SUMMARY

The present report, prepared in accordance with Governing Council decision 81/15 of 27 June 1981, highlights significant developments in programme implementation in the Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes (RBASEP) during 1988.

Information is presented on the status of programming in 1988; the nature of the programme with breakdown by sector and spending types; reviews of representative country programmes; the fourth Regional Programme for the Arab States; the Regional Programme for Europe; reviews of selected projects; special themes in the programme of technical co-operation (women, the private sector, environment and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)); and support to aid co-ordination arrangements in the region.
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By the end of 1988, all country programmes for the fourth cycle had been approved with the exception of Lebanon. In view of the slightly improved operational conditions in certain areas of Lebanon, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) decided in mid-1988 to proceed with a revitalization of the country programme, albeit at a measured pace, beginning with the appointment of the Resident Representative in July 1988. A number of potential areas for UNDP technical co-operation have already been identified in close collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national authorities, but the formulation and subsequent implementation of the programme will depend on the operational situation within the country.

2. A number of the country programmes approved in 1988 were based on evaluations of the previous cycle or needs assessment exercises completed in individual countries. Reviews of the country programmes will continue in 1989 when some 23 of the programmes, including three of the larger ones, in Egypt, Somalia and Yemen, will be subjected to mid-term reviews.

3. The past year saw RBASEP focus to a great extent on the finalization of fourth cycle projects and initial implementation of new project activities. Hence, project formulation and appraisal as well as tighter project monitoring were of prime importance. The majority of the UNDP offices in the region have their own appraisal mechanisms to screen new projects and these were very busy during 1988. At the headquarters level, the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) of the Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes (RBASEP) met 31 times and appraised 66 projects. It proved to be an important input for improving project quality, as 21 projects, or 33 per cent, were not cleared and had to undergo major reformulation. Plans for the first half of 1989 include a further upgrading of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) of RBASEP. Its functions will be streamlined and both good and bad examples of project formulation will be more systematically recorded for periodic distribution in the field to serve as an aid in the preparation of future projects.

4. An improvement in the formulation of projects was noted in 1988 with the introduction of the new project document format. In order to improve further the quality of UNDP projects in the region, RBASEP will be developing a training package on project formulation for use in training field office and government counterpart staffs in the region. This procedure, among other initiatives, should reduce the time required between initial project identification through formulation to approval, thus helping to increase delivery rates.

II. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE REGION

5. The year 1988 marked the beginning of a number of new projects approved under the fourth cycle. By the beginning of 1989, there were 1,072 country and regional projects ongoing in both the Arab and European regions.
6. In terms of the overall level of approvals of indicative planning figures (IPF), RBASEP in 1988 experienced a 90 per cent increase over 1987 with $240.7 million approved, as opposed to $126.9 million in 1987.

7. Of all the projects ongoing in the region in 1988, the overall sectoral breakdown was as follows: 19 per cent for agriculture, forestry and fisheries; 15 per cent for development planning; 15 per cent for industry; 13 per cent for transport and communications; 12 per cent for natural resources; 7 per cent for science and technology; 5 per cent for education; 5 per cent for employment; 3 per cent for health; 2 per cent for trade; and 4 per cent for other areas.

8. As to the component breakdown of project expenditures for 1988, estimates show that personnel (including sub-contracts) continued to be the most important single component, with 53 per cent of overall estimated expenditure, followed by equipment with 27 per cent and training with 17 per cent.

III. REVIEW OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

9. By the beginning of 1988, 21 country programmes in the region had been approved. The approval of the remaining eight (excluding Lebanon), became the priority with respect to country programmes.

10. Consequently, eight country programmes were presented to and approved by the Governing Council in 1988 for a total IPF of $122 million: those for Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Portugal, Romania and Yemen at its special session in February; and those for Bahrain, Qatar and the Sudan, as well as the fourth Regional Programme for the Arab States, 1988-1992, at its thirty-fifth session in June.

