SUMMARY

This addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities provides an overview of the work of organizational 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 1988 by the regional commissions, the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Office at Vienna, 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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I. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

1. In 1988, the technical co-operation programme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) aimed at strengthening the economic and social development of the countries of the region.

2. An amount of $1,616,350 was expended from the budget of the regular programme for technical co-operation to support the service of 10 regional advisers and to assist the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs). Regional and subregional advisory activities were carried out in economic co-operation and integration, statistics, social development, human resources development, energy, public administration and finance, transport and communication, socio-economic research, administrative and common services.

3. The Commission carried out United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-supported projects activities valued at $8,809,533 in the fields of agriculture, socio-economic research and planning, social development, industry, documentation and information, trade and development, natural resources, public administration and human resources development, statistics, transport, communications and tourism, research for the promotion of women's activities and economic co-operation and integration.


5. Bilateral donors, Governments and organizations provided direct grants totalling $3,762,303 for expert services under non-reimbursable loan arrangements and bilateral technical assistance programmes in the fields of agriculture, social development, industry, information networks, natural resources, population, public administration and human resources development, statistics, transport, communications and tourism, research for women and economic co-operation and integration.

6. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) provided $116,517 support the Ethiopian Nutrition Institute and a seminar for lusophone countries in project formulation.

7. A total of $588,919 was allocated to ECA from the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development to carry out technical co-operation projects in the fields of agriculture, industry, information networks, natural resources, research for the promotion of women, economic co-operation and integration.

II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

8. As a focal point within the region for economic activities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has co-operated with UNDP in preparations for the mid-term review of the current regional programme for Europe, for which intergovernmental consultations will be held in Geneva in July 1989. In 1988, ECE continued to execute a number of operational projects with the financial support of
UNDP and UNFPA in the sectors of environmental protection, energy, population, science and technology, and transport.

9. One such project is International Co-operative Research on Low-Calorlc Solid-Fuel Technology. Its aim is to increase the efficient use of indigenous brown coal, lignite, peat and shale, as well as its environmental acceptance, by co-ordinating national and initiating international research programmes.

10. Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning, a new UNDP/ECE project, will develop and disseminate computer programmes which engineers and architects can use to design energy-efficient buildings in European indicative planning figure (IPF) countries, particularly those in the temperate to hot climatic zones. Computer programmes and training courses are based on the experience of France and the United Kingdom, which have long-standing programmes in energy-efficient building regulations and design techniques.

11. ECE co-operates closely with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) on the implementation of the Computerized Coal Mining Systems project (RER-87-006). At the first workshop, held in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia, June 1988, member countries of the project described the current and potential use of monitoring systems in underground and opencast coal mines.

12. The ECE secretariat has contributed in a limited capacity to the UNDP-United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) project, Development of Integrated Farm Energy Systems (RER-80-001), as it begins a new phase of activity to become a financially self-sustaining international organization (Rural Energy Development Corporation) to provide services related to new and renewable sources of energy from its European network.

13. A manual on energy efficient technology was issued as a contribution to the first phase of the UNDP-United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) project European Regional Co-operation in the Field of Industrial Energy Conservation (RER-83-003). The manual provides data on energy conservation techniques for a wide variety of individual plants and applications, many of which would be suitable for developing countries. A detailed "Case Study on Energy Conservation Policy in Hungary" was prepared under the second phase of the project.

14. The project Environmental Management with the Emphasis on Air Pollution Control takes into account the critical proportions assumed by acid rain and other air pollution damage to the environment in the region. 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 to develop and improve 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.

15. Following the development of statistical processing systems for mainframe computers, the second phase of the Statistical Computing Project (RER-78-008)
emphasizes microcomputer applications. The objective is to improve 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, by which the results are made available to developing countries in other regions.

16. In 1988, ECE continued its co-operation with UNFPA in the population field. The focus was on the completion of projects on the aging of population and migration and development in southern Europe. Three new projects were launched with the financial support of UNFPA: Integration of Population and Socio-economic Policies; Economic and Social Consequences of Changing Population Structures; and Promotion of Fertility and Family Surveys in Developing European Countries. These projects were formulated in accordance with the decisions of the ECE/UNFPA regional meeting on population and development (Budapest, Hungary, February 1987).

17. Further progress was made in completing the technical basis of planning and constructing the Trans-European North-South Motorway (RER-84-001), including the motorway design and construction procedures. Options for financing the construction were elaborated, as well as methods of operating the motorway on a uniform basis through the establishment of a co-operative system for a central administrative body and the conditions of the day-to-day operation of the motorway. Earlier technical studies were refined and made available to the countries of other regions. A close interface was maintained with the work of the Inland Transport Committee, particularly its work dealing with transport corridors conducive to links with other regions.

18. The new Trans-European North-South Railway Lines project (RER-87-028) is designed to facilitate and develop railway traffic in Europe by co-ordinating the technical, economic and managerial components of existing national railway systems. The project will provide for: (a) studies and preliminary designs concerning possible improvements to the network; (b) harmonization of construction schedules, if possible accelerating construction activities; (c) harmonization of requirements for construction, maintenance, operation and management; (d) identification of needs and possibilities for obtaining financial support; and (e) promotion of a higher level of expertise within the region as a result of systematic exchange of data and experience through seminars, training activities and collaboration in the execution of individual studies.

