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UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Addendum

Other entities and programmes

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

This addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities provides an overview of the work of organisational entities (other than that of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) which have responsibility for technical co-operation programmes. It describes activities undertaken during 1987 by the regional commissions, the Centre for Human Rights, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Centre for Human Settlements, the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme.
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1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continued to carry out a programme of technical co-operation aimed at furthering the economic and social development of the countries of the region.

2. It is in this connection that an amount of $1.5 million from regular programme funds was expended to support the services of 10 regional advisers and to assist the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs). Regional and subregional activities financed by the regular programme were carried out in economic co-operation, public administration and finance, social development, statistics, transport communications, tourism, energy, administrative and common services. In addition, three study tours and workshops were organized in the Soviet Union and financed in non-convertible currency.

3. The Commission also carried out activities pertaining to projects financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and amounting in total to $9,300,678. These activities were in the field of development issues and policies, human settlements, industrial development, international trade, natural resources, women's programmes, public administration, social development, statistics, transport, communication and tourism and economic integration.

4. In addition to the above, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) financed ECA activities on demographic statistics, population information networks, census research and training, for a total amount of $3,106,714.

5. The contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), amounting to $110,000, was utilized for ECA operational activities in the field of environment, drought and desertification.

6. From the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development Activities (UNTFADA) an amount of $460,054 was made available for projects in the fields of development issues, industrial development, international trade, natural resources, social development, administrative and common services.

7. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) provided $180,000 for strengthening national machineries for the integration of women in development and for support to activities of the African Training and Research Centre for Women.

8. The United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa received a contribution of $2,000 in support of activities related to the development of transport communication and tourism in Africa.

9. Bilateral donors, Governments and organizations provided direct grants totalling $2,413,000 for expert services under non-reimbursable loan arrangements and trust funds for the implementation of technical co-operation projects in the fields of development policies, food and agriculture, industry, natural resources, energy, population, public administration and finance, science and technology, social development, statistics and transport.
II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

10. In 1987, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) continued to execute a number of operational projects with the financial support of UNDP and UNFPA in the sectors of transport, energy, science and technology and population. A project on environmental protection management was also being launched.

11. Plans for financing construction and operating the motorway on a uniform basis were formulated, incorporating a co-operative system for a central administrative body. Technical studies undertaken earlier were finalized and made available to other regions. Close collaboration continued between the project and the ECE Inland Transport Committee, particularly its work on transport corridors linking different regions.

12. During the year, ECE launched a new project on Trans-European North-South railway Lines designed to facilitate and develop railway traffic in the northern, southern and south-eastern parts of Europe by co-ordinating the technical, economic and managerial aspects of existing national railway systems. The project will provide for studies and preliminary designs, the harmonization of construction timing, the co-ordination of construction, maintenance, operation and management, the identification of needs and possibilities of financial support, and a higher level of expertise within the region as a result of a systematic exchange of data and experience through seminars, training activities and collaboration in the execution of individual studies.

13. After many years of consideration by ECE of economic co-operation in the Mediterranean region, a project on transport questions in this area was launched in 1987. It aims at removing bottlenecks and solving underlying problems through joint economic, managerial and technical activities. The first objective of the project is to establish a comprehensive data base on international and transit traffic flows in the region as well as information on the administrative infrastructures and transport facilities along the various competing transport routes. A uniform system for the collection of transport data will lead to the establishment of a regional data bank. As an associated agency, the World Bank will provide technical expertise. The second objective will be the development and facilitation of multimodal transport through the improvement of interfaces, particularly ports. In developing the project, ECE will work closely with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and ECA.

