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SUPPORT

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Other entities and programmes

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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 engage in technical co-operation activities. The overview, provided 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, covers activities undertaken by these entities in 1989.

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I. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continued to carry out a programme of technical co-operation aimed at furthering the economic and social development of the countries of the region.
2. In 1989, \$1.5 million from regular programme funds was expended to support the services of 10 regional advisers and to assist the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs). Regional and subregional activities financed by the regular programme were carried out in economic co-operation, public administration and finance, social development, statistics, transport communications, tourism, energy, administrative and common services. In addition, three study tours and workshops were organized in the Soviet Union and financed in non-convertible currency.
3. ECA also carried out United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-supported activities valued at \$12,407,943 in the fields of development issues and policies, human settlements, industrial development, international trade, natural resources, women's programmes, public administration, social development, statistics, transport, communications and tourism and economic integration.
4. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided \$4,205,986 to finance ECA activities on demographic statistics, population information networks, census research and training.
5. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided \$251,728 for ECA activities in the field of environment, drought and desertification.
6. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development Activities (UNTFADA) provided \$702,042 for projects in development issues, industrial development, international trade, natural resources, social development, administrative and common services.
7. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) provided \$261,242 to support national machineries for the integration of women in development and work of the African Training and Research Centre for Women.
8. Bilateral donors, Governments and organizations provided direct grants totalling \$2,434,691 for expert services under non-reimbursable loans and trust funds for projects in development policies, food and agriculture, industry, natural resources, energy, population, public administration and finance, science and technology, social development, statistics and transport.

II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

9. As a focal point within the region for the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) co-operated with UNDP in the Meeting of Intergovernmental Consultations for the mid-term review of the current regional programme for Europe, held in Geneva in July 1989. The meeting reviewed the status of projects in the programme, discussed networking, the management of regional projects in Europe, outreach and future policy objectives.
10. In 1989, ECE continued to execute projects forwarded by UNDP and UNFPA in the sectors of environmental protection, energy, population, science and technology and transport. These included: Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning; Environmental Management with Emphasis on Air Pollution Control; Development of Integrated Farm Energy Systems; Integration of Population and Socio-economic Policies; Economic and Social Consequences of Changing Population Structures; and Promotion of Fertility and Family Surveys in Developing Countries.
11. Further progress was made in completing the technical basis of planning and constructing the Trans-European North-South Motorway (RER/84/001) and in implementing the Trans-European North-South Railway Lines project (RER/87/028).
12. Discussions have continued between ECE and UNDP on the revised project on International Transport Development: Mediterranean, Europe and the Middle East. A revised project document will be issued early in 1990. The main objectives of this ECE/UNDP project are the development and facilitation of multimodal transport through improved interface, particularly in ports, and the establishment of 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. The Executive Secretaries of ECE and ECA will submit a global evaluation of the studies and work relating to the project to the Marrakech Symposium (16-18 May 1990) and an interim report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1991.
13. The ECE secretariat has continued to co-operate with ECA in developing studies on the Europe-Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar. A report on this subject was prepared for the Economic and Social Council in 1989.
14. 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 interest to all regions. In 1989, trade facilitation was selected as a priority area for their common project. Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/118 invites the commissions to formulate, jointly with UNCTAD and within existing resources, a draft proposal for interregional co-operation in trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, wherever appropriate, and to submit the proposal to the Council at its second regular session of 1990.

III. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

15. During 1989, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) continued its wide range of technical co-operation activities within the region. The operational framework for these activities is the ECLAC work programme approved by member countries at the XXII session of the Commission (Rio de Janeiro, 1988). Technical assistance in 1989 concentrated on policy-oriented proposals to counter the impact of the economic crisis on the development performance of national economies of the region.

16. 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 135 technical assistance missions, in co-ordination with governmental authorities and UNDP. These missions were funded from both regular and extrabudgetary resources.

17. The training of qualified human resources remained a significant concern of countries of the region and, consequently, of ECLAC. In the field of socio-economic planning and policy co-ordination, ILPES organized five international and five national training courses for 351 professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean and awarded 56 full fellowships to trainees from 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries with funds from extrabudgetary sources, mainly the Government of Italy and UNDP.

18. In the population and development field, CELADE supported 39 fellows from 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries who attended specialized courses, seminars and workshops. One participant each from Angola and Equatorial Guinea enrolled in the training programme of CELADE in 1989. These activities were funded from extrabudgetary contributions from UNFPA and Canada.