11. The fourth country programme for Yemen, approved at the special session of the Governing Council in February 1988, is based in part on the assessment of previous programmes and the lessons learned from their implementation. The programme concentrates primarily on human resources development, increasing productivity and raising the capacity of the country to manage its resources, and will focus on the sectors of agriculture, water, industry and health.

12. In the agricultural sector in Yemen, UNDP is concentrating its efforts on a sub-regional approach through enhanced, integrated development. In both agriculture and oil development and, to a limited extent, in water development and primary health care, UNDP is seeking to maximize its impact by focusing its resources on a few large-scale development operations involving substantial government and external capital investment. Other highlights of the country programme include the commitment to utilize national experts on as broad a base as possible as well as to maximize the use of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) which have proven to be a very effective element of previous UNDP assistance to the country. Yemen has the largest UNV programme representation in the region. It had a total of 81 volunteers in the field or under recruitment at the end of 1988.
13. The third country programme for the Sudan, approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-fifth session, is the result of a very thorough assessment of the previous cycle, which included an inter-agency needs assessment mission in early 1987 and a later project identification mission. Both these assessments and a number of extensive studies clearly outlined the weaknesses inherent in a scattered programme. Recognizing that 80 per cent of the population in the Sudan still resides in rural areas, and building on the Government's desire to increase self-reliance in those areas, it was decided that available UNDP resources would be concentrated on rural development.

14. The approach taken has been to focus resources on a limited number of objectives aimed at stimulating village level activity and local self-reliance through strengthened community institutions. Consequently, the country programme for the Sudan concentrated on: (a) assisting rural communities to solve constraints encountered in increasing production and income; (b) assisting regional authorities to establish planning units capable of identifying development opportunities and of designing appropriate projects based on a realistic regional development strategy and reliable statistical data; and (c) assisting the Government with environmentally sound management of rural resources, especially water resources.

15. In order to minimize the burden on central government authorities, the new country programme for the Sudan will make use of self-help and private rural entrepreneurship in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities. Special efforts will be made to involve women in both project planning and the implementation of programmes to ensure their full participation in the process of increasing production and household income. A further theme will be an emphasis on grass-roots involvement through existing national and international NGOs.

16. During the fourth programming cycle, the country programme for Jordan will support the Government's attempt to restructure its economy in favour of goods-producing sectors by concentrating on: (a) human resources development; (b) support for productive sectors; (c) macro-economic management; (d) natural resources; and (e) science and technology.

17. For the oil-producing countries of Bahrain, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Qatar, economic diversification has become a major priority with the shrinking oil earnings faced by the economies of those countries after the fall in oil prices. In Qatar, besides emphasizing economic diversification through the buildup of domestic production capacity, the second country programme will focus on building up capacity and institutional adjustment of management capacities and human resources development. The fourth country programme in Bahrain 1/ supports the Government's objective of diversifying the country’s economic base through promotion of the productive sectors, human resources development and conservation of the environment. In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also, the diversification and improvement of production is a theme of the fourth country programme along with the development of human resources.

18. In Portugal, the third country programme is based on an assessment of previous country programmes that concluded that the United Nations system had made a
significant contribution to institutional strengthening in general and to human resources development and environmental management in particular. In light of this assessment and the need to modernize the Portuguese economy, the small but catalytic amount of UNDP technical assistance will concentrate on: (a) strengthening the capacity of the Government to carry out the required structural modernization by assisting public, semi-public and private sector entities to adjust to the needs of the recent accession by Portugal to EEC; (b) protecting the environment; and (c) co-operating with other developing countries as a form of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC).

19. In Romania, despite an unfavourable international economic climate, the output of both the industrial and agricultural sectors increased during the period of the third country programme, and substantial progress was made in improving Romania's foreign trade as well as developing and modernizing its transport facilities. The focus of the fourth country programme will be to build on this success by concentrating on the transfer of technology, with particular emphasis on the development of industry, energy, science and technology and natural resources.

20. Mid-term reviews were undertaken in 1988 for Poland and Saudi Arabia and the country programme for the United Arab Emirates was given a general review. In Poland, the mid-term review led to the identification of several new projects to be financed by remaining IPF funds. It also led to decisions to host a workshop on Women in Development (WID) in the latter half of 1989 and to sponsor a number of private sector activities.

