the Department undertook in 1983 was one in conjunction with the Secretary-General's special representative in Lebanon to assist that country's reconstruction programme. Together with the United Nations Office for Special Political Questions, the Department advised Ghana on meeting requirements stemming from recent large-scale international migration. Gambia was assisted in the institutional aspects of developing the Senegambia Confederation. Direct advisory services were also provided in aspects of national planning to Dominica, Indonesia, Netherlands Antilles, Rwanda, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Egypt was advised on establishing an information retrieval system for the supply and distribution of food commodities.

7. Important achievements of ongoing field projects included the advance of a river-basin-development project in Honduras from initial planning to the stages of pre-investment and obtaining international investment funds. Similar activities are also continuing in the development of the Senegal River Basin. A project in Costa Rica was instrumental in restructuring that country's foreign debt in a context of economic growth. An innovative project in Panama assisted in dealing with sectors of extreme poverty remaining in the country. Modalities of project execution receiving increasing emphasis have included: working closely with other bilateral and multilateral international agencies, notably in West Africa; and reducing costs by utilizing qualified national experts and national consulting firms, especially in Latin America.

8. Important new projects formulated in 1983 included one in Angola and another in Cape Verde, both aimed at integrating women into the development process, while a third in Bangladesh aimed at establishing a system for computerizing and co-ordinating international financial and technical co-operation. New projects were formulated or major expansions of existing projects also occurred in respect to development planning in Bangladesh, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Palau, Senegal, Tonga, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

#### B. Natural resources and energy

9. During 1983 the Department executed 490 projects in natural resources and energy, infrastructure, cartography and remote sensing. Despite overall reductions in resources for technical co-operation, developing countries continued to place priority on natural resources and energy, with the result that both budgets and project delivery increased in 1983 as compared with 1982. Current year budgets increased by 8 per cent and implementation by 5 per cent. As has been the case in previous years, the emphasis in the programme in natural resources and energy was on institution building, on efforts to improve the exploration and development of resources, on supply of equipment and on training.

##### 1. Minerals

10. With regard to minerals, technical co-operation activities in 1983 covered mineral exploration, mining development, institution building and training, mining legislation and contract negotiation, and mineral sector planning. DTCD supported 189 projects in the minerals field, with a comparable number of projects under preparation for consideration in future years. Some 75 missions by interregional advisers and others were undertaken to more than 60 countries.

11. Exploration for gold continues to be the subject of several projects: for example in Benin, where small-scale production of gold was begun for the first time since 1956;

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in Haiti, where further encouraging results were achieved during continuing exploration activities; and in Suriname, where feasibility studies are underway. Exploration for tin was continued in Thailand, and Colombian geologists and engineers were trained in the application of electronic data processing techniques. In Argentina, activities continued in the evaluation of the Bajo La Alumbrera copper-gold deposit; and in Burundi, a promising vanadium occurrence is being investigated. A highly successful project in the Philippines is concerned with institution strengthening and regional co-operation, while several projects in India provide technical co-operation in gold mining and exploration for gold and other metals. In several countries, including Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania, activities aimed at strengthening national institutions continued. In Bolivia, assistance to the national mining company, COMIBOL, is funded by the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

12. Also in 1983, the Department provided support to the eighth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, which discussed, inter alia, the present situation in the international mineral sector, and noted that the demand for most minerals and metals was growing only very modestly, if at all, and that prices were therefore depressed. It is also noted that this had resulted in many producing developing countries experiencing revenue and foreign exchange shortages.

## 2. Energy

13. Technical co-operation in the energy subsector included conventional energy, planning, electric power and new and renewable sources of energy. A total of 117 projects were executed in this field last year.

14. In the field of conventional energy resources, 19 projects were under execution, with 9 projects expected to be approved in early 1984. With funds provided by the Swedish Government, mission assistance was provided in energy planning and institution strengthening. Demand also continued strong in 1983 for technical co-operation concerned with energy transport and electricity supply. During 1983 20 projects were implemented in this sector, and preparatory work on 19 additional projects was initiated.

15. With regard to new and renewable sources of energy, geothermal energy continued to receive high priority from developing country Governments. Projects were under implementation in China, Djibouti, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, the Philippines, Romania and Thailand. In addition, during 1983, projects in solar energy, wind energy, energy conservation and rural energy supplies were implemented in Argentina, China, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Mauritius, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania and Seychelles, together with interregional and regional projects in Asia and Latin America.

16. Under a programme jointly funded by the Governments of Japan and Sweden and the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation, DTCD continued to execute a survey programme of small hydropower potential, which will eventually encompass 46 developing countries, with particular emphasis on LDCs. Twenty-six countries were surveyed by the end of 1983, and an additional 10 countries have been identified for coverage in 1984. This will be followed by surveys of 10 more countries in 1985. Financing for engineering studies and construction of small dams has been obtained by DTCD for Mozambique, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania from the Italian Government, the OPEC Fund and the UNDP Energy Account. Discussions were initiated during 1983 with Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Mauritius and Nigeria to establish Rural Energy Centre projects, which seek to utilize locally available renewable energy sources /...

to meet the energy requirements of remote rural villages. Advisory services in the field of new and renewable sources of energy were provided to Argentina, Burma, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

### 3. Water

17. In the water resources subsector, technical co-operation activities in 1983 reflected the continuing need of developing countries to develop adequate supplies of water. The Department provided assistance in the development of water resources data banks, groundwater development, rural water supply, water well drilling and exploration and development of groundwater. In 1983, 153 projects were under execution.

18. Many requests were received from Governments for assistance in developing national water resources data banks through the use of computers for storage and retrieval of information on the supply and demand for surface and ground water. Support is being provided to the Government of Argentina in the development of a national water resources data bank. A centre providing training for national staff will eventually be open to other Latin American countries. In Bangladesh, a project was initiated providing assistance in the preparation of a surface water data bank, with a UNDP contribution of \$0.7 million. In addition, an interregional project is under way providing technical assistance to Governments in the definition of their needs in matters relating to the use of micro-computers for water resources planning and development, including the identification of appropriate training programmes. An interregional advisory mission was recently undertaken to Bangkok to advise government officials on the development of a water resources data bank for the Lower Mekong. Other interregional advisory missions were undertaken to Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, and Paraguay.