19. As part of the International Transport Development: Mediterranean, Europe and the Middle East project, a consultative meeting was held on 8-9 December 1988. The principal objective of this ECE/UNDP project is the development and facilitation of multimodal transport through the improvement of interface, particularly in ports. The other objective is to establish a comprehensive data base on international and transit traffic flows in the region as well as administrative infrastructure and transport facilities along the various transport routes. A uniform system for the collection of transport data will lead to the establishment of a regional data bank. The World Bank will provide technical support in this area. In developing the project, ECE will also work closely with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and ECA.
20. In compliance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/69, the ECE secretariat has, in co-operation with ECA, continued to prepare studies of the Europe-Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar. A report on this subject was prepared for the Economic and Social Council in 1988.

21. The Economic and Social Council has called upon the Executive secretaries of the regional commissions to identify a subject relating to interregional co-operation of common interest to all regions. Accordingly, in 1988, the Executive Secretaries selected transport as a priority area for their common project. Given the importance attached to questions of trade in all regions, the Executive Secretaries have selected trade facilitation as the priority work area for a new common project on which they will report to the Economic and Social Council at its summer session in 1989.

III. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

22. The technical co-operation activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) are integrated in its work programme which was examined and approved by member states of the Commission at the XXII session of ECLAC in April 1988, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

23. During 1988, the ECLAC system, comprised of the ECLAC Secretariat, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), carried out some 150 short-term advisory missions at the request of national authorities of the countries of the region, utilizing both regular and extrabudgetary resources.

24. Training was also carried out through ILPES and CELADE in the fields of planning/co-ordination of public policies, and population/development respectively. ILPES courses, seminars and workshops (at both national and international levels) were attended by 307 beneficiaries from 20 countries of the region. ILPES awarded 59 full-time fellowships for international courses. CELADE awarded 78 fellowships to participants from 21 countries of the region and one African country. As in previous years, resources for training activities came from extrabudgetary contributions.

25. Continued support was provided, in accordance with pertinent mandates, to regional integration and co-operation processes which constitute a central focus of the ECLAC work programme. In this regard, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, which is the secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, and the subregional office in Mexico played a significant role in strengthening institutional co-operation at the subregional level. Continued support was also provided to the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Efforts initiated in 1987 to increase co-ordination with other regional organizations in the sphere of technical co-operation were intensified in 1988. In accordance with specific mandates to that effect, close collaboration was carried out with the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

26. Intensification of the ECLAC system technical co-operation activities was possible through the implementation of numerous projects largely funded through...
multilateral financing (UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)). Special mention must be made of voluntary contributions received during 1988 from a growing number of donor countries. Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) promotional projects were, again, a matter of special concern for the ECLAC system during the year 1988.

IV. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

27. During 1988, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) responded to requests for technical and advisory services from 14 countries in the Asia and Pacific region through 40 missions carried out under the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation. Most 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, physical planning, port development and public administration. In 1988, 17 missions were carried out by the resident advisers at EPOC. In addition, with financing provided by UNDP and in close collaboration with the South Pacific Commission at Noumea, New Caledonia, and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation at Suva, EPOC also fielded 14 quick-action consultancy missions by short-term experts to meet the urgent needs of the island developing countries. Advisory services on energy statistics, trade, women in development, population censuses and surveys and data preparation and processing were also provided by advisers located at ESCAP. On-the-job training was conducted by these advisers and in-country courses were given in a number of countries by such entities as the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

28. 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 mineral resources, activities related to the transport and communications decade such as port development, dredging, inland water transport, rural road infrastructure and energy conservation in the transport sector, human resources development, social development strategies, human settlements, integration of women in development, participation of youth in development and the designing of methodologies for technology based development planning.

29. ESCAP also co-operated with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre (ITC) on trade and trade related activities of interest to the region such as the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations. It continued its close co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization 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 the United Nations Development Organization (UNIDO) in fertilizer-related activities within the framework of the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific project.

30. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued its institutional support for the Population Information Section of ESCAP to enhance technical assistance and
training programmes, both in-service and in-country, for the development of national population centres in the region. Funds were also made available to ESCAP to meet the increasing demand for advisory services on population censuses and surveys, data preparation and processing, population statistics, population policies, population and development and for research on fertility, family planning, mortality and aging, management information systems and microcomputer training. All these activities are aimed at assisting developing countries in the formulation of population policies, their integration into development plans, and human resources development for more effective programme management.

31. Donors from within and outside the ESCAP region as well as recipient countries in the Asia and Pacific region continued to provide extrabudgetary resources, both in cash and through the provision of non-reimbursable loan experts, for the implementation of priority projects in the ESCAP programme of work.

32. During the year, ESCAP continued to receive financial support from donor countries, both developed and developing, towards the ESCAP/Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) supplementary fund. This has enabled ESCAP to continue to support a larger number of operational TCDC activities among the member countries, thereby expanding the scope of its Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (ECDC)/TCDC coverage to more development sectors. Co-operation between ESCAP and other United Nations agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations in the promotion of ECDC/TCDC in the region was also expanded.

V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

33. In 1988 the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continued to undertake technical assistance co-operation activities in the region through the provision of short-term regional advisory services and the management of technical assistance projects which the Commission undertakes in its capacity as an executing and/or associated agency.

34. Under the ESCWA regular programme of regional advisory services for 1988, assistance to member States was provided in the following main areas: agriculture, electronics and informatics development, industrial project identification formulation and appraisal, human resources development, national accounts and economic statistics, data processing, sampling, science and technology, transport and communications, energy, water resources, development planning and library documentation.