21. In Saudi Arabia, the mid-term review was staged over a period of several months when major United Nations agencies undertook missions to evaluate the ongoing programme and to assess sectoral needs. Consultations between the Government and UNDP culminated in early January 1989 with the participation of staff of both the UNDP field office and headquarters. The review indicated that the objectives of the fourth country programme for Saudi Arabia continued to be relevant and to correspond to the development strategy of the Government. It highlighted the special circumstances surrounding the programme, particularly the high degree of cost sharing and the large growth over the past two years in the government cash counterpart contribution (GCC). Finally, the review led to the identification and formal submission of several large-scale projects for appraisal and approval.

IV. FOURTH REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ARAB STATES, 1988-1992

22. The fourth Regional Programme for the Arab States, in the amount of $46.4 million, was endorsed at the March 1988 intergovernmental meeting at Casablanca and was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-fifth session. It is based on an assessment of the previous regional programme, covering the period 1983 to 1988, conducted by an expert consultative group with inputs from a number of Arab consultants. This review outlined the following important lessons applied in the preparation of the new programme: (a) the need to concentrate efforts on a few priority areas; (b) the need to incorporate considerations of human resources development into every project, with the role of women emerging as
specially important; (c) the need to recognize the critical importance of networking arrangements to improve the efficiency of technical co-operation; (d) the need to identify projects according to the priorities of the various subregional groups; and (e) the need to increase Arab/European co-operation particularly throughout the Mediterranean basin.

23. In the new regional programme, two main priority themes, increased food security through the expansion of food production and the acquisition of technology, are to receive almost half of IPF resources. Underscoring both these themes is a strong emphasis on human resources development which will be an important component in the proposed activities in these two areas, as well as in water development, environment, energy, trade and transport and communications.

24. Increased food security is emphasized in relation to the long-term objective of reducing the dependence of the Arab region, now the heaviest in the world, on imported foodstuffs, particularly the main cereal staples. Activities in this area will concentrate primarily on expanding food production and promoting the transfer of advanced agricultural technology to the region through the strengthening of research institutions and the use of biotechnology. Improved water management will play an important role in the pursuit of this priority as will the distribution of improved cultivars to local farmers through national research institutions and extension services; increased animal production through more effective grazing management and disease control; better dry-land farming; and better access to marketing information.

25. The second theme, the acquisition of appropriate and advanced technology, will sustain the development of all sectors from agriculture to communications. This theme will focus on areas such as biotechnology, informatics, telecommunications and renewable energy, technologies that can be more effectively and economically introduced on a regional basis.

26. The balance of 1988 was very busy for the regional programme in terms of project formulation and initiation of project activities. By the beginning of 1989, 15 full-scale projects or preparatory assistance had been approved while 20 projects were in active preparation.

27. In addition to IPF resources, the regional programme will be strengthened by increased cost-sharing resources. The strategy for cost-sharing commitments is to concentrate on mobilizing resources on an individual project-by-project basis. By the beginning of 1989, the regional programme had already succeeded in obtaining an IPF commitment of $3 million in cost sharing from several sources, and it is anticipated than an additional $5 million will be available later in 1989. Several Arab regional institutions have shown a positive interest in closer involvement in the regional programme, including the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO), the Arab Labour Organization (ALO), the Arab Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).
28. The regional programme is further poised to play a catalytic role in helping to build bridges of co-operation between a number of European and Arab nations and among Arab nations themselves. In 1988, missions sponsored by the regional programme in the fields of biotechnology, computer software, water resource management and agricultural technologies visited European countries to establish the framework for improved co-operation with and more effective transfer of technology to Arab institutions. In turn, it is anticipated that greater use will be made of networking arrangements to gain fuller advantage of the skills of professionals and their institutions throughout the region. Several of these networks will be linked to centres of excellence among national, regional and international research institutions, within and outside the Arab world.

V. REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR EUROPE, 1987-1991

29. The Regional Programme for Europe, approved in 1987, was in full implementation in 1988, with 37 ongoing projects. A number of project steering committees were established and the networking system was put into place. Of particular note was the promotion of the linkage between participating Arab and European countries, particularly in terms of developing an outreach programme that would share with the Arab countries the successful experience of the Regional Programme for Europe in such areas as energy planning.

30. A mid-term review of the Regional Programme for Europe is scheduled for the end of the first quarter of 1989, at which point the technical assessment of the five different sectors of the programme - energy, environment, science and technology, transport and communications and management - will be discussed with a view to improving the networking activities within each sector and in the programme as a whole.

VI. REVIEW OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROJECTS

31. In 1988, 15 projects received in-depth, external evaluations and 151 tripartite reviews took place. A brief account of representative projects is outlined below, highlighting results achieved and problems encountered from which general lessons can be drawn.

Remote Sensing Application to Agriculture in Egypt (EGY/86/007)

32. Egypt's food production in the last few years has decreased as a result of the reduction in arable land owing to rising urbanization, desertification and soil deterioration. In order adequately to protect the cultivated land from such threats, surveys are required of the affected areas. There must also be a systematic surveillance of crop acreage so that production can be quantified and crop diseases and nutritional deficiencies can be detected. These procedures placed a tremendous burden on the survey capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture. It became clear that the application of remote-sensing techniques had the potential to facilitate breakthroughs in agricultural production, and it was the objective of
this project to introduce these techniques to the Ministry. The project was initiated in June 1987 and received an external evaluation in October 1988.

33. The evaluation found the project to be well designed, if somewhat ambitious; most of the outputs and objectives had been achieved. The evaluation concluded that, with proper emphasis, support and institutional co-operation, the application of remote-sensing technologies in Egypt could prove very important to the development and management of sound agricultural practices. Despite the project's success, there were a number of lessons to be learned. Perhaps the most important was that many outputs were delayed by the late installation of key equipment, highlighting the lesson that when executing such projects, technical advances and the business stability of potential suppliers of high technology equipment must be continually assessed up to the time of final procurement.

Improvement of the Quality of Drinking Water in Morocco (MOR/83/005)

34. This project was begun in 1983 as a means of strengthening the technical capabilities of the Office nationale de l'eau potable (ONEP) in Morocco. It was specifically aimed at providing ONEP with the capacity to convert brackish water into drinking water, while simultaneously protecting ground-water aquifers from pollution. A joint UNDP/WHO (World Health Organization) terminal evaluation, held in February 1988, noted that certain targets such as improved equipment maintenance required medium- to long-term solutions and could not be attained within the somewhat limited time frame of the project. Nevertheless, it was found that the project had served a very useful purpose by laying the foundation for two subsequent and more sophisticated UNDP water projects in Morocco involving ONEP, one of which (Renforcement des capacités des régies et de l'ONEP en matière de gestion technique, administrative et financière des projets de réhabilitation des installations d'eau potable (MOR/86/003)) will serve as a prerequisite for securing a large World Bank loan. This loan will be used to support the implementation of the Programme national de réhabilitation. Most notably, ONEP will be the executing modality due to the very effective infrastructure and extensive capacities that were established through the successful implementation of project MOR/83/005.

Bayoud Control (RAB/84/018)

35. Approved in September 1985, this project serves as an interesting example of a regional project with its overall objective of limiting the spread of Bayoud disease in the economically important date palms of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Its immediate objectives - development of an effective system to reduce the spread of Bayoud disease, establishment of regional research into the selection of Bayoud-resistant date palm clones and establishment of a mechanism for regional propagation of new date palms - lends itself to a regional approach. It was subject to a joint UNDP/FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) evaluation in March/April 1988 in order to ascertain from the participating countries the sustainability of the research supported by the project and its subsequent application.