19. In co-operation with the Governments of Malawi and the United Kingdom, UNDP and the World Bank, and with contributions from the regular programme, DTCD organized a regional seminar on low-cost ground-water development for rural water supplies based on practical experience in this field in Malawi. The seminar took place in Lilongwe and Blantyre in December 1982 with participants from approximately 20 developing countries, United Nations agencies, and various other organizations. The seminar was successful in disseminating information on Malawi's rural water supply and in promoting TCDC in this field through the sharing of experience. Particular attention was given to a very efficient and low-cost hand pump, to the degree of participation of local rural communities in water supply programmes, to the operation, maintenance and servicing of pumps and other facilities, and to low-cost appropriately simple techniques used in the development of rural water supply schemes.

20. Interregional advisory missions in groundwater and rural water supply were undertaken to the Central African Republic, Congo and Gabon, and in water well drilling to Benin, Bermuda, Columbia, and Zambia. A new project was initiated in Guinea-Bissau to strengthen the services in charge of ground-water exploration and development with a view to increasing the supply of water to rural communities. The UNDP contribution in this effort is of the order of \$1 million. Activities in Niger in support of ground-water development in rural areas were delayed, but are now catching up, and approximately 200 boreholes have been drilled. The UNDP contribution is approximately \$1.8 million.

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21. Within the framework of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the Department sponsored an international colloquium on technical co-operation among developing countries in ground-water resources development in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. The colloquium supported the establishment of national, sub-regional, regional and international information networks on ground-water resources development and agreed to support the establishment, within the Centre for Water in Yugoslavia, of a small international technical unit dealing with technical co-operation among developing countries in ground-water resources development. The idea was supported by the Committee on Natural Resources of the Economic and Social Council during its eighth session in June 1983. The Secretary-General was requested to investigate financing possibilities for this purpose.

#### 4. Public works, cartography and remote sensing

22. Activities in the field of public works centered on the execution of projects financed by UNDP as well as by national, bilateral and international organizations. They also included ad hoc contributions such as participation in World Food Programme appraisal and evaluation missions, scrutiny of public works components in World Food Programme projects, and short-term advisory missions in a wide range of disciplines.

23. The projects involved covered about 25 countries and included pre-investment and engineering feasibility studies, institution building, training of nationals, direct support, provision of related equipment and subcontracts. Interregional advisory services were provided on various public works services and municipal engineering activities.

24. Although some of the activities were oriented toward the development of new infrastructures, a growing trend was to promote initiation, evaluation, rehabilitation, upgrading, maintenance and restoration of existing works, involving training, transfers of technology and limited equipment components.

25. Technical assistance in cartography is playing an increasingly important role in the planning of the economic, social and cultural development of developing countries. Such assistance typically includes provision of technical expertise to national cartographic establishments, training and equipment. In 1983, 21 projects were executed in this field.

26. Technical co-operation activities in cartography were operating in Burundi, Bhutan, Cayman Islands, Ethiopia, Fiji, Jamaica, Jordan, Honduras, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam. The fields covered were geodetic surveying, mapping, hydrography, photogrammetry, map production and cadastral surveying.

27. Advisory and preparatory assistance missions for possible future and continued technical assistance projects were made to Bhutan, Jordan, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

28. Six fellowships and grants for study tours were awarded for studies in surveying, cartography, photogrammetry and hydrography to candidates from Fiji, Nepal and Madagascar.

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29. Technical support was given to the tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok and to the planning of the third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, to be held in Buenos Aires in 1984. An Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cadastral Surveying and Land Information Systems was convened in Berlin (Federal Republic of Germany), a seminar on topographic and hydrographic surveying was held in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and an Interregional Training Course on Thematic Mapping was held in Moscow and Dushanbe (USSR).

30. In 1983 technical co-operation activities in remote sensing included six projects to establish national remote sensing centres in Poland and China, a regional remote sensing centre in Argentina, and application of remote sensing technologies in natural resources in Ethiopia and Kenya as well as joint projects between Egypt and the Sudan and between Democratic Yemen and Yemen.

31. These projects focused on providing fellowships, technical assistance and interpretation equipment with the long-term objective of enabling developing countries to use up-to-date technology in locating and developing natural and human resources.

#### C. Public administration and finance

32. The programme of technical co-operation in public administration and finance encompasses a wide range of activities in the fields of training and personnel management, institution building by way of reform of existing administrative structures and the creation of new ones, and improvements in the planning and implementation of strategies for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the management of the public sector. The programme also involves co-operation in the strengthening of financial management systems geared to the achievement of more effective public control and accountability in the allocation and use of resources and improvement in the organization and management of public enterprises.

33. During 1983, various factors limited the availability of resources for development in developing countries. This shrinkage in resources further reinforced the need for greater economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the management of the public sector in developing countries, stimulating efforts to strengthen public administration and finance systems. Governments shared increased interest in revamping and strengthening existing institutions, upgrading the skills of public personnel and rationalizing administrative structures for policy analysis and implementation. Developing countries also stressed the strengthening of public financial management systems, performance improvement of public enterprises and the use of information systems for improved development planning and implementation.

34. The Department's technical co-operation activities were directed towards meeting these needs. In 1983, DTCD continued to strengthen the capacity of public administration and financial systems for development through the following activities: substantive backstopping of technical co-operation projects, preparation of technical publications and guidelines in support of operational activities, organization of interregional workshops and seminars, administration of fellowships, and short-term advisory services. In the face of the decline in the Department's resources, administrative and substantive support to operational activities in public administration was maintained through improved cost-effectiveness. Procedures and modes of operation were streamlined and use of available expertise was intensified and made more flexible and intensive.

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35. During the year, the Development Administration Division executed over 100 technical co-operation projects in 66 developing countries primarily in the areas of administrative reform, personnel administration and training, and financial and public enterprise management. Of these, 40 per cent were in Africa, 32 per cent in Asia and the Pacific, 15 per cent in the Americas and 13 per cent in Europe and Western Asia. Ten of these were new projects which dealt primarily with the areas of budget reform, administrative improvement and training in auditing and computers.

36. As in the past year, administrative reform and improvement projects claimed about one-third of all the projects, signalling the continuing need for readjustment of administrative structures to major changes in the environment. While some of these projects are concerned with strengthening organization and method divisions, as in Senegal and Cameroon, others are concerned with eliminating obsolete administrative structures and practices and introducing new ones, as in Mali.