35. In the field of agriculture, assistance was provided to Egypt's Ministry of Agriculture to examine preliminary outputs of the team of experts conducting a study on the review and evaluation of the agricultural planning system in Egypt, as a first phase of the programme on the strengthening and co-ordination of the agricultural system in the ESCWA region. In Kuwait, the needs of the Ministry of Planning in agricultural planning systems were identified, the report entitled "Basis and Methodology of Agricultural and Food Planning in Kuwait" was prepared and the Statistical and Agricultural Economic Division at the Authority of Agriculture and Fisheries was restructured.
36. In the area of electronics and informatics development, assistance was provided to Iraq for a feasibility study on the establishment of a silicon foundry and for lectures on principles of manufacturing and designing by computer at the Technology University. Other activities in this field included participation in a co-ordination meeting between ESCWA and the Islamic Development Bank and lectures on information technology and development in the Arab countries at the Shouman Foundation, Amman, Jordan.

37. In the area of industrial project identification, formulation and appraisal, assistance was provided to the Omani Ministry of Commerce and Industry to identify the problems of three industrial establishments, to prepare proposals for two training workshops, and to determine assistance needed in the establishment of industrial estates. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the needs of the Ministry of Industry in the field of industry were assessed. In addition, the Commission took part in technical meetings and committees in this field.

38. In the field of human resources development, assistance was provided to Iraq for evaluating vocational training at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, identifying ways to improve the implementation study on development of skills in Iraq, reviewing the status of students in national and trade schools, and recommending criteria for expanding enrolment and training. In Democratic Yemen, requirements and means for developing human resources of the organizations under the Ministry of Labour and Civil Services were assessed and training courses and programmes at the Institute of Scientific Administration were evaluated. In Jordan, assistance was provided for a new department for human resources planning, and for developing an information system for human resources at the Ministry of Planning. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Planning was helped to identify human resources development needs, and in Qatar, assistance was provided to establish a training policy programme and training facilities to place Qatari nationals within the Ministry of Electricity and Water and to identify long-term training programmes.

39. In the area of national accounts and economic statistics, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and the Yemen Arab Republic were helped to evaluate and improve their national accounts and economic statistics. Training was also provided to this end.

40. In the area of data processing, Democratic Yemen was advised on the feasibility of conducting a literacy household survey. In Jordan, the results of the household expenditure and income survey were reviewed. Oman was advised on data processing of the household income and expenditure survey and lectures on data processing were given at the socio-demographic workshop held at the Directorate-General for National Statistics. Saudi Arabia was advised on information systems in the fields of employment, land use and planning. Training on these systems was also provided. In the Syrian Arab Republic, advice was provided for a seminar on results of household expenditure and income survey at the Central Bureau of Statistics and on the establishment of a computer system at the Ministry of Industry. The United Arab Emirates was helped to evaluate data processing and to conduct a mini-seminar on maximizing the use of data.

41. In the area of sampling, Democratic Yemen was advised on labour force demographic sampling. Oman received assistance on sampling design and analysis for
the household expenditure and income survey and on statistical analysis of data collected for a study on women's roles and needs. Yemen was advised on sampling design for a child care survey.

42. In science and technology, advice was provided to Qatar in applied chemistry; to the Syrian Arab Republic on the treatment of oil pollution problems and increasing the yield of alcohol production from grapes; to the United Arab Emirates on (a) establishing research priorities and programmes in the field of technology and energy, for the Institute of Research in the Engineering College, United Arab Emirates University; (b) setting up a three-year research and study programme for the Institute; (c) evaluating joint research programmes between applied research centres at the University; and to the Yemen Arab Republic on technical co-operation with the problems facing Jordan in the field of technology for the Central Planning Organization.

43. In the field of energy, Democratic Yemen was helped in the preparation of a project to promote the use of biogas, while in Kuwait, the needs of the Ministry of Planning in the field of energy were assessed. In addition, input was provided for a paper entitled "Prospects of Wind Energy Utilization in the ESCWA Region", presented at the seminar on utilization of wind energy in the Arab world, held in Algeria, preparations made for the seminar on biogas technology for rural areas in selected Arab countries and technical backstopping provided for the study tour on biogas technology in Egypt, China and India.

44. In the water resources field, advice was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the United Arab Emirates on surface and groundwater resources and research activities on irrigation schemes. Advice on development planning was provided to the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Labour and Civil Services and Central Statistics Organization of Democratic Yemen, to the Ministry of Planning of Kuwait and to the Directorate of Planning and Directorate-General for National Statistics of Oman, and to Qatar on the establishment of a state planning organization.

45. Regional advisory services financed by UNFPA were provided in the field of demography to Democratic Yemen, Kuwait, Oman, and the Syrian Arab Republic, while in the field of population statistics, assistance was provided to Democratic Yemen and Oman.

46. Regional advisory services financed by UNIDO in the field of industrial and mechanical engineering were provided to Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

47. While the National Household Survey Capability Programme (RAB/80/009) project was terminated at the end of 1987, ESCWA, with resources from its regular budget and savings from the project itself, continued to provide advisory services to the member States in their endeavour to set up statistical systems as well as analyse and evaluate the results of the Household Expenditure and Income Surveys.