19. In 1989, the ECLAC subregional office in Mexico City continued to support institutional co-operation with the key agents of the integration process in Central America and devoted special attention to the preparation, negotiation and implementation of the Central American Programme adopted by the General Assembly for the economic recovery of the countries of the subregion. The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain strengthened its co-operation with the Caribbean Community and carried out its backstopping function as technical secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. The Montevideo Office carried out similar technical backstopping tasks with the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) headquartered in that city. The Buenos Aires Office continued support for the integration initiatives of Brazil and Argentina.

20. The ECLAC system continued its collaboration with the Latin American Economic System in areas such as the management of the external debt problems in the region, increased co-ordination among regional organizations in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC), support to national focal points for international technical co-operation and programming exercises for TCDC at the regional level. Increased collaboration with the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC was achieved during the year 1989.

21. To carry out its wide range of technical co-operation activities, ECLAC received substantial contributions from financial sources such as UNDP, UNFPA, and UNEP for specific technical co-operation projects. Significant voluntary contributions were also received from donor countries which have regularly supported technical co-operation activities of ECLAC and from new donors interested in supporting ECLAC in sectors of mutual concern.

IV. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

22. During 1989, multilateral and bilateral donors from within and outside the Asia and Pacific region as well as recipient countries, continued to provide extrabudgetary resources, both in cash and through the provision of non-reimbursable loan experts to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to enable it to implement its work programme.

23. ESCAP rendered technical and advisory services to 19 countries in the Asia and Pacific region through 40 missions carried out by eight regional advisers under the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation. 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 Villa, Vanuatu, under the United Nations Development Advisory Team in the fields of social development, development finance, development and physical planning, port development and public administration. EPOC resident advisers undertook 21 missions in 1989. In addition, with UNDP financing and in collaboration with the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, EPOC also fielded 31 quick-action consultancy missions to the island developing countries. Advisory services on energy statistics, microcomputer applications, trade promotion and tourism and women in development were also provided by advisers located at ESCAP. On-the-job training was conducted by advisers and 14 in-country courses were conducted by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

24. Regional and subregional projects funded by UNDP and bilateral donors continued to address important questions relating to environmentally sound and sustainable development, energy and natural resources, including energy planning, preparation of new and renewable sources of energy, urban geology, remote sensing and prospecting for mineral resources. Other activities, relating to the transport and communications decade were port development, dredging, inland water transport, highways and rural road infrastructure, railways, and energy conservation in the transport sector. Additional activities were in the areas of human resources development, social development, human settlements, integration of women in development, participation of youth in development and methodologies for technology-based development planning.

25. ESCAP continued to co-operate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in research and development of food legumes and coarse grains in the Asian tropics and subtropics and with FAO and UNIDO in fertilizer-related activities within the framework of the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific project. It

also co-operated closely with FAO and DTCD in the regional remote sensing programme for satellite crop monitoring.

26. UNFPA institutional support continued, albeit on a reduced scale for the Population Division of ESCAP, enabling it to enhance technical assistance and training for the development of national population centres in the region. Funds were made available to meet the increasing demand for advisory services on population censuses and surveys, data preparation and processing, population statistics, population policies and population and development and to conduct research on fertility, family planning, aging, management information systems and training in the use of microcomputers. These activities are aimed at helping developing countries to formulate population policies and integrate them into development plans and human resources development efforts.

27. ESCAP continued to promote TCDC activities jointly with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The operational TCDC activities supported by the ESCAP secretariat are in agriculture, industry, natural resources development, science and technology and environmental management. Generous financial assistance from bilateral donors to the ESCAP/TCDC supplementary fund enabled the secretariat to support 32 TCDC activities in 1989.

V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

28. In 1989, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continued its technical co-operation activities in the region. These included the monitoring and substantive support of projects which ESCWA undertakes as an executing and/or associate agency and short-term regional advisory services in a number of areas.

29. In agriculture, these services were used by Democratic Yemen and Kuwait. Other activities were related to agricultural co-operation in the Arab world.

30. In the area of industrial project identification, formulation and appraisal, assistance to Oman related to industrial estates, technology acquisition and operational analysis of industrial establishments. Other assistance related to capital goods development in the Arab region.

31. In the water resources field, Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic were assisted.

32. In science and technology, assistance was provided to Iraq, Kuwait, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

33. In human resources development, Iraq was helped to evaluate its fourth country programme (1987-1991) and to use human resources indicators in the health sector. Jordan was assisted in setting up an employment centre, Saudi Arabia in identifying and assessing training for government officials and Yemen in vocational training and human resources planning.

34. In the area of data processing, assistance was provided to Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

35. In national accounts and economic statistics, Bahrain, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic were assisted.

36. In the energy field, advice to Democratic Yemen, Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic was in biogas technology.