37. The need for improved information processing systems for effective decision-making resulted in projects in a number of countries at various levels. This included the central governmental level as in Kuwait, the local governmental level as in the Sharja municipality in the United Arab Emirates or in the individual ministry as in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tunisia. It is expected that the demand for increased technical assistance in the area of information systems will continue to grow.

38. Personnel training and management continued to be a major field of co-operation owing to the extreme shortage of skilled manpower in many developing countries, particularly those in Africa. While these projects are directed at strengthening existing national institutions and facilities for training of nationals, some efforts have also been made in developing new training institutes, as in the Gambia. In the United Republic of Tanzania, assistance has been designed by providing on-the-spot expertise to improve personnel management practices and to upgrade skills of officials in a key government agency.

39. In the field of financial management, several Governments undertook measures to strengthen their external audit systems to provide not only for a financial audit of government transactions but also for a performance or result oriented audit. These measures stemmed from the need to ensure most the efficient use of resources. Important developments in this respect took place in China, Ethiopia, Peru and Yemen. These countries have initiated measures for the modernization of their government audit systems including training and upgrading of the skills of the relevant public officials.

40. Due to the enormous needs of developing countries in the area of trained manpower, a sizeable proportion of DTCD's technical assistance activities has been directed towards training and upgrading the skills of officials in the public services of developing countries. In 1983, fellowship awards organized by the Development Administration Division totalled 128. Of these, 83 were awarded to officials in Asia and the Pacific, 43 were in Africa and 1 in Latin America.

41. Regional and interregional activities also continued to receive attention under the programme. Five regional projects and one interregional project were backstopped by the Department. In Africa, the Department continued to support the activities of the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD) as a means of enhancing technical co-operation among the countries of the continent. /...

Equally, it continued to co-operate with Centro Latinoamericano de la Administración para el Desarrollo (CLAD) and Instituto Centroamericano de la Administración Pública (ICAP), the two principal regional public administration institutions in Latin America. In the Arab region, the division is co-operating with the Arab Organization for Administrative Sciences (AOAS), in assisting various Governments in the region in improving their public administration systems. The Division continued its support to the International Centre for Public Enterprises in Yugoslavia in 1983.

42. In 1983, the Development Administration Division carried out 43 advisory missions in as many developing countries at the request of Governments. These missions dealt with the analysis of specific problems and suggested solutions in the areas of administration organization, personnel administration and training, information management and the use of computers, tax policy and administration, accounting, budgeting and auditing.

43. As part of its operational activities and to promote an exchange of views and experiences between developed and developing countries, the Division organized two interregional workshops, one on the management of government regulatory activities and a second on performance improvement of public enterprises. The latter was organized as a sequel to the international symposium on the evaluation of economic performance of public enterprises held in Pakistan in 1981. The reports of these seminars are being issued.

44. The Department has taken steps to strengthen and widen the scope of its co-operation with the World Bank and other international financial institutions in assisting Governments in the improvement of their public administration systems. Two projects initiated in 1983 in administrative reform and institution building through management training in Mali and the Gambia, involving the co-operation of the Department and the World Bank, are intended to be precursors of similar projects. During the year, several joint missions utilizing the combined expertise of DTCD and other agencies, in the area of administrative reform, government accounting and auditing served both to deepen international co-operation efforts and to hasten development of projects for strengthening administrative structures and management practices in developing countries.

#### D. Statistics

45. Emphasis continued to be placed on strengthening of national institutions and capabilities for collecting, compiling and processing data needed for development planning and programmes. During 1983, 158 country projects were under execution; of these, 66 were in Africa, 42 in Asia and the Pacific, 25 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 25 in Western Asia. Projects under execution covered a wide variety of statistical subjects and capabilities including general statistical development, national accounts, trade and industrial statistics, demographic and social statistics, censuses, surveys and statistical data processing and related fields.

46. The central role played by DTCD in statistical development in the developing world is illustrated by the fact that eight of the nine developing countries that took population censuses in 1983 received United Nations technical co-operation in some form or other. Substantive support for DTCD activities in the field of statistical data processing was provided by the Statistical Office, DIESA.

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47. An on-the-job statistical training project was established in 1982, as part of the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation to train young and inexperienced professionals of the national statistical office of one developing country in another developing country suitably chosen. The programme makes a valuable contribution to TCDC. Sixteen countries from all regions of the world benefitted it in 1983.

48. The National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), managed and co-ordinated by DTCD, represents a major technical co-operation effort of the United Nations statistical system, bringing together bilateral and multilateral donors and international agencies to assist countries in establishing a permanent household survey capability and generating a wide range of socio-economic and demographic statistics for planning purposes. Developing countries' interest in the programme continues to be substantial. In response to country invitations, project proposals have so far been formulated for 45 countries; 36 of the proposals have been formally approved by the Governments indicating their willingness to meet from their own resources a predominant share of the total expenditure involved. Nineteen countries are presently implementing the programme. Nine started implementation during 1983. Donor support for the programme is building steadily despite the difficult international financial situation. Through the end of January 1984, the cumulative external assistance to country survey programmes was approximately \$14 million, of which \$9 million became available in 1983. Of this, 53 per cent is provided by United Nations agencies; the remainder is contributed by 15 bilateral and multilateral agencies. There still remains a sizeable gap between country requirements and available external assistance for satisfactory completion of the country programmes and efforts are continuing to secure ongoing donor support.

49. In view of the immense potential benefits for the application of the informatics field for socio-economic development, the programme in statistical data processing has recently been extended in scope to provide support in this closely related field. This resulted in the approval of four large-scale projects in informatics in 1983; two in Burma, one in Indonesia and one in training in Zimbabwe ranging from \$250,000 to \$5 million. This trend is anticipated to continue during 1984.

50. The UNFPA-supported software project continued to supply support for population data processing projects, together with user training on-site and at Headquarters. From 1984 onward, the project will be developing and supplying software for demographic analysis and an expert is being recruited for this work. The COBOL version of XTALLY (cross-tabulation) was supplied to over 40 countries and a multivariate analysis package for small computers (MULVAN) and a simple logistics simulation poackage (LOGSIM) were provided to several countries.