48. Under the project Biogas Technology for Rural Areas in Selected Arab Countries (RAB/87/010), a seminar was held in Cairo from 26 November to 1 December 1988, for officials and experts from ESCWA member States, other Arab States and experts from China and India as well as international institutions. Technical, economic, social
and environmental aspects of biogas technology were covered with stress on obstacles to its widespread application in rural areas and measures to overcome them. This was followed by study tours to China (3-15 December 1988) and to India (16-26 December 1988), during which participants gained first-hand experience on the design, maintenance and utilization of biogas technology for domestic, industrial and agrarian uses.

49. A number of national and regional projects are being executed by ESCWA and funded by UNIFEM. These projects fall into three general categories: enhancing the economic participation of women; identification of the needs of women; and collection of data and dissemination of information on and for women.

VI. CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

50. The technical co-operation activities of the Programme of Advisory Services expanded throughout the year with additional resources provided under the newly established United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights (UNFAS), which became operational in 1988. Following its establishment by the Secretary-General on 16 November 1987, pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/38, contributions to the Fund were made regularly during the year. By the end of 1988, contributions from Governments and NGOs amounted to approximately $800,200.

51. The Fund is to provide additional support for practical activities carried out under the advisory services programme of the Centre and to complement that programme. These activities focus on the implementation of human rights international instruments promulgated by the United Nations, its specialized agencies or regional organizations. The main objective of UNFAS-financed projects is to provide expert assistance to Governments with a view to creating and developing the necessary infrastructure so that internationally recognized human rights standards are realized.

52. The framework of the advisory services programme was defined by the Secretary-General in the outline for a medium-term plan of activities (E/CN.4/1988/40), which was presented to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-third session in 1988. Based on that plan of work, the programme has been implementing a number of technical co-operative activities, financed under the regular programme and the Voluntary Fund, for furthering the protection and promotion of human rights.

53. During 1988, the Centre organized, under the regular budget, a series of seminars, workshops and training courses dealing with the teaching of human rights, the administration of justice, the reporting obligations of States parties to human rights instruments, and the significance and meaning of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (whose fortieth anniversary was in 1988). These were: African Workshop on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Lomé, Tog., 5-7 April 1988 (followed by a national training course on the implementation of international human rights standards, Lomé, Tog., 8-15 April 1988); a training course for Portuguese-speaking countries on reporting obligations under the international human rights instruments, Lisbon, Portugal, 23-27 May 1988; a European workshop on

54. Under the fellowship programme, 31 fellows received training in 1988. Fourteen candidates were from Africa, seven from Asia, six from Latin America, and two each from Eastern and Western Europe.

55. The experts on Guatemala and on Haiti nominated by the Secretary-General at the request of the Commission on Human Rights, respectively visited those countries and had contacts with the national authorities on the provision of possible advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights.

56. Under UNFAS-financed advisory services and technical assistance, the following educational and training activities were implemented by the Centre for Human Rights: regional training course for Central American countries on the implementation of international human rights instruments, San Remo, Italy, 12–16 December 1988; national training course on human rights, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 14–18 November 1988 (as part of the Guatemala country project); national workshop on human rights and the administration of justice, Manila, Philippines, 5–7 December 1988 (partly financed by UNFAS). In addition, the Fund granted seven fellowships, four to Colombian and three to Guatemalan nationals under the respective UNFAS-financed country projects. During 1988, it also provided the advisory services of an expert to the Government of Colombia under this project. In collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre of Lisbon, UNFAS financed the publication of a brochure in Portuguese containing the text of the International Bill of Human Rights and a poster of the Universal Declaration.

57. The Commission on Human Rights established close co-operation with the recently established African Commission of Human Rights and Peoples' Rights of the Organization of African Unity. Three members of the Commission, including its Chairman and the Secretary, visited Geneva and received briefing and advice on the functioning of international human rights mechanisms and bodies and the programme of the Centre. They attended meetings of the Human Rights Committee and other human rights bodies which were in session at that time. During the visit, the members discussed various areas of co-operation with the Centre. Subsequently, the Chairman of the African Commission was invited to participate in the workshop for the countries of the Arab region on human rights and the administration of justice, held in Tunis, and the seminar on the teaching of human rights, held in Geneva from 5–9 December 1988.

58. During 1988, UNFAS financed technical co-operation projects in Uganda, Guatemala and Colombia. Under the Uganda project, the Centre for Human Rights provided books, law reports and legal material to the national authorities to assist in the development of the necessary infrastructure to protect and promote human rights. In Guatemala, UNFAS is financing a two-year project (1988–1989) to assist the Government in its efforts to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted /...
by the Commission on Human Rights. The project, executed by the Centre for Human Rights, comprises activities such as training, advisory services, fellowships and provision of basic human rights libraries. In Colombia, the Centre and UNDP are jointly implementing with the Government a two-year project (1988-1989) to strengthen the national institutions in the country, primarily the Office of the Human Rights Advisor to the President (Consejeria Presidencial) in the protection and promotion of human rights through varied activities, including the provision of advisory services, fellowships, the provision of a human rights reference library and training and educational projects.

VII. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

A. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

59. The year 1988, the second year since the Secretary-General decided to develop the United Nations Office at Vienna as a nucleus for social policy and social development, witnessed an increasing commitment on the part of Governments and international agencies to tackle the social aspects of development. New initiatives were launched to deal with the social effects of adjustment, human resources development, particularly among specific population groups, and critical poverty. These efforts reflect a growing awareness that economic issues cannot be resolved in isolation from the social dimensions.