14. In the energy sector, ECE continued work on the project to develop international co-operative research on low-calorie solid-fuel technology. The project is designed to increase the use of indigenous brown coal, lignite, peat and shale, as well as the efficiency of its use and its environmental acceptance, by co-ordinating national research programmes and initiating others at an international level. ECE also continued to contribute to the project on energy conservation in industry executed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). ECE contributed a study on energy efficiency in European industry. ECE also co-operated with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) of the United Nations Secretariat in its work on the project on computerized coal-mining systems.
15. In the field of science and technology, ECE continued its work on the statistical computing project. Following the work accomplished in developing statistical processing systems for mainframe computers, the project shifted its emphasis in 1987 to microcomputer applications. The objective is to improve prevailing conditions as regards the application of software tools for national statistical offices as part of government information systems, taking into account the recent hardware revolution in microcomputers. An important part of the project continues to be its outreach activities, which make the results of the project available to the developing countries of other regions.

16. In the field of environmental protection, ECE undertook preparatory work for a project on environmental management, with emphasis on air-pollution control, taking into account the critical proportions of damage caused in the region by acid rain and other air pollution. The project is designed to strengthen the permanent organizational and technical basis for joint action against air pollution, bearing in mind the provisions of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. It also aims at developing and improving institutions and mechanisms for policy-making, legislation, planning and management, to promote technologies for emissions control from stationary sources, and in particular to strengthen the existing intercountry network of institutions to administer and maintain programmes for air-pollution monitoring, research and information exchange.

17. In addition to the close co-operation between ECE and the World Bank in the project on transport questions in the Mediterranean, the ECE secretariat also held consultations with the secretariat of the World Bank to explore the possibility of further co-operation in the field of energy.

18. In response to the establishment of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes (RBASEP), ECE put forward proposals for more intensive interregional co-operation between ESCWA, ECA and ECE in the sectors of transport, energy, trade, and science and technology. Several projects for co-operation between ECE and ESCWA are being discussed, with particular attention to a proposal to establish an interregional project on questions of transport in the Mediterranean.

19. In 1987, ECE continued its co-operation with UNFPA in the field of demographic studies. ECE work focused on the completion of projects on migration and the aging of populations, and the incorporation of the results achieved into the three new projects launched in 1988 with the financial support of UNFPA. These projects address the integration of population and socio-economic policies, the economic and social consequences of changing population structures and the promotion of fertility and family surveys in developing European countries.

III. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

20. The broad range of activities centred on the provision of technical co-operation carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) during 1987 was characterized by a special effort to emphasize the response to critical problems and needs linked to the effects of the economic
crisis of the region, as manifested by the burden of the external debt of most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

21. During the reporting period, the ECLAC system, which is composed of the ECLAC Secretariat proper, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), carried out, in close co-ordination with the concerned national authorities, some 90 technical assistance missions which were funded from both regular and extrabudgetary resources.

22. ILPES and CELADE also conducted regional training courses in socio-economic planning and policy co-ordination, regional planning, demographic analysis and population and development. ILPES trained 290 fellows from 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries and carried out a training seminar on the integration of women in development and planning in Andean countries which was attended by 25 participants. Funds for these activities came from extrabudgetary contributions from UNDP, the Netherlands, France, and some central banks of countries in the region. The training activities of CELADE supported 50 fellows from 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries and arranged two seminars, four courses in demographic matters and four workshops. Funding for these activities by CELADE came from extrabudgetary contributions from UNFPA, Canada and the Netherlands.

23. Support to further strengthen institutional co-operation with the integration process in Central America and with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), was carried out respectively through the ECLAC subregional office in Mexico City and the subregional headquarters in Port of Spain. The Montevideo office undertook similar tasks with respect to the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Increased co-operation and co-ordination was achieved with the Latin American Economic System (SELA), particularly in the sphere of Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (ECDC/TCDC).

24. Technical co-operation undertaken by the ECLAC system in 1987 was made possible, to a large extent, by the implementation of specific projects financed from the Regular Programme and multilateral financing provided by UNDP, UNFPA and UNEP. Voluntary contributions reached a significant level during 1987, from a wide number of donor countries, some of them member States of the Commission. Most of these specific projects, in particular those financed through voluntary contribution, have a strong emphasis on the support or promotion of TCDC, which has continued as a priority concern of the ECLAC system as a whole.