#### E. Population

51. In the field of population, DTCD co-operated with developing countries in the establishment and strengthening of national institutions in the fields of analysis of census and survey data, demographic training, and population policy and development.

52. DTCD executed 76 UNFPA-supported demographic projects in 1983, of which approximately 35 per cent were in demographic training, 45 per cent in analysis of census and survey data and 20 per cent in population policy and development. Most were

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individual country projects, covering about 75 developing countries. About 60 demographic experts, in addition to a number of short-term consultants, assisted in the implementation of these projects.

53. Support and backstopping in the field of demographic training was provided to individual developing countries through support of national demographic training institutions and departments of demography, three United Nations interregional demographic training centres and programmes (the Cairo Demographic Centre, the United Nations-Romania Demographic Centre (CEDOR) in Bucharest, Romania, and the demographic training programme at Moscow State University), and fellowships for population study abroad. DTCD also published a report on United Nations experience in population training over the past two decades: The United Nations Population Training Programme: Aspects of Technical Co-operation (ST/ESA/SER.E/28).

54. DTCD-executed projects in the field of demographic analysis dealt primarily with the evaluation and analysis of data collected by developing countries as part of the 1970/1980 round of censuses. The joint efforts of UNFPA and DTCD, in such areas as analysis of population data (including estimates of measures of fertility, mortality, migration, and urbanization), and projections of total and sectoral population levels, have helped make Governments increasingly aware of the demographic processes taking place in their countries. (See also paras. 45-50.)

55. In the field of population policy and development, DTCD provided technical co-operation for studies of interaction between demographic factors and social and economic variables, analyses of the impact of alternative population policies on demographic objectives, and strengthening institutional arrangements for population policy formulation and integration of demographic factors in planning. DTCD efforts were oriented particularly to the establishment and strengthening of national population commissions and population units. The Department also participated in a number of UNFPA-sponsored missions on population needs assessment, project formulation and tripartite reviews, as well as technical evaluation of ongoing projects, and continued in 1983 to collaborate with UNFPA and DIESA on the arrangements for the 1984 International Conference on Population. DTCD also prepared several chapters of the Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action.

#### F. Ocean economics and technology

56. The Ocean Economics and Technology Branch/DIESA provides substantive support to the DTCD in the implementation of technical co-operation activities. In 1983 this included continuing support for the Marine Affairs Institute of Trinidad and Tobago and participation in a joint UN/UNESCO-IOC/FAO expert mission to Sri Lanka in June and July to assist in the preparation of a project document for submission to UNDP on the strengthening of the National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA) of Sri Lanka.

57. Assistance was also provided to the Government of Ecuador in the preparation of a project document for submission to UNDP for the development of a national programme on Coastal Area Management and Development in follow-up to a 1981 national seminar on Coastal Area Management and Development, for which the Ocean Economics and Technology Branch, through DTCD, also provided substantive support. An evaluation questionnaire sent to participants after the seminar elicited a very positive assessment from them concerning the quality and usefulness of the meeting.

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G. Social development and humanitarian affairs

58. Activities executed by DTCD in the social aspects of development covered a variety of sectors, including assistance to the disabled, youth related concerns, crime prevention and criminal justice work and women's activities. The Department relies on the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA)/DIESA to provide substantive support for specific programmes within the Centre's terms of reference.

59. During 1983 CSDHA provided substantive support to technical co-operation activities in the fields of rural community development, popular participation, and social welfare as an integral part of development as well as others in the Central African Republic, Democratic Yemen, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Suriname. Substantive advice was also provided, on request, to on-going social welfare and developing activities in Cyprus, Jordan and Pakistan. A major concern in each of these areas is assistance in strengthening and improving national capabilities and institutions for social welfare and development.

60. During 1983 the trend was for fewer requests for technical co-operation of a general nature, but rather for particular types of such substantive inputs as training needs assessment or evaluation of policies and programmes, or to deal with a specific social development issue, such as policies and programmes for social welfare of migrant workers. An important trend with respect to financing technical co-operation activities in the social development field, in the light of decreasing UNDP/IPF resources, is the role of the United Nations Secretariat as a "clearing house" linking important initiatives by developing countries in the social development field with potential donors. Important sources of funds in the implementation of catalytic and innovative technical co-operation activities were the general purpose trust funds established in connection with the conferences on women, disabled persons and the aging. In this fashion, trust fund resources complement and reinforce technical co-operation resources available within the United Nations system for development co-operation.

61. In the field of youth, the CSDHA continued to provide technical backstopping to the interregional advisory services financed by the Department. A trust fund established in conjunction with the International Youth Year, intended primarily to finance projects in LDCs, received limited contributions during 1983. It is hoped that in 1984 the fund will become operational and be co-ordinated with DTCD activities in this area.

62. A number of activities were carried out in the field concerning the disabled. A long-term expert mission in prosthetics continued in Mauritania, while short-term expert missions on the organization of national services for the disabled were organized in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Madagascar. In 1983 the International Year for Disabled Persons (IYDP) Trust Fund received 63 project proposals, of which 13 were funded and 8 approved for funding.

63. In the area of crime prevention, substantive backstopping to the activities of the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI), the United Nations Regional and Subregional Institutes for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Asian and Far East Institute (UNAFEI), Latin American Institute (ILAHUD), European Institute (HEUNI) was provided by staff members during 1983. CSDHA, in collaboration

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with those institutes, sponsored research activities, regional and subregional training courses, seminars and workshops, and international conferences to promote and encourage the formulation and implementation of effective and humane crime prevention and criminal justice policies in relation to developmental processes and goals. CSDHA also assisted DTCD on matters of crime prevention and criminal justice in Bahrain, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Namibia, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, and Zambia.

64. Concerning the advancement of women, a series of regional technical seminars was held, fellowships were provided to women, with emphasis on those from the LDCs, and plans were made to provide advisory services to projects concerned with the advancement of women.

## II. PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 1983

### A. Discussion

65. Brief summaries of a number of projects operationally completed in 1983, organized by substantive area, are given below. A full listing is included in table 16, in addendum 2. A preliminary review tends to the conclusion that, as a whole, most of those projects listed below were completed satisfactorily. Approximately one-fourth were to be continued, either with UNDP financing or financing from other sources. The majority has produced the required outputs at the conclusion of operation. It is anticipated that many of them will be able to achieve their objectives while others may take time to prove themselves.