60. In recent years, the increasing recognition that development is not worthy of the name unless it brings about a genuine improvement in the well-being of individuals has led to a broad international consensus that social policies and programmes should be fully integrated into development strategies. This was the clear message of the first ministerial-level meeting on social programmes and policies in nearly 20 years, organized by the United Nations Office at Vienna in September 1987.

1. Co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme

61. A major thrust of the work of the United Nations Office at Vienna Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in 1988 has been to translate social development concepts into operational programmes and to intensify its co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These efforts aim to strengthen the social content of development projects. More importantly, they promote a comprehensive approach to programming operational activities which integrates social objectives and programmes into national development plans and UNDP country programmes.

62. After consultations with UNDP, the Vienna Centre drafted a programme advisory note on social policy and development. It also submitted to UNDP an interregional project for social development through technical co-operation. The goal of the project is to improve development performance, especially of the least developed countries (LDCs) by: (a) strengthening the capacity for social development policy design, planning and co-ordination at the national and sub-national level;
(b) achieving a better integration of economic and social components of policy at both the international and national level; and (c) perfecting social development strategies that support broad-based growth. The Vienna Centre and UNDP have begun to identify countries where the new approach may be tried out on a pilot basis.

63. UNDP has invited the Vienna Centre to participate in the donor round-table process with a view to giving more prominence and coherence to social needs. The Centre has taken part in one such meeting for the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. In addition, it has joined the steering committee of the UNDP/World Bank/African Development Bank (AFDB) project on alleviating the negative social effects of structural adjustment and stabilization measures. It has also taken part in project identification missions to assist Governments in designing strategies and measures for sustained development and social progress.

64. In crime prevention and criminal justice, UNDP approved assistance to the Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders, backstopped by the Vienna Centre. It is also playing a major role in the establishment of the African Institute for Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders, for which UNDP financing is also being sought. Criminal justice projects are under consideration in Cameroon, Malawi, the Philippines and Swaziland.

2. Activities of trust funds assigned to the United Nations Office at Vienna

65. Grants made by the Centre for Social and Humanitarian Affairs from its own special trust funds help Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) undertake catalytic and innovative activities related to aging, disabled persons and youth and to social group-related concerns in mainstream development. In 1988, grants totalling $350,873 supported 18 projects and activities, of which nearly one half were carried out by NGOs. Twenty additional proposals, representing some $300,000, have been submitted to United Nations Headquarters for approval. These grants complement other development co-operation resources and have been vital to increasing awareness of social group-related issues and to mobilizing additional funds - in 1988 over $1 million. Unfortunately, contributions to the trust funds on Aging, Disabled Persons and Youth are declining and their resources are now virtually depleted.

3. Future resources for technical co-operation in the social field

66. The growing awareness of the social dimensions of development has placed an undeniable strain on the already sparse financial resources available for United Nations system technical co-operation. If the current discussions between the Vienna Centre and UNDP bear fruit, new priorities identified by Governments in the social field should be more adequately reflected in the next UNDP programming cycle. But there remains the urgency of addressing critical needs today.

67. Extrabudgetary and non-traditional resources are the only other alternative and the Vienna Centre has been making a concerted effort to increase them. A first
priority is to replenish the special trust funds already mentioned since they provide indispensable seed money to start key social activities which, for various reasons, tend to be squeezed out in the stiff competition for scarce UNDP resources. Unfortunately, appeals for increased contributions have not produced the results hoped for.

68. On the brighter side are a number of innovative funding arrangements such as a bilateral Swedish contribution to finance advisory services on disability matters. Even more unusual is the non-governmental funding of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, attached to the United Nations Office at Vienna.

69. Close co-operation with NGOs becomes even more vital at this time of strained capacities and ever-increasing needs. In the social field, considerable technical knowledge and experience of NGOs, especially at the community level, and their ability to mobilize resources quickly and efficiently in response to specific issues are particularly important. In an innovative endeavour, Disabled Peoples' International, the Impact Foundation of the United Kingdom and the International Council on Disability are co-operating with the United Nations Office at Vienna on a global fund-raising and public education campaign in support of the Decade for the Disabled, in which the private sector is also participating. If successful, this campaign is expected to generate significant funding for projects for the disabled in developing countries and to promote awareness of the issue worldwide.

70. Likewise, in the field of aging, the American Association of Retired Persons, which has organised technical exchanges on aging-related policies and programmes, is exploring other possibilities for co-operation with the United Nations programme on aging. The possibility of finding funds for an urgently needed interregional advisor on aging is being explored.

B. Division of Narcotic Drugs

71. In 1988, the Division of Narcotic Drugs undertook a number of technical co-operation activities. These included the distribution of information and training material as well as the provision of fellowships, advisory services and programme support. Member States were provided with technical assistance upon request, within the limits of the Division's resources. The Division received substantial financial support from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) for the execution of programmes implemented in various regions. The Division organized and serviced intergovernmental expert meetings and actively participated in the preparation of a new Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. A Plenipotentiary Conference, attended by the representatives of 106 States, adopted the Convention on 20 December 1988.

72. During the year, the Division trained a total of 25 fellows from 17 countries in laboratory techniques for the identification and analysis of seized drugs. Six of these fellows received their training at the regional training centre in Bangkok, which was supported and staffed by the Division. In response to requests for technical assistance, four national laboratories have received laboratory equipment and chemicals. Scientific documents and reference books relevant to the
identification and analysis of drugs of abuse were also distributed to numerous national laboratories. Special emphasis was placed on the development of a network of national and regional laboratories on the African continent. With the financial assistance of UNFDAC, a regional project plans to establish 19 laboratories over a three-year period.

