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SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

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

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report is submitted to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Council decision 1985/101, paragraph 4 (g). The report deals with the activities which the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) carried out in 1984 under the mandate enjoining it to support the drought-related medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the eight countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region which are members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Council decision 1985/101, paragraph 4 (g), through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 39/217 on the biennial programme of work for the Second Committee of the General Assembly, will consider the question of the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region in even years.

2. The report deals with the activities which the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) carried out in 1984 under the mandate enjoining it to support the drought-related medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the eight countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, which are members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), namely, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The report should be read in conjunction with the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/40/25), which provides information on UNSO-supported desertification control activities in the countries concerned, including the eight countries which are members of CILSS; UNSO carries out this mandate on behalf of UNEP and under a joint venture of UNDP and UNEP.

3. In the implementation of its mandate, UNSO co-operates with the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, established by the Secretary-General on 1 January 1985, in addressing the critical economic situation in Africa. Furthermore, the medium- and long-term measures carried out by UNSO provide a bridge to and constitute an integral part of the development that is necessary to resolve the crisis on a sustained, long-term basis; in that respect, UNSO closely co-operates in particular with the Regional Bureau for Africa and the Regional Bureau for Arab States of UNDP.

I. ACTION TAKEN BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

4. The Governing Council of UNDP at its thirty-first session, and the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/39/211-E/1984/58 and Add.1) and adopted, respectively, Governing Council decision 84/28 of 29 June 1984 and General Assembly resolution 39/206 of 17 December 1984.

5. The General Assembly also adopted a number of other resolutions in 1984, which relate closely to the activities of UNSO in medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programmes, including resolution 39/168 on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and resolution 39/208 on the countries stricken by desertification and drought.

II. THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR SUDANO-SAHELIAN ACTIVITIES AND MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

6. As a result of the expanding operational capability of UNSO and the dynamics of project planning and implementation, the number of projects falling under its mandate of drought-related recovery and rehabilitation has increased since 1975 from 52 (21 regional and 31 national), at a cost of approximately \$153 million, to 146 (36 regional and 110 national), requiring a total financing of some \$736.2 million. By early 1985, about \$476.4 million had become available from various quarters, including bilateral and multilateral sources. Of this amount, over \$163 million was mobilized by UNSO and was contributed either through the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities (over \$88 million), or went directly to project implementation from multilateral, bilateral and other sources, without passing through the Fund (over \$75 million). In addition, close to \$45 million was mobilized by UNSO for the CILSS member States to support their desertification control projects, making a total of about \$209 million.

7. In 1984, project commitments to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities in the form of cost-sharing and specific trust funds for drought-related recovery and rehabilitation projects of the Governments of the States members of CILSS amounted to over \$7.5 million. In addition, UNSO mobilized almost \$6 million for desertification-control projects of the CILSS member States, making a total of about \$13.5 million. These figures do not include the resources provided by the Governments of the Sahelian countries.

8. UNSO continued to use in 1984 the concept of contributions tied to the procurement of goods and services in donor countries, pursuant to decision 84/35 of 29 June 1984 of the Governing Council of UNDP. This method of project financing has been particularly useful in mobilizing additional resources for the construction of secondary roads in the CILSS member States, as discussed below. In addition, the States members of CILSS have received assistance from the UNDP Trust Fund for Developing Countries Afflicted by Drought, Famine and Malnutrition, created in 1984, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/201 on the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund.

9. In 1984, the contributors to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities were the Governments of Algeria, Cameroon, Chile, Denmark, Finland, the Gambia, Greece, Italy, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Sudan, Yugoslavia, and the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND).

III. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PRIORITY ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SUDANO-SAHELIAN OFFICE IN THE AREA OF DROUGHT-RELATED MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

10. The persistent drought conditions of recent years created a severe emergency situation in 1984 in many parts of Africa, including the CILSS member States. Apart from being a critical situation in need of immediate action in its own right,

the drought-emergency once again emphasizes the importance of renewed efforts to mitigate the effects of drought through medium- and long-term measures in order to minimize and, as much as possible, to avoid similar emergencies in the future.

11. This section describes the medium- and long-term measures now ongoing under UNSO financing. These measures demonstrate the type of ameliorative actions necessary for drought recovery and rehabilitation.