66. Some projects were hampered by a lack of qualified technical counterpart staff, which tempers the potential to be effective. In future, greater efforts will need to be made at the design stage in planning similar projects in equivalent conditions to provide for timely training. In general, attention needs to be given to devising measures to try to assure that national staff is retained after the end of UNDP or UNFPA assistance. In a few cases, factors beyond the control of project management which resulted from a changed environment at or prior to conclusion of operations affected the outcome. These projects have, however, produced data that might be found useful whenever circumstances again change. Factors such as these require attentive monitoring during the implementation phase and, as appropriate, thereafter. Those projects which were affected by the financial problems of the funding agency have had budgets reduced and funds were sought for completion or continuation from other sources. Several projects, either because of the implementation methodology applied or because of the scientific knowledge gained, merit replication. The experience so acquired is being applied in development of projects in environments that are similar or of the same type.

### B. Description of projects

67. Brief summaries of evaluations of a number of projects that were completed during 1983 follow, organized by substantive area.

#### 1. Development issues and policies

68. ECU/74/004 (Operational Planning) assisted in establishing a permanent institutional framework for annual planning in Ecuador to co-ordinate the activities of government institutions having responsibility in annual planning; namely, the central

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planning agency, the central bank and several government ministries. The modality of execution was noteworthy in that it was among the first to rely almost exclusively upon short-term consultants (which reduced costs) and upon fellowship training arrangements in institutions in the same region. These modalities have subsequently been applied to other projects in the region.

69. NAN/80/002 (Social Planning) assisted in producing a social development plan for Aruba. The achievements of the project may be viewed as successful as the Government decided to continue the project with cost sharing in order to strengthen the planning agency and assist in producing a medium-term development plan.

70. NIR/73/003 (Development Planning) provided experts to seven states of Nigeria who helped to produce state (subnational regional) development plans and annual capital budgets. Specific project evaluations were also produced which have already led to substantial investment activity. A need for continued support in related fields has resulted in the approval of a new phase which will concentrate on plan implementation, including further capital budgets and investment activities.

71. RAS/73/002 (Development of Lumbini) assisted in developing the area around Lumbini, Nepal, which was the birthplace of Buddha. It was financed by UNDP and by 15 Asian Governments. It produced a master plan for the development of the area, which includes physical infrastructure and archeological and restoration work. The project has been succeeded by a new phase which will finalize the design work, commence construction and develop the required trained manpower.

72. VAN/81/005 (Assistance to the National Planning and Statistical Office) was instrumental in preparing Vanuatu's first national development plan, which was judged to be highly important in making the country's new independence successful and stable. The project has been succeeded by assistance in related fields provided by bilateral donors as IPF funds were not available.

## 2. Natural resources and energy

### (a) Minerals

73. CPR/79/007 (Interpretation of Satellite Photographs) successfully assisted the Government of China in establishing a Remote Sensing Centre for interpreting LANDSAT images, to aid the Ministry of Geology in mineral exploration, research and training programmes. A computer-based digital image analyzing system is now in operation, with technicians trained by the project.

74. CUB/76/004 (Pilot Plant for Laterite Research Centre) was designed as a first phase in the provision of design services and selected items of equipment for the establishment of a pilot plant in Cuba for investigating process improvements for the recovery of nickel from lateritic ores. The design of the plant was performed under a sub-contract; total expenditures up to 1982 amount to \$1,675,521 (UNDP contribution). A second phase followed and has been engaged mainly in purchasing further items of equipment and providing training in nickel processing.

75. GHA/81/002 (Initial Assistance to the Gold Action Committee) provided consultancy services to the Gold Action Committee which was set up by the Government of Ghana to

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promote the rehabilitation of the State Gold Mining Corporation and investment in other areas of the gold mining industry; it was instrumental in suggesting revisions to the investment code. However, owing to a lack of direct government support to the gold mining industry, little progress has been made in attracting investment and thereby developing or expanding the industry.

76. MAU/78/002 (Strengthening of the Geological Service) established a geological documentation centre and made recommendations for a data bank on sub-surface geology at the Direction des Mines et de la Géologie in Mauritania.

77. PAK/78/022 (Saindak Integrated Mineral Development Project) provided assistance to the Resource Development Corporation of Pakistan in obtaining further technical data on the Saindak copper deposit; in particular, increasing the confidence level of the proposed mine development programme through the provision of a mining expert and of external training in mine planning and mineral process design. Though project objectives were achieved, mine development has been delayed by difficulties in arranging suitable financing.

78. PAK/79/016 (Strengthening the Geological Survey of Pakistan) assisted the Geological Survey of Pakistan in exploration of porphyry copper and stratiform zinc-lead-barite prospects in Baluchistan. Several million tons of potentially economic zinc sulphide mineralization were identified at Gunga; other, similar deposits are thought to exist in the region. Additional UNDP assistance is being negotiated for further exploration of this mineralized belt. Pre-feasibility work will be undertaken at Gunga by other sources.

79. TUR/76/002 (Mineral Resources Development Planning) functioned as an umbrella project aimed at providing support services to other projects within specific departments of the Mineral Research and Exploration Directorate in Turkey; it provided training and some minor items of equipment. At the conclusion of the project, it was expected that a smaller amount of external assistance in these fields would be required in the future.

80. TUR/77/002 (Strengthening the Feasibility Studies Department of the Mineral Research and Exploration Directorate) was executed under the general supervision of TUR/76/002, a sub-contract awarded to Outokumpu Oy of Finland. This firm provided expert services on-site to train Turkish engineers in the preparation of two feasibility reports on mineral deposits in that country and also provided training in Finland on related subjects. As a result, the Feasibility Studies Department is now better equipped to advise the Government on investments in the mineral industry.

(b) Energy

81. ANG/79/005 (Energy Resources Survey) assisted in formulating an overall energy policy for integrated energy resources development in Angola. The study, performed by Energoprojekt of Yugoslavia, involved preparing energy balance analyses of supply and demand for the period 1970 to 1981 and presenting various scenarios for growth of the energy sector to the year 1995. Project performance and followup have been handicapped by a shortage of national technical staff.