73. In 1988, the Division continued to promote 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. To further such collaboration and to review follow-up action to the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, one inter-agency meeting on co-ordination was convened in February 1988 in Vienna, the seat of United Nations drug control units, and a second was held in September 1988 at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.

VIII. OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

74. 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.

75. 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. The Office received and assigned interns to participate in activities related to some of its projects, at no financial cost for the Organization. It participated in the United Nations/United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Fellowship Programme in international law, financed from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions from States. Twenty fellowships were awarded in 1988. The Office also 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 third 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 (HABITAT)

76. During 1988, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) had 219 projects under execution in 94 countries, of which 76 were in LDCs. One hundred twenty-six projects were financed by UNDP, accounting for approximately 72 per cent of the funds budgeted for technical co-operation activities during the year. Twenty-seven 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 59 small-scale projects designed to provide assistance in preparing project documents for submission to UNDP, donor Governments and donor agencies.

77. The resources provided under the regular programme were used for special advisory services and training with emphasis on human settlements activities in LDCs. In 1988, 30 missions were undertaken which provided assistance in building materials and low-cost construction technology, human settlements data management, and the development of conventional and non-conventional housing finance mechanisms.

78. UNCHS (Habitat) continued its collaboration with other agencies in the field of human settlements. The UNCHS/World Food Programme (WFP) Co-ordinator provided technical advice for identification, appraisal, formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the WFP-assisted projects. The National Shelter Strategies Support Programme, with the aid of the Department for International Development of Finland (Finnida), continued its efforts in six countries during 1988. Co-operation with the World Bank continued within the framework of a joint urban development project which involves intensive research and analysis in three component areas of land, infrastructure and municipal finance. The first advisory panel review meeting of this project held at UNCHS headquarters in Nairobi in July 1988 fully endorsed the activities of the programme, aimed at addressing the main concerns of developing countries about the management of urban growth. The panel also agreed that the project activities should be programmed in the context of a 10-year time-frame. UNCHS started its collaboration with the Government of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on international co-operation in technology transfer for production of indigenous building materials and components in developing countries.

X. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

79. In 1988, developing countries continued to reassess their policies towards foreign investment and technology transfer. Many developing countries sought the assistance of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) in the reformulation of their foreign investment and technology régimes and in the structuring and negotiation of various mutually beneficial transactions with transnational corporations, particularly in the areas of petroleum, hard-rock mining and in the services sectors. The advisory and training projects undertaken by the Centre in 1988 reflect these priorities.

80. During the period under review, the Centre completed or initiated 100 advisory and information projects in 41 developing countries. Fifty were in 18 African countries, 29 were in 14 countries in the Asia and the Pacific region, and 21 were in 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
81. As in recent years, the majority of advisory and information services were related to the formulation of foreign investment regimes, namely, the policies, laws and regulations relating to foreign investment and technology transfer, the formulation of model contracts and agreements, and the streamlining of institutional mechanisms and administrative procedures for approving, monitoring and promoting foreign investment. In 1988, 64 per cent of all projects were under this category. Of these, 30 were related to general issues of foreign investment and technology transfer including harmonization efforts, assessment studies and surveys. The rest pertained to specific sectors such as agro-business, petroleum, mining, tourism and other services, and to issues such as export processing zones and transfer pricing.

82. A total of 89 projects related to specific contractual arrangements with transnational corporations. Of these, 32 were completed or initiated in the forestry, manufacturing, mining, petroleum, telecommunication and tourism sectors.

83. In 1988, the Centre implemented 32 training projects consisting of 23 workshops, round-table meetings or seminars and 9 study tours and fellowships. Of the 23, 12 were on general foreign investment and negotiating issues, 3 were in the services sector and 8 focused on topics such as technology transfer, petroleum, mining, export processing zones, debt-equity swaps, entrepreneurship and non-equity transactions such as marketing, construction and management contracts. Five of these training activities were held in the African region, 8 in the Asia and Pacific region, 8 in the Latin America and Caribbean region and 2 in Europe, and almost half were organized on a regional rather than national basis.

84. The Centre continued its sponsorship of the study tour programme for an Arab State in the study of the operation of capital markets. Three Government officials visited two East Asian countries to meet and discuss with their local counterparts. Three officials from another Asian country visited four Latin American countries in relation to a programme to strengthen its institutional mechanism for dealing with technology transfer issues. A study tour was organized for a third Asian country to two other Latin American countries to exchange experiences on foreign investment regulation and promotion. Fellowships were also granted to two officials of a fourth Asian country to attend a course on investment promotion in a European country. An African official was granted a fellowship to a European country to study investment-related issues on gemology and another African official received a fellowship for mining and petroleum development.

85. After the finalization and distribution of the curricula relating to transnational corporations for advanced courses in transnational law, economics and business, three seminars were held for representatives of participating institutions of higher learning in Asia. As a continuation of the programme of support to national institutions of management and public administration in Africa, a final curriculum programme and a list of teaching materials were forwarded to a number of institutions. Missions were then undertaken to design programmes for each participating institution. A meeting of African universities will be held to discuss and adopt the proposed curricula and teaching materials as part of the Centre's programme of assistance to institutions of higher learning in that region. Preparations are under way to provide a similar programme to the Caribbean region.
86. The natural resources sector continued to generate a large number of requests for technical assistance, reflecting the increasing complexity of the contractual arrangements necessary to establish a proper balance between the interests of host countries and those of foreign investors. Most projects undertaken by the Centre in this sector were concerned with petroleum, mining or forestry.