36. The evaluation found that while most outputs had been at least partially achieved, those related to micro-propagation and training were behind schedule,
with the latter being the key output if the project was to become self-sustaining. The major reason for the delays was underestimation in the project design of the time needed to complete the outputs and activities, as well as the late joining of the project by one of the participating countries. Experience gained from this project showed that direct training often was the major vehicle for the improvement of national capacity, particularly in regard to the buildup of complex scientific research capacity. In light of the further work needed to complete the project and the high commitment of the participating countries, as expressed at the intergovernmental meeting at Casablanca and at a recent Maghreb co-operation symposium, a second phase of the project was approved for the period 1989 to 1991.

VII. SPECIAL THEMES IN THE PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

37. UNDP emphasized a number of special themes in its programme of technical co-operation in 1988, particularly the role of women in development, the private sector as a facilitator for development, support for NGOs and the environment.

Role of Women in Development (WID)

38. At the national level, the ongoing country programmes were reviewed and an increasing number of projects formulated in 1988 highlighted the role of women as both beneficiaries and participants. New projects were in turn carefully appraised for their impact on women. The RBASEP also took a major initiative by convening an October 1988 expert consultation on issues relevant to Arab women in Cairo. This was followed by a special briefing and training session on issues relating to WID for both UNDP resident representatives and senior government representatives of the region. The session was organized in conjunction with the WID unit of the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation (BPPE). Both these events led to the identification of strategies for better integration of women into the development programming process in the regions and the facilitation of more action-oriented programmes. The success of these consultations will be further amplified in late 1989 through the financing by the Regional Programme for the Arab States of a regional conference to assess the implications of the multiple roles of Arab women and the constraints faced by them.

Private sector in development

39. Another of the Programme's special themes in 1988 was the role of the private sector as an important facilitator of sustained economic and social development in a balanced partnership with Governments. In order to stimulate consideration of this role for the private sector, the programme initiated a number of meetings at the country level in 1988. These meetings have provided the start to a dialogue between the various parties on how best to promote effective private sector strategies. Meetings of this type were organized in 1988 in Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudia Arabia, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. In some countries, this dialogue has led to several follow-up meetings such as those in Tunisia where subsequent meetings have focused on ways to increase domestic investment by Tunisians living abroad, as well as how to mobilize private capital investment. Such meetings have also served as...
an important venue for examining the specific issues involved in the privatization
of public sector enterprises, while others have examined the phenomenon of the
emergence and organization of private capital markets and how the private sector
might better respond to such common regional problems as high levels of youth
employment. Meetings of this nature are also tentatively scheduled for Bulgaria,
Hungary, Poland and Portugal in 1989. Further, under the fourth Regional Programme
for the Arab States, it is intended to continue regional collaboration,
particularly with regional development finance institutions such as the Inter-Arab
Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC), which will jointly finance with UNDP a
project to evaluate the factors affecting the success of Arab private investment
projects in Arab countries, as well as a seminar on international investment
negotiations. Other activities planned under the auspices of the Regional
Programme for the Arab States in 1989 are a symposium on the private sector with
the Gulf Co-operation Council, Arab Monetary Fund and International Monetary Fund
(IMF), as well as a number of seminars on the private sector to be held on a
subregional basis.

Environment

40. The regional programmes for both the Arab States and Europe, as well as
several programmes, placed great emphasis on the issue of environment in 1988. A
number of the projects formulated were directly related to the linkage between
environment and sustainable development in such specific areas as range-land
management, desertification, industrial pollution, control of toxic chemicals,
sand-dune fixation, soil erosion, environmental legislation and environmental
training. Projects were more carefully appraised for their effect on the
environment. In 1989, outstanding examples of environmentally sound projects and
project components coming before PAC of RBASEP will begin to be recorded for
widespread distribution to field offices as positive examples for future
formulation. In recognition that food production can only be increased on a
sustainable basis if debilitating practices such as poor crop patterns,
overgrazing, destruction of trees and misuse of pesticides are minimized, if not
eliminated, all new projects being formulated to increase food security in the
Regional Programme for the Arab States will incorporate an important element of
environmental conservation. A large number of both Arab and European countries are
planning national country workshops in the first half of 1989 to exchange views on
the specific environmental issues within their national contexts, and to identify
possible actions that can be taken to promote sustainable development and equitable
economic growth. These national efforts will be bolstered by a regional
environment workshop being organized by RBASEP in Malta in March 1989. The first
such regional meeting of UNDP resident representatives on environmental issues, the
workshop will draw on the knowledge and experience of UNDP at global, regional and
field-office levels to develop specific strategies for integrating environmental
concerns into the region's country and regional programmes.