A. Regional projects

1. Construction, improvement and maintenance of a region-wide system of all-weather secondary roads

12. The programme for the construction, improvement and maintenance of a region-wide system of all-weather secondary roads in the Sahel is of particular importance among UNSO-supported activities for drought recovery and rehabilitation. The intensity of the drought in 1983 and 1984 has once again emphasized the urgent need for all-weather, passable roads in order to guarantee the transport of emergency food to remote areas. The secondary road programme has also become an important element of the overall development process in the Sahel, in that the roads constructed have already acquired the character of a permanent transport infrastructure in the countries concerned and in the region as a whole.

13. The estimated cost of the secondary road programme, comprising more than 5,000 km, is over \$203 million (at 1982 prices); the resources currently available will permit the construction of 3,000 km of roads. As of January 1985, almost 2,040 km of the 3,000 km had been completed by UNSO with the Office for Projects Execution as executing agency.

14. The construction programme is being carried out for the most part by national public works departments, and provides for road-building and maintenance equipment and spare parts, construction and operating costs, and technical co-operation components. In implementing the programme, particular attention is being paid to the widest possible participation by national services in constructing the roads with a view to strengthening the responsible governmental services.

15. In addition to its ongoing programme of road construction, UNSO has initiated a road maintenance programme to protect and preserve this important investment. In response to urgent requests from recipient countries, and on the basis of interest expressed by several donors to participate in the implementation of the maintenance programme and contributions by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, and Norway, field maintenance activities began in October 1984.

2. Restoration and integrated biological development of the Fouta-Djallon massif

16. In 1984, UNSO continued to support the programme for the ecological rehabilitation of the Fouta-Djallon massif. Although the Fouta-Djallon massif is outside the geographical scope of the present report and the programme falls under the desertification control mandate of UNSO, reference is made to this activity because the massif is the watershed for all the main rivers of west Africa. Indeed, the rains that fall abundantly on the massif under the Atlantic monsoon cycle have a critical effect on the flow of the Gambia, the Niger and Senegal rivers, among others.

17. In August 1984, the UNSO/UNDP-funded project manager took up his duties and prepared a work plan, including a schedule and terms of reference for the preparation of the socio-economic and hydrological studies, which will be carried out in 1985 by consultants. The co-ordinator of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and a small staff were also sent to the field in late 1984. The project facilities, which are funded by the Government of Guinea, are almost completed. The contributions to the project are \$500,000 from UNDP, \$500,000 from UNSO, \$700,000 from the Government of Guinea, and \$305,000 from OAU.

3. Design, development and production of fuel-efficient cooking stoves

18. UNSO, in accordance with its desertification control mandate, continues to collaborate with the States members of CILSS and the CILSS Executive Secretariat in the implementation of the regional programme for the development and promotion of fuel-efficient stoves as a means of reducing the current high demand for ligneous materials for domestic energy purposes. The long-term objective of the programme is to contribute to the efforts of the Governments of the States members of CILSS in the management, conservation and protection of over-exploited forest resources. With support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), UNSO is providing assistance to the unit established within the CILSS Executive Secretariat to promote co-ordination and collaboration between the various national improved stoves projects in the States members of CILSS.

19. As part of the regional programme, national stoves projects have commenced in Burkina Faso and the Gambia. The project in the Gambia has benefited from technical and financial support provided by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through UNSO. The first phase will come to an end in April 1985, and a second phase will follow immediately thereafter, also with support from DANIDA. In Burkina Faso, project field activities started in early 1983 under financing from SIDA to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities; a second phase is currently under preparation.

20. Together with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, UNSO has provided support to Mali, Mauritania and the Niger, essentially to finance preparatory activities aimed at raising popular consciousness of the technical, financial and social advantages inherent in the use of fuel-efficient cooking stoves. These activities are preliminary to the launching of full-fledged national programmes, for which UNSO is currently mobilizing resources.

4. Institute of the Sahel

21. In 1984, the Institute of the Sahel, which is a specialized agency of CILSS, continued to benefit from UNSO assistance in carrying out some of its operational activities. A follow-up phase to the ongoing training project entitled "Training in management and conservation of pasture lands" began in 1984 with UNSO support amounting to \$300,000. During the new phase, known as Integrated pastoral development training in the Sahel (FAPIS), UNSO will continue providing fellowships during 1984-1985 for students from the CILSS countries. UNSO support is complemented by a contribution of \$678,000 from UNDP to cover personnel, equipment and operational costs for the same period. The support of UNSO to the project is made possible through a contribution by AGFUND to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities. Training is provided at the post graduate level at the Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaire at Dakar, and at the technician level at the Ecole Nationale des Cadres Ruraux at Bambey, Senegal.