IV. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

25. During 1987, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) responded to requests for technical and advisory services from 15 countries in the Asia and Pacific region through 40 missions carried out under the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation. The majority of the requests were from countries in the Asian region. For the island developing countries in the Pacific, short-term advisory services continued to be provided by...
the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) at Port Vila, Vanuatu, under the United Nations Development Advisory Team in the fields of social development, statistics, physical planning and public administration. Advisory services on energy and trade were also provided by advisers located at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok. In 1987, 20 missions were carried out by the resident advisers at EPOC. In addition, with financing provided by UNDP and in close co-operation with the South Pacific Commission at Noumea, New Caledonia and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation at Suva, EPOC also fielded 18 quick-action consultancy missions by short-term experts to meet the urgent needs of the island developing countries.

26. Regional and subregional projects financed by UNDP continued to address energy and natural resources questions such as energy planning, conventional energy, new and renewable sources of energy, urban geology, cartography, remote sensing, prospecting for marine resources, activities related to the transport and communications decade, technology transfer, human resources development, integration of women in development and the participation of youth in development. ESCAP also co-operated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UNCTAD/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) International Trade Centre (ITC) on trade and trade-related projects in the region. The Commission continued its close co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in the implementation of research and development projects on food legumes and coarse grains in the Asian tropics and sub-tropics. It also co-operated with FAO and UNIDO in fertilizer-related activities within the framework of the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP) project.

27. UNFPA continued to provide institutional support for the population information section of the ESCAP Population Division to enable it to enhance technical assistance and training programmes, at the in-service and in-country levels, for the development of national population information centres in the region. Funds were also made available to ESCAP to meet the increasing demand for advisory services on population censuses and surveys and on data preparation and processing and to conduct research on fertility, family planning, migration, mortality and aging, management information and training in the use of microcomputers. All these activities are aimed at assisting developing countries in the formulation of population policies and in programme management.

28. Donors from both inside and outside the ESCAP region, as well as recipient countries in the Asia and Pacific region, continued to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of priority projects in the ESCAP programme of work.

29. During the year, ESCAP received increased financial support from donor countries towards the ESCAP-TCDC supplementary fund. This has enabled ESCAP to support a larger number of operational TCDC activities among member countries, thereby expanding the scope of its ECDC/TCDC coverage to more development sectors. Co-operation between the Secretariat and other organizations in the promotion of ECDC/TCDC was also expanded.
V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

30. During 1987, ESCWA continued to carry out technical co-operation activities in the region through the provision of short-term regional advisory services and the monitoring and backstopping of technical assistance projects.

31. Under the regular programme of regional advisory services, ESCWA assisted member States in the areas of development planning (Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates), electronics and informatics development (Egypt, Iraq), industrial project identification and formulation (Democratic Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates), human resources development (Jordan), national accounts and economic statistics (Democratic Yemen, Jordan, Oman), transport and communications (Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen), new and renewable sources of energy (Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq) and science and technology (Syria).

32. Under UNFPA-financed regional advisory services, assistance was provided in demography (Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria) and population statistics (Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Oman, Syria). Assistance was provided to Democratic Yemen, Iraq and United Arab Emirates under regional advisory services sponsored by UNIDO.

33. Technical co-operation projects carried out by ESCWA included the National Household Survey Capability Programme, which continued to assist Governments in the development of continuous and integrated household surveys. The project also provided assistance to statistical offices of the participating countries.

34. Other active projects included one on the development of statistical services in the Yemen Arab Republic.

VI. CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

35. Under the Programme for the Second Decade of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, a training course for legislative draftsmen focusing on the preparation of national legislation against racism and racial discrimination was held in New York from 8-18 September 1987. The training course was financed by the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Participants from 11 countries attended the course, assisted by five experts, including two from the Centre for Human Rights.