82. BZE/79/001 (Energy Development) assisted in establishing the Petroleum Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and in defining a national energy policy for

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Belize. This project is being followed by BZE/83/001 (Petroleum Resources Development) which will lead to the formulation of petroleum exploration strategies. This project has been hampered by a lack of availability of national counterparts.

83. IND/77/008 (Geophysical Data Processing) established a geophysical data processing centre within the India Oil and Natural Gas Commission so that the Commission would have in-house capability to process large amounts of seismic data accumulated as a result of accelerated exploration efforts in India. A seismic computer system, including software capable of processing both two- and three-dimensional seismic data, was installed, and local staff were fully trained to operate and maintain the system.

84. KEN/79/002 (Advisory Service in Petroleum) provided the Government of Kenya with the information necessary to devise a policy for effective procurement and optimal use of crude oil. Its recommendations included making the National Oil Corporation of Kenya fully operational, reviewing refinery management arrangements, implementing a tankage study, and co-operating with other international agencies in upgrading of the refinery. The project helped establish the basic policy framework in the petroleum sector, but it is anticipated that more specialized external assistance may be required.

#### (c) Water resources

85. BGD/79/010 (Water Studies in Bangladesh) enabled selected water balance studies to be carried out in the north east and north west regions of Bangladesh using a computerized mathematical model to handle the data collected. This model is being used by the Water Master Plan organization, which was recently created with assistance from UNDP and executed by the World Bank, as well as by other agencies involved in planning projects and programmes dealing with water supply and demand for the two regions.

86. THA/77/010 (Studies of Small Hydropower Dams in North Thailand) carried out ten pre-investment studies of small hydropower dams in Thailand which have been transmitted to the Government. The counterpart agency, the National Energy Administration (NEA) is expected to implement five of the mini-hydro projects with government funds, while the others are expected to be financed by USAID or other donor agencies. Construction has begun on two of the dams with investment by the Government of \$5.7 million during the current fiscal year. The training programme for counterpart engineers from NEA was quite successful. The two trainees are to take charge of following up the pre-investment studies when they return from their studies abroad.

87. TOG/75/008 (Water Development Planning in Togo), in Togo, through the new application of existing technologies, including resistivity, seismic refraction and magnetometry, resulted in identification of new sources of water under difficult conditions for rural water supply, and a decrease in the cost of each well constructed. The project also prepared a water master plan for the country and the first evaluation of water resources in fractured-metamorphic-rock environment. The project has produced new technologies and hydrogeological knowledge applicable to other countries with similar geologic conditions.

#### 3. Public administration and finance

88. BHA/78/006 (Establishment of a Central Purchasing Unit) was designed to assist the Government of the Bahamas in establishing a central system of purchase and supplies by the introduction of suitable supply-management techniques. A survey of government

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requirements was conducted and a start was made to introduce a simplified system for classifying and standardizing a minimum category of products including the preparation of a few purchase regulations. However, a reduction in the project budget meant that most of the project outputs could not be produced.

89. COL/78/003 (Modernization of the Management of Comptroller's Office) was designed to strengthen the management of the comptroller's office of Colombia in government auditing (fiscal control), information systems, personnel administration, training and internal systems and procedures. It resulted in, inter alia, modernization of audit techniques and procedures both for pre- and post-audit in the central government and public enterprises; the design of technical standards for internal control for public entities; the development of information systems for public accounting and fiscal statistics; and preparation of a handbook for the appraisal of employees performance. Based on the progress made under the project, the Government has identified new priority areas for development and arrangements have been completed for a continuation of the project under a cost-sharing agreement between the Government and UNDP.

90. CPR/82/020 (Development of Government Audit in China) was designed to assist the Government of the People's Republic of China in developing an effective government auditing system as part of the process of modernization of the economy. The project consisted of three main components: (a) a series of consultancies for the preparation of an audit manual and audit rules and regulations; (b) four in-service training programmes made up of a course for a group of senior audit officials, two courses on the audit of industrial enterprises and one on the audit of commercial enterprises; and (c) fellowships for external training for two audit officials. The project has made a significant contribution to the development of audit capabilities in China by creating a nucleus of officials with information and knowledge of modern auditing systems and techniques which can be tested and adapted for application in that country. The innovative nature of the project involving the formulation of training programmes to fit the special circumstances of China and the problems of language presented challenges. These were, however, satisfactorily resolved and the experience gained and skills developed are to be used by the Government in the introduction of audit at all levels in China.

91. NIC/79/008 (Reorganization of the Budgetary System) was designed to assist in the reorganization of the budgetary system of Nicaragua, which involved the organization and development of technical administrative systems for the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms in the budget, fiscal statistics and productive sectors. The project has contributed to the establishment of a new methodology for the reorganization of the public financial management system in accordance with the needs of the country.

92. ROK/82/005 (Development of a Public Enterprise Performance Information System) was designed to assist the Government of the Republic of Korea in developing a computer programme for performance evaluation of public enterprises, and to train government personnel engaged in the monitoring of the activities of public enterprises in Korea. A sub-contractor provided technical services. An assessment of the project showed that the trainees learned to use and apply the computer programme developed with the assistance of the project. This project was identified as having good potential for application in other interested countries.

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#### 4. Population and statistics

93. AFG/77/PO2 (Processing of Population Data) provided modern minicomputers and data entry equipment and training in hardware and software, maintenance and operations which significantly enhanced the national capability of Afghanistan in the computer field and contributed to the successful completion of the data processing and analysis of the 1979 population census.

94. BUR/73/PO1 (Population Census) assisted the Government of Burundi in carrying out the 1973 population census. A number of technical staff have been trained and computer equipment for census processing has been provided. The Government successfully carried out the 1983 population census without the assistance of a census adviser, although assistance in data processing was provided.

95. CPR/80/Pl6 (Population Census) assisted the Government of China in the planning and execution of the 1982 census. Census workers were trained through study tours, fellowships and workshops; 28 sets of computers were supplied in addition to 170 clusters of data entry systems and related equipment to process the census data; and the required data processing personnel were trained in the operation of the computers. The Government has successfully carried out the census and published a 10 per cent data sample one year after the enumeration.

96. GAM/73/009 (Strengthening of the Statistical Office) provided expert assistance to Gambia for 36 months (OPAS Director of Statistics), 135 months of fellowship training and \$205,000 for equipment of which \$135,000 was computer-related. The office is now compiling on a regular basis statistics for national accounts, external trade, agriculture and households. In addition, during 1983 a population census was conducted successfully with minimal outside assistance.