22. In 1984, 16 professionals were trained at the post graduate level and 15 technicians at the middle level, bringing the total to 79 professionals and technicians trained under this programme. The programme was judged to be highly successful by the evaluation mission attended by all parties concerned in December 1984, and to respond to a clear and important need of the CILSS member States.

23. UNSO support to the Environmental and Ecological Research Unit, which was established in 1981 within the research department of the Institute, continued through December 1984. The Institute, with UNSO support, is currently undertaking an assessment of further needs in the environmental and ecological field. UNSO is also providing support, in an amount of \$105,000 over a three-year period, for the activities of a Publication Unit within the Department of Communication of the Institute.

B. National projects

1. Burkina Faso

24. By the end of 1984, 77 km of roads were completed in Burkina Faso, with the financial support of UNSO, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Federal Republic of Germany, Yugoslavia and the African Development Bank (ADB).

25. The first phase of the ongoing, large-scale project for the creation of village and family woodlots in the Department of Koudougou was evaluated in February 1985 by UNSO and SIDA. The first phase of the project, which is funded by SIDA, will be completed in 1985; a second phase, of two years' duration, is currently under preparation. The ongoing project for studies and integrated village and family reforestation operations in the region of Saponé is also progressing well, funded jointly by AGFUND and UNSO.

26. The initial phase of a project for the improvement of livestock management in the Oudalan area of Burkina Faso was concluded in 1984. The continuation of this activity is currently under discussion with the Government.

2. Cape Verde

27. In considering Cape Verde as a least developed country with special problems as an archipelagic State with a fragile economy aggravated by drought, the General Assembly gave special attention to Cape Verde at its thirty-ninth session and adopted resolution 39/189.

28. Following the mobilization by UNSO of \$2.4 million for the construction of priority feeder-roads and the rehabilitation of airstrips on the islands of Maio and Boa Vista, operations began in December 1984. In the mean time, UNSO is strengthening its efforts in order to mobilize additional resources to extend the scope of this priority project to the other islands of Cape Verde.

29. In 1984, UNSO continued to support a project aimed at strengthening the national capabilities of Cape Verde in the management, exploration and utilization of ground- and surface-water resources. The current phase of the project, which is estimated at \$1.1 million and funded jointly by the Government of Italy and UNSO, will be completed in September 1985. UNSO is now preparing, in collaboration with the Government of Cape Verde, the necessary documentation to request funds for the continuation of the project over another two-year period.

30. Phase one of the pilot project for the development and harnessing of wind energy, initiated by UNSO in late 1981 with financing from Denmark, was completed in early 1985 with the installation of two wind turbines connected to the Praia electrical grid. During phase two, which has already started, a wind turbine system will be installed in a rural area to supplement an existing diesel generator. The wind turbine-generator combination is somewhat experimental at this stage; however, the concept holds promise of significant reductions in the demand for fossil fuels in remote rural locations.

31. In 1984, UNSO received a cost-sharing contribution of \$549,718 (Nkr. 4.9 million) from the Government of Norway to finance soil and water erosion control activities in the São João Baptista Valley, Santiago Island. This work is briefly described in the UNSO report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

32. In connection with the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund, and the establishment of the UNDP Trust Fund for Developing Countries Afflicted by Drought, Famine and Malnutrition, UNSO has acted as the operational organization for the implementation of two priority projects, namely, a project aimed at the establishment of a desalinization and power plant for Boa Vista island, and a project that will provide the Ministry of Rural Development with urgently needed spare parts for equipment to be used in water resource development activities.

3. Chad

33. On the basis of a comprehensive programme of priority activities to be supported by UNSO, formulated in 1983, UNSO jointly with UNDP funded in 1984 a national campaign against rinderpest and the re-establishment of the N'Djamena tree nursery. UNSO has also funded an assessment of the most urgent training needs in the rural development sector, in particular with regard to agricultural and livestock projects and programmes to be implemented with support from the international community; this assessment will be further refined in 1985.

34. Chad continues to be the subject of special attention by the General Assembly, with regard to the needs of the people displaced by the war and the drought (see resolution 39/195).