36. In the framework of the activities of the Advisory Services Section and in compliance with resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights relating to regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian-Pacific region, a training course was held on human rights instruction in the Asia and Pacific region from 12-23 October 1987 in Bangkok. Participants from 19 countries attended the course, assisted by eight experts, including four staff members from the Centre for Human Rights. The report of the Secretary-General on the training course (E/CN.4/1988/39/Add.1) was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its the forty-fourth session.
37. A seminar/workshop was held from 9-20 November 1987 in Zambia on the preparation and submission of national reports under the various international human rights conventions for government officials from English-speaking African countries. The seminar/workshop was organised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in collaboration with, and partially financed by, the Centre for Human Rights. Participants from 19 countries attended the seminar/workshop, assisted by 11 experts.

38. Under the programme of advisory services, a regional training course on the preparation and presentation of national reports pursuant to the United Nations Convention on Human Rights was held in Costa Rica from 23 November-4 December 1987. Participants from 11 Central American and Caribbean countries attended the training course, assisted by 12 experts, including 3 staff members from the Centre for Human Rights.

39. Under the advisory services programme, 30 fellowships were awarded in 1987 to 14 candidates from Africa, 6 from Asia, 6 from Latin America and 2 each from Eastern and Western Europe.

40. During the year, there was increasing interest in the programme of advisory services provided by the Commission on Human Rights, culminating in the adoption by the Commission at its forty-third session of resolution 1987/38, requesting the Secretary-General to establish and administer a voluntary fund for advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights. The purpose of the fund is to provide additional financial support for practical activities focused on the implementation of international conventions and other instruments on human rights promulgated by the United Nations, its specialised agencies or regional organisations. Following the establishment of the fund in 1987, an appeal was launched to all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as well as to individuals, to consider contributing to the fund. By the beginning of 1988, three contributions had been pledged, by Canada for Canadian $150,000, by Norway for $150,000 and by the World Blind Union for $1,000. In a related development, the Centre for Human Rights was restructured to permit better utilisation of the existing human resources through the strengthening of the Advisory Services Section and the establishment of a new Section on External Relations.

VII. DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

41. In 1987 the Division of Narcotic Drugs undertook a number of technical co-operation activities which included the dissemination of training and information material as well as the provision of fellowships, equipment, advisory services, and programme support. Technical assistance in support of drug control programmes was provided to Member States on request within the limits of available resources. The Division participated actively in the preparatory work towards the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and provided considerable input and support for the ministerial-level conference, which was held in June with the participation of representatives from 136 States.
42. During the year, the Division of Narcotic Drugs trained a total of 20 fellows from 16 Member States and one territory in laboratory techniques for the identification and analysis of seized drugs. Six of these trainees were trained at the regional training centre recently established in Bangkok. Arrangements were made to establish a regional training centre at Buenos Aires for the Latin America and Caribbean region; it is expected to become operational in 1988/1989. In response to requests from Member States for technical assistance, five national laboratories received laboratory equipment and chemicals, scientific documents and other reference material. At the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Division continued to produce for distribution practical manuals on various technical and scientific aspects of international drug control. In addition, country programmes in the field of drug law enforcement assistance were executed by the Division in 1987 in the Congo, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

43. In 1987, the Division continued in its efforts at helping to achieve a concerted response by the United Nations system to drug abuse problems through close co-operation with relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other international organizations involved in drug control activities. In that context, two ad hoc inter-agency meetings were convened in Vienna, the seat of United Nations drug control units, to further co-ordination in matters relating to international drug abuse control. The meeting held in February reviewed, inter alia, preparations for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking; the meeting held in September focused on follow-up action by the participating entities to the International Conference.

VIII. OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

44. The Office of Legal Affairs advised and assisted United Nations bodies and units of the Secretariat at Headquarters and in the field, including DTCD, UNDP and related funds and offices, and the regional commissions, on matters pertaining to the establishment and application of legal rules relating to co-operation programmes. The work is of a continuing nature and includes drafting and interpreting constitutive instruments, as well as financial and other regulations, rules and directives of United Nations bodies; drafting, interpreting and advising on basic agreements, loan agreements, project documents, trust-fund arrangements, management-services agreements and other legal instruments with Governments, intergovernmental organizations and executing agencies; provision of legal advice and assistance in negotiations with respect to disputes; and advising on operational questions (administrative, personnel, financial and contractual) as well as problems of privileges and immunities and the terms of reference of technical co-operation bodies.