97. GUI/78/010 (Computer Centre) was a continuation of an earlier UNDP project to establish and strengthen a national computer centre in Guinea. Inputs included 91 months of expert and consultant assistance, 63 months of fellowship training and \$750,000 worth of equipment of which \$500,000 was for a new computer system. Although the computer installation was delayed for technical and organizational reasons, at the completion of this project the Government had at its disposal a powerful data processing capacity which could handle all foreseeable requirements including the ongoing population census processing.

98. JOR/78/PO3 (1979 Population Census) provided assistance to Jordan in the form of expert services for 55 months, 4 months of fellowship training, study tours and \$200,000 in computer equipment. Basic census tables were finalized during 1983. Unfortunately, most staff who received training in statistical data processing have left the Statistical Office.

99. LIR/79/PO1 (Demographic Survey Phase II) enabled the Government of Liberia to complete the census cartographic work of an excellent standard. It helped develop national capability to the fullest extent. Four statistician/cartographers from two other countries of the region received on-the-job training in census cartography under this project.

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100. MON/75/009 (Establishment of Computer Centre) included 70 months of expert and consultant assistance to Mongolia, six months of fellowships, study tours, and the purchase of computing and teleprocessing equipment. The computer centre now has a staff of approximately 200, three computer systems and terminals connected to the main computer via a telecommunication link. The computer centre successfully processed data from the 1979 population census and performed all routine data processing. All data processing equipment is maintained by local staff of the computer centre.

101. NEP/78/026 (Strengthening of the National Computer Centre in Nepal) played a pivotal role in achieving self-sufficiency in computer hardware and software maintenance and operation for priority applications of the Government. The most notable of these applications was processing the 1981 population census. The project comprised the procurement and installation of computer and data entry facilities as well as the construction of all essential infrastructure facilities, including site preparation, installation of power and air conditioning, etc.

102. PNG/76/PO4 (National Population Census) helped the Government of Papua New Guinea to carry out a full-scale population census in 1980 for the first time ever. Computer equipment has been provided and a number of staff have been trained. Funds were also provided to enable the Government to process, analyze and publish the results. Upon project termination, the Government merged the National Population Census Office with the National Statistical Office, which has caused the termination of employment of a large number of trained and experienced staff due to insufficient posts in the latter organization.

103. URT/79/PO9 (1978 Population Census) provided assistance to the United Republic of Tanzania included 42 months of expert assistance, 2 months of fellowships, study tours and some equipment. The processing of census data encountered serious difficulties due to lack of data processing staff and equipment within the Statistical Office. However, the census tables were published in mid-1983.

104. YEM/81/PO2 (Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System) established an ongoing pilot civil registration system in Sana'a and in six selected rural areas of Yemen. The project provided a base for the Government to further enlarge the registration areas to eventually cover the whole country, but at present the Government may not have funds for any extension.

### III. SUPPORT SERVICES

#### A. Technical assistance recruitment and project personnel administration

105. In 1983, the Technical Assistance Recruitment Service and the Administrative Section of DTCD were merged as part of the streamlining of the Department to form the Technical Assistance Recruitment and Administration Service (TARAS). In its new form, TARAS provides logistic support for the United Nations technical co-operation programme. As in the past, this activity consists in the prospection, interview, evaluation, appointment, re-assignment and personnel administration of internationally recruited project personnel. TARAS also provides the administrative support to locally recruited national project staff.

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106. During 1983, a total of 818 experts and consultants were appointed. This represents a drop of 5.1 per cent over the previous year (869) and of 20.4 per cent over 1981 (985). This decline was occasioned by the effects of the reduction in development funds available to the Department.

107. The trend in the direction of more short-term appointments continued and increased in 1983. Coupled with this development, there is an observable drop both in the average length of appointments and in recruitment leadtime. The average length of all appointments fell from 4.96 months in 1981 to 4.39 months in 1982 and 3.60 months for 1983. As for recruitment leadtime, the trend is best expressed through the significant rise of experts and consultants fielded in less than one month of receipt of the request for their services. Forty-one per cent belonged to this category in 1983 as compared with 38.4 per cent in 1982 and 22.3 per cent in 1981. What is more, in 1983 no fewer than 70.8 per cent of all appointments were completed within a four month period, a ten per cent improvement over 1981.

108. These changes in TARAS recruitment activity may be seen as reflecting the changing patterns of technical co-operation. Developments highlight not only an increasing reliance on specialized high-level consultants serving largely on short-term missions, but also a growing diversity of types of appointment and of project personnel. The traditional long-term expert recruited in the framework of the 200 Series of the Staff Rules no longer forms the core of most project activities.

109. One of the salient aspects of this development is the declining proportion of project personnel employed on an intermediate or long-term basis as staff members of the United Nations. In addition to a large number of consultants recruited for short-term assignments under Special Service Agreements, there is a rising number of personnel appointed under reimbursable or non-reimbursable loan arrangements as well as a growing component of locally-recruited national project staff. This transition and the diversification of policies and practices which it has brought in its wake has significantly affected the work content of TARAS staff. However, the process of adapting to a new set of circumstances has, on the whole, been smooth.

110. TARAS has simplified procedures and requirements in order to streamline and expedite recruitment. The utilization of former experts has also proved effective in meeting pressing needs for high-level skills. In percentage terms their number has increased from 37.9 in 1981 and 47.4 in 1982 to 50.2 in 1983. Recourse to former experts is always predicated on the careful assessment of their performance in the field. Procedures developed in the course of 1983 are already in place to improve the monitoring and review of the performance of experts and consultants on a continuing basis.

#### B. Contracts and procurement

111. A total of 2,326 purchase orders were issued by DTCD in 1983 involving expenditures of slightly more than \$30 million. As in previous years, purchase of equipment accounted for about 75 per cent of the total, while the remaining 25 per cent was for provision of contractual services. By value, about 15 per cent of all purchase orders and contracts issued in 1983 were placed in developing countries, a level comparable to that of 1982.