87. Support for harmonization efforts within regional institutions continued during the period under review. The Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States Secretariat in Africa, with UNCTC assistance, is in the second phase of a programme on rationalization and harmonization of preferential trade area investment codes. The latest report, prepared in co-ordination with UNCTC, was adopted by the relevant organs of the preferential trade area and clears the way for the next phase of the harmonization programme. The Centre is also assisting the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in its efforts to harmonize its foreign investment and technology transfer policies, laws and regulations. A major study was prepared which provided an analytical background to the foreign investment policies, laws and regulations in the subregion and made suggestions on common approaches to promote intraregional benefits. The study and its related harmonization proposals were the subject of a round-table meeting organized by the Centre and the Economic Affairs Secretariat of OECS, attended by OECS Member States. Recommendations resulting from the round-table meeting were presented to the ministerial meeting of the Economic Affairs Committee and to the meeting of Heads of Governments of the OECS Member States.

88. In the area of services, a number of activities were undertaken in a manner which integrated research and technical assistance work. The Centre has begun a joint project with the Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena to examine technology transfer through transnational corporations in services to the Andean Pact subregion and to analyse and advise on policy measures. In addition, the Centre organized seminars on services and development.

89. The Centre continued to work closely with regional and subregional bodies in the delivery of its advisory and training projects, such as the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, the South African Development Co-operation Conference (SADCC) Member States, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and OECS, SELA, and the Andean Pact countries. Co-operation has also been maintained with international organizations within and outside the United Nations system. In some cases, the Centre supported other organizations in the execution of their own technical co-operation programme. The Centre has also sought the collaboration and contribution of DTCD, UNCTAD, UNITAR, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ILO, FAO, the World Bank/International Finance Corporation, UNIDO and the Commonwealth Secretariat. In addition, the Centre provided international and regional institutions with experts as well as technical materials for their own training programmes, seminars or symposia. Some of these organizations included the Africa Accounting Council and the South Pacific Commission.
XI. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

90. Project expenditures incurred by UNCTAD in 1988 totalled about $12 million, a modest increase over the 1987 level. Technical co-operation activities were funded from three sources: UNDP, $9.5 million; funds-in-trust, $1.8 million; and the regular programme of technical co-operation, $0.7 million. As regards expenditures against UNDP indicative planning figures (IPFs), 55 per cent represented intercountry activities and 45 per cent country activities. Personnel costs represented 60 per cent of total expenditures, training 15 per cent, and 25 per cent corresponded to subcontracts, equipment and miscellaneous expenditures.

91. In the maritime and multimodal transport sector, the UNCTAD technical co-operation programme in 1988 included assistance to port authorities; shipping companies and shippers' councils; and activities in the areas of multimodal transport and maritime legislation. There has also been continued development and expansion of the training programme in the field of maritime transport (TRAINMAR).

92. ECDC was promoted through support for subregional and regional co-operation and integration, as well as activities in such areas as trade expansions, monetary and payments arrangements among developing countries, fiscal harmonization and trade liberalization.

93. Assistance to LDCs, land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours, and to island developing countries included activities in the areas of trade policy and planning (e.g., export development, import substitution and formulation and management of pricing policies). UNCTAD continued to provide assistance to improve transit traffic and the efficiency of the transport sector in the Southern, East/Central and West/Central African subregions referred to below.

94. Activities in the area of money, finance and development focused mainly on external debt management. Such assistance was associated mainly with the further development and installation of the UNCTAD software for debt monitoring and financial analysis.

95. Projects relating to manufactures and semi-manufactures aimed at helping developing countries benefit from the various schemes offered under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). Other activities were in such areas as restrictive business practices; promoting the contribution of the services sector to development; support for the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (referred to below), and textiles and clothing.

96. In the field of trade in commodities, assistance was provided to food importing developing countries in upgrading their procurement of major food items through improved market knowledge, skill training and import management, as well as in areas related to processing, marketing, and the distribution of commodities.

97. Projects related to the transfer of technology in this area helped interested countries strengthen their technological capacity through the formulation of appropriate policies and national legislation, the preparation of technology plans and the creation of appropriate institutional infrastructure.
98. In the field of insurance and reinsurance, the focus was on the training of insurance staff, development of insurance companies and support to regional insurance institutions.

99. Trade among countries having different economic and social systems was promoted through training courses, seminars and workshops, as well as the preparation and dissemination of information on trading systems and practices in the socialist countries of Eastern Europe with a view to promoting trade between such countries and developing countries.

100. Assistance in the area of simplification and computerization of trade procedures included activities carried out by the Special Programme on Trade Facilitation and the introduction of the Automatic System for Customs Data, referred to below.

101. Highlights of the UNCTAD 1988 technical assistance programme mentioned in its annual report include the launching of a programme to assist developing countries in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The programme, carried out collaboratively with UNDP, includes one interregional project and three regional projects and offers advisory services on the various technical issues involved in the negotiations, trade information and data and associated training.

102. Also highlighted was a major new transit-transport programme in Africa. The programme is developing efficient, safe, speedy and economical transit/transport systems through co-operation between land-locked and transit countries. It is to rely on computerized transport logistics management techniques to handle the shipment of goods along major cargo routes.