45. The Office performed various functions connected with the goals of the United Nations programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. It participated in the United Nations/UNITAR Fellowship Programme in international law, financed from the regular budget under which 18 fellowships were awarded in 1987. The Office co-operated in programmes of training and assistance sponsored by the United Nations Commission on International
Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and participated with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea in activities connected with the award of the second Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, which is financed from a trust fund of voluntary contributions.

IX. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

46. During 1987, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS) had 160 projects under execution in 83 countries. Of these, 53 were located in least developed countries (LDCs). One hundred projects were financed by UNDP, and these accounted for approximately 77 per cent of the funds budgeted for technical co-operation during the year. Twenty projects were also supplemented by trust funds, government cost-sharing and third-party cost-sharing arrangements. The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation funded 40 small-scale projects designed to provide assistance in preparing project documents for submission to UNDP, donor Governments and donor agencies.

47. Regular programme funds were used for special advisory services and training with emphasis on supporting human settlement activities in the LDCs. In 1987, 35 such missions were fielded. Special advisory missions were provided on human settlements data management, in particular on the development of computer software, on building materials and construction technologies with emphasis on locally available materials and on the development of conventional and non-conventional human settlements financing systems. Some missions resulted in project documents for funds-in-trust financing.

48. UNCHS continued its collaboration with other agencies in the field of human settlements. With the World Food Programme, the UNCHS/World Food Programme (WFP) co-ordinator assisted in project development and appraisal missions. With the aid of the Department for International Development of Finland (Finnida), a national shelter strategies support programme is being implemented. Co-operation with the World Bank was strengthened by the development of a joint urban development strategies project.

X. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

49. Sluggish world economic recovery, uncertain international trading conditions, heavy external debt and a relative decline in transnational investment flows to the developing world have, in recent years, induced many developing countries to adopt a more flexible approach towards foreign investment and to compete more actively for the capital and technological resources of transnational corporations. Along with the growing business sophistication and experience of Governments and enterprises in developing countries, these trends contributed to a generally more pragmatic, less confrontational negotiating environment between transnational corporations and developing countries. These trends were generally evident in the requests received by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) for technical co-operation during the period under review.
50. During 1987, UNCTC completed or initiated 88 advisory and information projects in developing countries. Of these, 55 projects were related to policies, laws and institutional arrangements for foreign investment and technology transfer, either overall or pertaining to the special sectors of petroleum, mining, forestry and tourism and other services, or pertaining to issues such as transfer-pricing, free trade zones and capital market development. While most of these projects were related to government efforts to formulate new policies or revise existing policies or legal frameworks, several were part of an overall national assessment of the impact of recently drafted or revised foreign investment regimes.

51. Thirty-three of the 88 advisory and information projects were related to the negotiation of specific contractual arrangements with transnational corporations in the following sectors of industries: petroleum, petrochemicals, diamonds, gold, soda ash, cement, salt, electric power generation, construction, forestry, telecommunications, hotels and tuna fisheries. The projects were for the sale of government assets in a hotel and in an oil terminal to transnational corporations.

52. In terms of geographical distribution, 31 advisory and information projects were for the Asia-Pacific region, 29 for the African region, 24 for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, 3 for the Arab States, and 1 for Europe.

53. In 1987, UNCTC organized and implemented 20 training projects, consisting of 15 workshops and seminars and five study tours and fellowships. In addition, nine training workshops in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean were organized for implementation during the first quarter of 1988. Of the 15 workshops and seminars conducted during the period, 6 were on general foreign investment and negotiating issues while the remainder focused on issues specific to natural gas, mining, transfer-pricing, monitoring, project evaluation, joint ventures and international contracts. Eight of the workshops/seminars were in Asia and the Pacific, six in Africa, and one in the Caribbean subregion. Six of the workshops were in low-income countries.