4. Gambia

35. In view of the special situation of the Gambia with regard to its weak economic infrastructure and the drought, the General Assembly, at its thirty-ninth session, gave special attention to the Gambia and adopted resolution 39/203.

36. The continuation of the activities in the UNSO secondary road construction programme was secured through additional financing by the European Development Fund in the amount of approximately \$1 million. Sixty-three km of roads were completed by the end of 1984.

37. In September 1984, an additional phase of the project for strengthening the department in the Government of Gambia responsible for deep-bore well maintenance and repair was approved by the Government, as part of UNSO-supported desertification control activities. The project is executed by the Government and aims at mobilizing the active participation, in both planning and management activities, of the associations of livestock owners, which are the primary beneficiaries of its activities. The project will help in the development of the country's pastures and prevent the desertification of land around watering points where livestock in heavy concentration damage the soil and overgraze the vegetation. The project is funded by contributions from AGFUND, UNSO and UNEP, as well as by contributions from the Government of Gambia and local associations of livestock owners.

38. Negotiations with the Government of Gambia on the details of a project for the construction of small dams and the protection of agricultural lands against salt water intrusion are expected to be completed in 1985, and implementation to begin. This project, financially supported by the Government of Australia, will expand the use of surface water resources for agricultural production, thereby not only helping farmers to cope with periods of drought but also helping to ensure that agricultural production is on a sustained and ecologically sound basis.

39. During 1984 implementation began in the UNSO-assisted project entitled "National strategy for the environmentally sound management of ground-water resources in the Gambia: phase one". The project is being carried out by the

Government, with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat as co-operating agency. A novel feature of the project is the participation of the International Business Machines (IBM), which will, at the request of the Government of Gambia, formulate a mathematical model of the Banjul ground-water basin, provide consultant services and train national specialists in modelling techniques. The inputs from IBM are being provided without charge under arrangements made by UNSO/UNDP and the Industry Council for Development of New York.

40. UNSO is also participating with UNDP in financing a programme designed to train 10 Gambian class IV government personnel in hydrometeorological techniques, in order to strengthen the capacity of the Department of Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to apply science and technology to monitor natural conditions and manage natural resources.

41. Also during 1984, a pilot project for bush fire control in the Gambia was formulated by UNSO, and resource mobilization activities are currently under way.

5. Mali

42. During 1984, the construction of the Kati-Kolokani link road (113 km) and the installation of the major drainage structures were completed.

43. In 1984, UNSO-supported project operations continued for the development, on an experimental basis, of a multi-purpose village and industrial tree plantation in the Gao region. An evaluation of the project was done by UNSO in May 1984, showing that the project had a satisfactory start, in spite of the severe drought in the preceding year. A revision of the budget approved in January 1985 allows for the extension of the project until the end of 1986.

44. Activities continued during 1984 in the UNSO-supported project for the integrated agro-sylvo-pastoral development of the Niger River flood plain of Mali (zone lacustre). An evaluation of the project was done by a UNSO mission in December 1984, and showed encouraging results. A quadripartite review of the project will be organized in mid-1985, during which time parties concerned will also study proposals formulated by UNSO for a second phase of that project to begin in 1986, if financing is available.

45. Additional UNSO-supported activities in Mali in 1984 include the installation of 150 hand pumps on existing boreholes in the regions of Kolokani, Bamamba and Koulikora, a study of the topography of Lac Faguibine, a seminar on the development of gum arabic, and a seminar to evaluate various types of wood stoves and select prototypes to be promoted.

6. Mauritania

46. In 1984, the feeder road operations continued under financing by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The management structure of the programme remains essentially the same as under the previous phase, and the Office for Project Execution continues to assume logistical, technical and financial responsibility for activities of the programme.

47. In 1984, the new phase of the UNSO-supported project for the development of agriculture and livestock statistics was initiated with financial support from the Government of Italy in the amount of \$850,000 and a contribution from UNSO of \$160,000. The project, which is executed by the Office for Project Execution, will be completed in late 1985. UNSO is currently examining the possibility of extending project activities with the preparation of a third phase.

48. The implementation of the priority project for sand dune fixation continued in 1984, and project progress is advancing in a most satisfactory manner. An additional contribution of \$200,000 from DANIDA was obtained by UNSO to cover the cost of fellowships in Mali and Morocco for training forestry engineers. This additional contribution brings funding by DANIDA of the project to a total of \$2.5 million. UNDP also increased its contribution to the project from \$450,000 to \$557,000.