Support to NGOs

41. In 1988, five field offices in the region (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and
Turkey), actively encouraged the involvement of non-governmental organizations, in
the UNDP programme through the Partners in Development Programme (PDP). In
addition, a number of field offices, including those in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Somalia and Tunisia, have compiled essential data based on the activities of NGOs involved in development in their respective countries. Of particular note was the innovative and highly successful seminar on the role of NGOs in the linkage between development and the environment, organized in 1988 through the good offices of UNDP in Tunisia. In order to strengthen further the role of Arab NGOs as essential partners in development, RBASEP will co-finance with AGFUND a conference on Arab NGOs in Tunis in May 1989.

VIII. CO-ORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE

42. UNDP resident representatives continued in 1988 to play active roles as resident co-ordinators in a number of countries in the region. In Lebanon, the Resident Representative holds the posts of both United Nations Resident Co-ordinator and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon. In this capacity, he has organized and conducted regular meetings of donors and United Nations agencies since his arrival in mid-1988. Similarly, a number of other field offices hold regular inter-agency or aid-co-ordination meetings and further contribute to this process through the publication of development co-operation reports. In two countries in the region, UNDP has become deeply involved in emergency programmes of the United Nations system:

43. Regarding the Sudan, a meeting of bilateral donors and pertinent international organizations and NGOs met in Paris in November 1988, to discuss the Emergency Flood Recovery Programme. The UNDP not only participated in the meeting but co-financed with the World Bank the multi-sectoral mission that assessed the reconstruction needs following the devastating floods of August 1988 which led to the programme. The two-year proposed rehabilitation needs total $407 million, with $285 million in foreign exchange needed. In response to this programme and in keeping with its active role in the co-ordination of aid in the Sudan, UNDP opened up an emergency unit in 1988 to meet the pressing demands of the displaced and the development needs of refugee-affected areas. Further, as Resident Co-ordinator, the UNDP Resident Representative continued in 1988 to play a dynamic role in the Steering Committee through which the provision of relief was co-ordinated.

44. In Somalia, UNDP allocated funds in 1988 for the establishment of an emergency unit, composed of one international and one national staff member, to assist the Resident Co-ordinator in providing emergency assistance and addressing the problem of displaced persons and refugees in that country. In 1989, UNDP will head the United Nations inter-agency mission to assess the urgent humanitarian and rehabilitation needs of the country.

45. In concert with other UNDP efforts (the Division for Global and Interregional Projects (DGIP) and the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA)), the Regional Programme for the Arab States contributed $900,000 for a two-year emergency assistance project to deal with the 1988 emergency locust invasion of countries in North and West Africa. Further, RBASEP is committed to contributing additional resources for the development of a research programme on alternative strategies for desert locust control.
46. Another important element in the co-ordination activities of the region has been the funding of initiatives to strengthen the national capacity of countries to co-ordinate external assistance. For example, the country programme of Morocco provided financing in 1988 for a highly successful government-led and donor-attended workshop on watershed management and development.

47. Finally, at headquarters level, higher level contacts were made with such specialized executing agencies as FAO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with a view to improving the overall delivery rate of the RBASEP programme as well as the quality of the assistance delivered. Similarly, World Bank/RBASEP consultations continued in 1988 and both organizations pledged to have an even closer relationship in a number of congruent areas, including food security, energy and particularly the environment. Other areas of potential co-operation included closer collaboration at programme and project levels, the possibilities for staff exchanges and the need for improvement in the exchange of information.

**Note**

1/ Bahrain is a net contributor country and negotiations are ongoing with the Government regarding their possible reconsideration of decisions 85/16 of 19 June 1985 and 89/5 of 24 February 1989 of the Governing Council.