54. Under the UNCTC study tour and fellowship programme, three officials from an Arab State visited East Asia to study the operation of capital markets, three officials from a South-East Asian country visited other Asian countries and North America to study investment promotion and privatization, five officials from another South-East Asian country visited the headquarters of transnational corporations based in two other East Asian countries to study their investment strategies and plans, and four officials from a South Asian country visited South-East Asia to study operations of export processing zones.

55. Implementation of the UNCTC programme of assistance to institutions of higher learning in the Asia and Pacific region continued during the period under review. Curricula for advanced courses on transnational law, economics and business were finalized and distributed to participating institutions. Training seminars for faculty from participating institutions on each of the three curricula were planned and organized for implementation in early 1988. Similarly, work on the UNCTC programme of assistance to institutes of management and public administration in Africa also continued. A training seminar for participating institutions was conducted during the period under review.
56. Co-operation with the private sector in implementing technical co-operation activities has also been a highlight of the UNCTC approach itself during the year. At the request of the People’s Republic of China, UNCTC organised and conducted a round-table meeting on foreign investment, for which it drew upon top managers from a number of the world’s major transnational corporations. The round-table meeting permitted Chinese officials and representatives of the international business community a useful exchange of views on key aspects of the Chinese investment climate and investment policy. A number of specific areas for further technical co-operation with the Centre emerged from the round-table meeting.

57. In order to support economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, UNCTC maintains close working relationships with regional and subregional bodies dealing with matters related to foreign investment and technology transfer. In addition, UNCTC also works closely with international organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, to identify technical co-operation needs, field experts, and otherwise execute advisory, training and information services in developing countries. During 1987, UNCTC assisted or collaborated with the secretariat of the Preferential Free Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African countries, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Community of West African States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee on Finance and Banking, the Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena, the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, the Andean Foundation for Technological Development, the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, UNITAR, UNIDO, ECLAC, ESCAP and ECA.

XI. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

58. The total project expenditures incurred by UNCTAD in 1987 amounted to $11.7 million, an increase of $0.8 million over 1986, representing a continuous upward trend. Technical co-operation activities were funded from three sources: UNDP - $9.0 million; funds-in-trust - $2.3 million; and the regular programme of technical co-operation - $0.4 million. As regards expenditures against UNDP IPFs, 62 per cent represented intercountry activities and 38 per cent country activities. Personnel costs represented 72 per cent of total expenditures, training 12 per cent and 16 per cent corresponded to sub-contracts, equipment and miscellaneous expenditures.

59. UNCTAD technical co-operation activities covered a number of sectors. Assistance was provided in trade policy, planning, development and projections including the increased dissemination of information on the Generalised System of Preferences, support to the external sector services, and to developing countries in connection with the 1986 Punta del Este Conference on Multilateral Trade Negotiations. In the area of money, finance and development, technical co-operation on computerised debt management systems and service on improving existing debt management procedures and systems were extended to an increased number of countries. Assistance in external financial planning and management and technical support in international monetary and financial issues also continued.
In the area of commodities, activities were largely centered on assistance to food-importing countries in upgrading their procurement of major food items through improved market knowledge, skilful trading and import management.

50. In the area of ECDC, technical support was provided to the ongoing negotiations on a global system of trade preferences among developing countries and on the establishment of a trade information system involving the collection and dissemination of data on trade barriers, viewed as essential to negotiations among developing countries. Direct support was given to regional and subregional organizations and secretariats of integration movements in the further analysis of trade liberalization and complementarity schemes, the establishment of common external tariffs, the reform of customs practices, customs computerization, fiscal harmonization, financial and monetary co-operation, industrial co-operation and counter-trade.

51. Special assistance to LDCs was aimed at strengthening their external sector by an expansion of visible and invisible export earnings, minimizing the procurement costs of imports, promoting import substitution and improving the system of formulation and management of price policy as well as the structure of distribution. Assistance was also provided to landlocked countries both collectively and individually, with regard to the main bottlenecks that hinder transport and communications in an effort to reduce the real costs of access to the sea and to world markets. This assistance included the simplification and harmonization of trade formalities and procedures and the standardization of trade documentation as well as cargo monitoring systems.