49. In 1984, UNSO continued to support a project for the development and use of deep-bore wells in Mauritania. In the middle of the year, the project for large-scale earth-filled dam construction and rehabilitation, undertaken under the desertification control mandate of UNSO and financially supported by Norway, was successfully completed.

7. Niger

50. In 1984, a total of 174 km of roads were constructed, with the support of Italy, Norway, ADB, UNSO and the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

51. During 1984, UNSO continued to support projects for the establishment of green belts around Niamey and Tahoua and for the promotion of Acacia albida trees (Operation Gao). Since the first of these projects will terminate in 1985, UNSO has formulated a proposal for the next phase and is actively mobilizing resources. The second project, Operation Gao, has a duration of five years, and implementation started in the fall of 1983, with the first plantings to take place in 1984. An annual evaluation of the project took place in February 1985 by a joint UNSO/SIDA team, with encouraging results.

52. UNSO is also financing phase three of the project for the local manufacture of agricultural tools and equipment, and promotion of local craftsmanship, as well as a project for the control of sand encroachment in the palm groves of the Bilma region, under its desertification control mandate.

53. During 1984, UNSO sent missions to the field to formulate a project for the development of gum arabic production (Acacia senegal) in the Niger. UNSO also sent missions to the field to expand a proposal for the construction of small earthen dams in the Department of Tahoua, and is now actively seeking funds for both of these projects.

8. Senegal

54. During 1984, the remaining 19 km of ongoing secondary road construction programme in the Casamance region were completed. Additional resources for the continuation of this activity were sought in the course of 1984. A contribution by the West African Development Bank of \$440,000 will permit the resumption of operations in 1985.

55. In 1983, financing was secured from the Government of Italy for the expansion of the programme, through the creation of a second mechanized brigade. Operations with the brigade began in October 1984 and 10 km were completed by the end of the year.

56. By the end of 1984, the cartographic studies essential for the initiation of the project for reforestation of saline soils in the Sine Saloum region were completed. The corresponding pedological studies will be undertaken in 1985. Both studies are financially supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

57. During the year, UNSO continued to assist the Government of Senegal in desertification control planning, including support for a national seminar to finalize the draft plan of action to combat desertification. UNSO also continued its support for the ongoing project on the development of new and renewable sources of energy and for energy conservation, as well as for sand dune stabilization activities along the coastline north of the capital, Dakar.

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

A. Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel

58. In carrying out its activities, UNSO works closely with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought control in the Sahel (CILSS), at all policy-making and operational levels.

59. In January 1984, the Administrator of UNDP and the Director of UNSO participated in the Conference of the Heads of State of CILSS at Niamey. The Heads of State noted with satisfaction the close collaboration that existed with UNSO. They agreed that arrangements governing the co-operation between UNSO and CILSS member States worked effectively, and should continue to be further strengthened.

60. The Conference was preceded by a meeting of the Council of Ministers of CILSS, which UNSO also attended. During the meeting, all the Ministers, as well as the Executive Secretary of CILSS, expressed their deep appreciation of the work being done by UNSO.

61. At the conclusion of the Conference of Heads of State, the participants issued the Declaration of Niamey, which set forth the enormity and complexity of the problems with which the eight member States are currently confronted. Following the promulgation of the Declaration, and in response to the appeal launched by the Secretary-General in 1984 to the international community to assist African countries in overcoming the disastrous effects of the current economic crisis in Africa, the Chairman of the Conference requested assistance from UNSO in the formulation of an action-oriented programme to provide the international community with a specific inventory of needs, particularly tailored to the problems of Sahelian countries, to which assistance could be immediately and effectively targeted. UNSO assisted CILSS in drawing up this programme, which outlined short-term food aid requirements and a medium-term programme for road construction, water supply and reforestation activities, for a total of \$2,330 million. Action Plan-Sahel was launched by CILSS in April 1984.

62. During 1984, regular meetings were held between the Director of UNSO and the Executive Secretary of CILSS, and the CILSS secretariat and UNSO Regional Office in Ouagadougou to discuss and review the implementation of the CILSS work programme for 1984 and UNSO inputs to that programme. In response to a request by CILSS in 1984, UNSO provided funds for technical assistance and institutional support to the ecology and forestry unit of the CILSS secretariat. The functions of this unit are to conceive and design programmes and projects, mobilize resources, and disseminate pertinent scientific and technical information within the region.