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112. The new freight forwarding arrangements which were negotiated late in 1982 were put into effect during the early part of 1983. Also in 1983, an on-line computerized tracking system was installed enabling DTCD to monitor all current shipments and provide relevant data to the field projects. The Automated Purchasing and Payment System (APPS) was further consolidated in 1983 and a number of new features were added in the course of the year. Noteworthy among them is the capability to produce exception reports - through electronic interphase with project budget files - which make it possible for the substantive divisions to identify instances where ordering of equipment is behind schedule.

113. DTCD has always been mindful of the need to work towards a harmonization of procurement and contracting practices within the United Nations system as a whole and has thus been associated closely with work of the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group since its inception. As a concrete step in this regard, DTCD took the initiative in 1983 of proposing a study on executing agency procurement practices, which was subsequently endorsed by the Governing Council in its decision 83/34. As provided for in General Assembly resolution 26/226 of 20 December 1982 and 37/232 of 20 December 1982, to which Governing Council decision 83/16 refers, the findings and conclusions of the study will be reported upon through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

#### C. Training

114. During 1983, DTCD provided a total of 3,242 fellowships, of which more than 1,500 were in developing countries in furtherance of TCDC. Resources of developing countries continued to be explored and used to the greatest extent possible in these training efforts. The use of group training continues to be emphasized as a means of speeding placement and reducing individual costs. Its implementation has been encouraged by a number of recipient countries with large training components as well as by training authorities in several of the major host countries.

115. The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA) and the United Nations Fund for Namibia (UNFN) continued to emphasize training for professional and technical degrees in fields related to the development of Southern Africa. Contributions to UNETPSA in 1982 enabled the programme to grant 263 new awards in addition to extending 545 awards. DTCD also administered 94 awards financed under the UNFN. Both programmes continued to give high priority to women candidates. The Emergency Assistance to Students of Chad Programme was extended for the 1983-1984 academic year and encompasses 19 cases. Over 175 former scholarship holders have now returned or are in the process of returning to Chad to contribute to its reconstruction.

116. DTCD published the 1983 Directory of Training Courses and Programmes in Europe and Neighboring Areas, including more than 400 courses in all fields of DTCD competence. The Department will participate in a global group insurance policy for United Nations fellowship holders, coverage from which is expected to begin in 1984. The Technical Assistance and Recruitment Office (TARO), Geneva, continued to serve as the focal point for inter-agency consultations on the commonality of procedures and allowances for fellowships.

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#### D. Reports

117. In 1983 the Department processed and issued 45 reports, up from 37 in 1982. These included 25 agency terminal reports, 10 technical reports and 10 seminar and mission reports. Efforts have been made to speed up processing and a new tracking system for better monitoring of the status of reports in the process has been introduced.

118. Approximately 60 requests were received from Governments, universities, corporations and others in 19 countries. The Department also sent over 200 documents for inclusion in DIESA's Information Systems Unit computerized data base and received some 100 derestriction requests from that Unit for reports listed in its bimonthly Development Information Abstracts.

#### IV. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

119. Owing to the special focus of both DTCD and the World Food Programme (WFP) on low-income countries, most seriously affected countries and global economic conditions collaboration between the two entities in 1983 continued at a high level. With the growing shift of the use of food aid from emergency operation to development projects, the technical support provided to WFP through DTCD, including CSDHA/DIESA and through HABITAT has increased and broadened in its scope. The efforts made over the years to improve the quality, effectiveness and relevance of the United Nations technical inputs to WFP projects have produced positive results and strengthened the relationship between the two agencies.

120. In 1983 eighty-eight (88) project documents made up of 35 assistance requests and 53 project summaries were submitted by WFP to the United Nations for technical scrutiny as compared to 79 in 1982. Although the average size of projects has remained about the same as in 1982, the complexity and the depth of technical analysis required as well as the needs to make input contribution more timely and relevant have increased. Indeed, the growing capacity of developing countries to identify their own priorities, as well as the increasing sophistication of their administrations have made them more demanding with regard to quality and timeliness of technical inputs and development assistance.

121. It is in this particular context and in line with these requirements that United Nations technical advisers and consultants conducted 57 technical scrutinies and participated in 8 interagency evaluation and appraisal missions of WFP-assisted projects. These missions were carried out in the following countries for the projects named: Bolivia (2121-Improvement of Infrastructure for Agricultural and Forestry Development), Cuba (2702-Dairy Development in the Jimaguayu Basin), Guatemala (784 Exp. II-Environmental Sanitation through Community Development), Nicaragua (2395-Promotion of Dairy Development), Bangladesh (BGD/79/021-Assistance to the Water Board), Bhutan (2117-Construction and Upgrading of Roads, Mule Tracks and Suspension Bridges), People's Republic of China (2699-Rural Road Construction for Developing Mountainous Areas in Shanxi Province).

#### V. VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

122. The Fund was established in 1976 by the General Assembly to help involve rural and poor urban women in achieving development goals. In 1983 the Fund continued to support

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new projects and to place greater emphasis on monitoring and evaluation, including the use of external evaluations, to review the achievements of on-going projects coming to maturity. The Forward-looking Assessment of VFDW-assisted activities was brought to its final intensive stages in order to report to the 39th session of the General Assembly. A Knowledge Bank was designed to provide easily accessible information on "what has been learned" in addition to "what has been done" through support from the VFDW. In addition to continuing to provide programming assistance for development of new projects and for evaluations which have been financed through VFDW for some time, a second type of programming mission was initiated with the aim to reallocate existing project resources within UNDP-financed projects in order to take women's concerns into account.

123. The Consultative Committee of the Fund, at its 13th and 14th sessions proposed policy guidelines for use of fund resources and reviewed requests for support. In view of the multiplying demands on the fund and the critical need for increasing women's access to development resources, concern was expressed that the Fund should have a sound financial basis for its future activities in the form of an endowment, with the target date set for 1985. The Committee also expressed strong concern that senior women's programme officers posts at the regional commissions be assigned from regular budget resources.

124. During the past year, nearly 200 requests for support were received. Of these 98 were approved for financing or for preparatory stages following the recommendations of the Consultative Committee: 30 in the African region; 24 in Asia and the Pacific; 28 in Latin America; and 6 in Western Asia. Of these 48 were valued at more than \$20,000 and the remainder consisted of small-scale projects, additional inputs to on-going activities or programming missions. The project proposals were widely reviewed within the United Nations system. (For further information, see DP/1984/42.)