52. In the area of maritime transport, the programme on training development in the field of maritime transport (TRAINMAR) continued to expand, and direct assistance was provided to shipping companies, port authorities and shippers' organizations in several developing countries. Multimodal transport was a new area. Assistance was also provided with respect to control of the transport chain.

53. Another group of projects aimed at strengthening the technological capacity of developing countries through the formulation of appropriate policies, laws and regulations, the preparation of technology plans and the creation of appropriate institutional infrastructure. Support was also given to the development of trade and economic co-operation among developing countries and socialist countries of Eastern Europe through the preparation and dissemination of practical information on the trading systems and procedures prevailing in the latter group of countries. In the area of insurance and reinsurance, assistance was provided to a number of regional and subregional institutions as well as to several countries.

54. With limited regular programme resources, UNCTAD continued to provide interregional advisory services in support of trade policy and ECDC. The latter covered short-term assistance to economic integration movements, trade expansion programmes, techniques of trade liberalization, monetary and payment arrangements and investment programmes. Limited sectoral support was also provided in maritime transport and trade policy under UNDP funding.
65. As the result of UNCTAD VII held in July 1987, the technical co-operation aspect of the UNCTAD role has been further enhanced. Accordingly, ways and means are being explored to translate the political decisions of Member States into concrete and practical technical co-operation activities. Internal reviews have been undertaken with a view to increasing the relevance, coherence and effectiveness of UNCTAD technical co-operation activities as well as the operational capacities of the Secretariat.

XII. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

66. The technical co-operation programme allocation of UNEP amounted to $3.02 million in 1987, of which $2.25 million was committed. UNEP provided advisory services and fellowships to developing countries through its regional offices and institutional support to the environmental co-ordination units of the regional economic commissions. UNEP also has been engaged in some country projects, namely in Colombia, Kenya, Jamaica and Uganda to provide technical assistance in the environmental field.

67. The International Environmental Information System (INFOTERRA) continued to promote the strengthening of national information infrastructure through the establishment of INFOTERRA national focal points in participating countries. In each participating country environmental institutions able and willing to provide their expert knowledge have been identified and included in the INFOTERRA database. Regional exchanges and the pooling of resources have been promoted through the establishment of INFOTERRA regional service centres. Leading institutions in areas of major environmental concern have been enlisted to assist with the provision of information. INFOTERRA is co-ordinating these activities through four corresponding networks.

68. A major priority in the work of INFOTERRA during 1987 was an increased provision of substantive information. Nine new special sectoral sources were added, bringing the total to 24; one new regional service centre was established (for Arabic-speaking countries), bringing the total to six. The number of INFOTERRA sources was increased by 112, bringing the total to 5,524. Four new countries joined the INFOTERRA network, resulting in a total of 133. The emphasis on improved user services has resulted in 13,300 queries answered in 1987 (an increase of 10 per cent over last year). Over half of these queries were received from developing countries and the majority of them (72 per cent) received substantive information in the form of publications, legislation, specially prepared reports, etc., or bibliographic information from relevant data bases.

69. In the context of broad-based efforts within the United Nations system to control desertification, UNEP, UNDP and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) continued to collaborate effectively on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region of Africa. As the arm of the United Nations responsible for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification on behalf of UNEP and under joint UNEP/UNDP responsibility in 22 Sudano-Sahelian countries, UNSO supports a programme of desertification control which, as of the end of 1987 consisted of 64 ongoing projects with a total funding of $55.97 million.
70. The computerized central files of the International Register forPotentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) have continued to expand and cover at present some 600 chemicals of international concern. During 1987, work by IRPTC and its network partners has focused on the updating of the files containing data on analysis, treatment and disposal methods and environmental toxicity. Furthermore, results of recent hazard assessments and risk evaluations by international expert groups were entered into the databank. Further improvements were introduced in the instruction manual for data profile development to assist contributing network partners in the process of selecting high quality data on chemicals from scientific and technical literature and in describing their toxic effects.