B. Club du Sahel

63. During the period under review, the Director of UNSO and the head of the secretariat of the Club du Sahel continued their collaboration and efforts to support CILSS and its member States. In this respect, UNSO participated in a meeting sponsored by Club du Sahel on the theme of environmental protection and reforestation. A study, entitled "Assessment of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, 1978-1984", prepared under UNSO auspices, was one of the key papers used at the meeting.

C. West African Economic Community

64. Close co-operation continued between the Director of UNSO and the Secretary-General of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) on the joint programming and financing of activities, and the strengthening of co-operative arrangements between the Community and UNSO. UNSO was invited and sent representatives to the CEAO meeting of donors, and was also represented at the Council of Ministers and Heads of State meetings in the latter part of 1984. As a follow-up to participation in these forums, UNSO is currently discussing future collaboration with the Secretary-General of the CEAO, particularly with regard to village and pastoral water supply.

65. The joint CEAO/UNSO programme for the development of village-level storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses, which was initiated in 1983, has continued. This programme, which is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is directly related to the capacity of the CILSS member States to achieve food self-sufficiency. Activities include reviewing methods of cereal harvest, transport, and traditional storage technologies, including granary construction. Deficiencies in current practices contributing to food loss will be identified and recommendations formulated for use in national information campaigns for storage improvement. At the end of the project, a regional seminar for national technicians will be held to disseminate the information obtained. The findings of the project will serve as the basis for an important programme for cereal handling and storage improvement, to be implemented under the aegis of the Club du Sahel and CILSS, with UNSO financial support.

D. Establishment of the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development

66. Further to resolutions adopted by the General Assembly concerning the grave effects of drought in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda, and the need for an intergovernmental body to co-ordinate and support each country's efforts to combat the effects of drought, the Foreign Ministers of the six East African countries met in New York in October 1984 and decided to:

(a) Establish an intergovernmental body to combat the effects of drought in the region;

(b) Meet at the beginning of 1985 to finalize the necessary arrangements to establish an intergovernmental body to deal with the matter.

A meeting was held at Djibouti from 4 to 6 February 1985 during which an agreement setting up the intergovernmental body was adopted. The new body will be entitled the Inter-Governmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD), with headquarters in Djibouti. An expert group is currently meeting in Djibouti to draw up a programme of action, following which there will be a second ministerial meeting. The first Heads of State meeting will be held in the third quarter of this year.

E. Co-operation with organizations of the United Nations system and other institutions

67. As in the past, the close working relationship which obtains between UNSO and UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa on all relevant programme and operational matters concerning the States members of CILSS, has continued during the period under review. The Bureau and UNSO closely co-operate and mutually co-ordinate their responsibilities at all stages of programme and project formulation and implementation, thus ensuring complementarity of all their efforts. In this connection, UNSO also has co-operated and will continue to co-operate closely with the resident representatives in the field in the preparation of donor round-table meetings, which already have taken place or will take place in the future.

68. In carrying out its functions and responsibilities, and in addition to what has been stated in the previous paragraph, UNSO maintains close working relationships with the various organizations of the United Nations system and other institutions, in particular with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, UNEP, ILO, FAO, FAO/Office for Special Relief Operations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and others.

69. With respect to the Economic Commission for Africa, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Addis Ababa in April-May 1983, considered the climatic situation and drought in Africa and decided to organize a special scientific round-table to "examine the causes, periodicity, trends and effects of drought on the African economies and to propose measures that can be taken in the short-, medium- and long-terms to deal with the problem". A series of meetings took place in 1983, which culminated in a draft regional plan of action to combat desertification, which was discussed at the scientific round-table, held by ECA in February 1984. Following discussions at its 10th meeting, the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted resolution 499 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the regional plan of action to combat desertification. Resolutions 496 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the environment and development in Africa and 528 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on meteorological services to combat drought in Africa were also adopted. The latter resolution requested the Executive Secretary to study, together with other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, the feasibility of establishing an advanced centre for meteorology in Africa. Since the adoption of that resolution, UNSO has participated in the inter-agency meetings convened to discuss the implementation of the resolution.