103. Another highlight was the successful conclusion at Belgrade, in April 1988, of the first round of negotiations for the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP), under the auspices of an interregional project, that provided trade information and data, advice on the selection of export products and the identification of trade barriers in partner countries.

104. The expansion of programmes for the improvement of management performance in developing countries was also noted. This includes the development and installation of computer-based software programmes, including the Debt Monitoring and Financial Analysis System used for recording, controlling and analysing external debt. Also being introduced is customs computerization through the Automatic System for Customs Data, which enables customs administrations to monitor, register and produce trade statistics and associated data exports and imports, including customs revenue. The UNCTAD trade information system, a computerized data bank on trade control, measures of about 90 developing countries, continues to disseminate data, and with the World Bank, UNCTAD has developed SMART (software on market access and restrictions to trade), which helps users assess options arising from reductions in tariffs and non-tariff barriers in major export markets.

105. A final highlight of 1988 was the launching of new initiatives in the area of commodities, which will give rise in 1989 to an expansion of activities in this area of critical concern to many developing countries.
106. UNCTAD continues to co-operate in its operational activities with a large number of organizations of the United Nations system, including DTCD, UNCTC, ECA, ECE, ECLA, ESCAP, ESCWA, the International Telecommunication Union (ITC), UNITAR, FAO, UNIDO and the World Bank; with several regional and subregional organizations including the Organization of African Unity (OAU), ECOWAS, the Communauté économique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEAO), the Mano River Union (MRU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African States Customs Union (UDEAC), PTA and SADCC in Africa; ASEAN, the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), and the Bangkok Agreement in Asia; the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), and Chambers of Commerce and other private-sector organizations in developing countries. UNCTAD is also expanding its collaboration with bilateral sources of technical co-operation for activities falling within the competence of UNCTAD.

107. Early in 1988, UNCTAD completed an internal review of its technical co-operation, the results of which were noted with appreciation by the Working Party on Medium-Term Plan and Programme Budget. The findings of that review are now being put into effect, with particular reference to measures to improve project design and project delivery, including a more systematic approach to training, human resource development and institution-building; closer co-operation with other organizations, including in the first instance with ITC; promoting a higher level of resources for multilateral technical co-operation activities in the area of international trade and development and of the UNCTAD share of such measures; and improved methods of work in the secretariat for the management of technical co-operation, including evaluation.

108. UNCTAD technical co-operation is anticipated to grow in the course of the current year. Such expansion reflects the need, fully encouraged and supported by the UNCTAD governing body, for increased multilateral technical co-operation in the areas of international trade and development, which is of growing and direct concern to developing countries.

XII. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

109. Technical assistance to developing countries, including the provision of experts, equipment, training, grants and fellowships, is central to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Almost all substantive units within UNEP subprogrammes provide such assistance. The technical co-operation programme allocation of UNEP amounted to $2.6 million in 1988. UNEP provided advisory services and fellowships to developing countries through its regional offices and institutional support to some Governments. UNEP has also been engaged in some country projects, providing technical assistance in the environmental field.

110. 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.

111. A major priority in the work of INFOTERRA during 1988 was an increased provision of substantive information. Two new special sector sources were added, bringing the total to 26; three new regional service centres were established, bringing the total to nine. The number of INFOTERRA sources was increased by 410, bringing the total to 5,910. One additional country joined the INFOTERRA network, resulting in a total of 134. The emphasis on improved user services has resulted in 14,100 queries answered in 1988 (an increase of 9 per cent over the previous year). Over half of these queries were received from developing countries and the majority of them (81 per cent) received substantive information in the form of publications, legislation, specially prepared reports, or bibliographic information from relevant data bases.

112. 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. Through the UNDP-UNEP joint venture, UNSO receives institutional and programme support of $2 million per year, as the arm of the United Nations responsible for the implementation of the plan of action to combat desertification on behalf of UNEP in 22 Sudano-Sahelian countries. UNSO supports a programme of desertification control which, as of the end of 1988, consisted of 54 ongoing projects with a total funding of $68 million.

113. The computerized central files of the International Register for Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) have continued to expand and cover at present some 600 chemicals of international concern. The legal file now contains regulatory information for more than seven thousand chemicals. During 1988, work by IRPTC and its network partners has focused on mammalian and environmental toxicity, and legal information. 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. One additional country has appointed a national correspondent to IRPTC, the number now standing at 118 national correspondents from 111 countries.

114. Improving the capability of developing countries to confront industrial pollution problems is a major part of the activity of the UNEP Industry and Environment Office. During 1988, the Office held two workshops on hazardous waste management to permit Asian and Latin American countries to train relevant Government personnel. Consultant studies in several African states and in India were able to diagnose and recommend institution-building and training requirements to be pursued by national authorities. Industry-specific training on pollution abatement has been arranged for groups of Asian managers in the steel and aluminium sectors, and has involved visits to French and Japanese production facilities. The environmental component has been upgraded in a number of employer training seminars held by ILO in Latin America and Asia.
115. The UNEP clearing house mechanism, which assists developing countries to find bilateral donor aid to deal with urgent environmental problems, was able to assist six developing countries in the development of project proposals for a national environment policy, the rational use of a hardwood resource, an environmental monitoring system, the strengthening of an environmental department and a risk assessment on the effects of climate change. In addition, the clearing house was able to find funding for a regional workshop on hazardous waste landfill, a regional workshop on hazardous waste management, a seminar on desertification control at the district level and a study tour for municipal water management experts.