37. UNFPA funded regional advisory services in demography to Democratic Yemen, Jordan and Palestine, and in population statistics to Democratic Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic. Regional advisory services financed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in industrial and mechanical engineering were provided to Bahrain and made available to a UNIDO consultant preparing a study of small- and medium-scale industries in Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

38. ESCWA continues to execute a number of national and regional projects funded by UNIFEM. They are aimed at enhancing the economic participation of women, at identifying the needs of women and at collecting data and disseminating information on and for women.

VI. CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

39. The technical co-operation activities of the Programme of Advisory Services expanded throughout 1989. Additional resources were provided under the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights, which became operational in 1988 following its establishment by the Secretary-General on 16 November 1987. By the end of 1989, contributions from Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) totalled some \$1,100,000.

40. In line with the work plan presented to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-third session in 1988, the Centre has been implementing a number of technical co-operation activities financed under the regular programme and the Voluntary Fund.

41. In 1989, the Centre organized the following training courses and seminars financed under section 24 of the regular budget: The Effects of Racism and Racial Discrimination on the Social and Economic Relations between Indigenous Peoples and States (Geneva, 16-20 January 1989); International Seminar on Cultural Dialogue between Countries of Origin and Host Countries of Migrant Workers (Athens, 18-26 September 1989); and Training Course on International Human Rights Standards (Moscow, 27 November-1 December 1989).

42. The fellowship programme trained 30 fellows in 1989: 13 from Africa, 5 from Asia, 7 from Latin America, 2 from Eastern Europe and 3 from Western European and other States.

43. The experts on Guatemala and on Haiti, nominated by the Secretary-General at the request of the Commission on Human Rights, visited those countries to discuss with national authorities the provision of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights. A similar mission to Equatorial Guinea was undertaken by a consultant.

44. The following training courses were given in 1989 by the Centre for Human Rights with financing from the Voluntary Fund: National Training Course on Human Rights (Conakry, Guinea, 17-24 April); Regional Training Course on Developing National Strategies and Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Africa (Banjul, the Gambia, 24 April-2 May); Andean Seminar on Human Rights (Quito, Ecuador, 8-12 May); Regional Training Course on the Implementation of Human Rights Instruments and the Administration of Justice (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6-13 October); National Training Course on International Mechanisms in the Field of Human Rights (Lima, Peru, 2-6 October); National Training Course on Basic Human Rights Issues and International Standards (Manila, the Philippines, 31 July-4 August); In-depth Training Course for Colombian Judges on Human Rights and Penal Procedures (Rome, Italy, 11-22 September); Second National Training Course on Human Rights (Antigua, Guatemala, 23-27 October).

45. Under the project being carried out by the Centre and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) aimed at promoting the principles enshrined in the African Charter, the Centre organized in 1989, with financial support from the Voluntary Fund the regional training course, Developing National Strategies and Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Africa, in Banjul, the Gambia.

46. In addition, the Centre granted 21 fellowships under projects financed by the Voluntary Fund: 13 to Colombian nationals; 1 to a national from the Gambia; 6 to Guatemalan nationals and 1 to a national from the United Kingdom. Also under the Fund and country projects, the Centre provided the advisory services of 17 experts: 9 to Colombia, 6 to Guatemala and 2 to the Gambia.

47. During 1989, the Voluntary Fund continued to finance projects in Guatemala and Colombia and began a project in the Gambia.

48. In Colombia, the Centre for Human Rights and UNDP are implementing with the Government a project aimed at strengthening the capacities of national institutions, primarily the Office of the Human Rights Advisor to the President, to protect and promote human rights. A project revision, including an additional UNDP contribution of \$230,000, will enable the project to continue until the Colombian elections in the third quarter of 1990. Project funding is \$864,000, of which the Fund is contributing \$284,000.

49. In Guatemala, the Fund is financing a two-year project (1988-1989) amounting to \$222,000 to help the Government ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights. While most activities were completed in 1989, a number of fellowships not utilized will be granted in 1990. The provision of an expert is also planned to complete work started in 1989.

50. In the Gambia, a feasibility study was carried out on the needs of the country in relation to the establishment of a regional African Training and Documentation Human Rights Centre in Banjul. The project will also assist the Government in revising laws and in providing books and documentation.

VII. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

A. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

51. The responsibilities of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) as a nucleus for social policy and development has assumed particular importance during the current period of rapid economic and social changes in the world economy. While the period has been characterized by considerable divergence in socio-economic performance among countries, a policy consensus emerged that development must not neglect the vulnerable - women, children and marginalized groups of the population. UNOV has accordingly directed special attention to supporting human-oriented development policies and programmes in co-operation with both DTCD and UNDP and through use of the general trust funds that it administers.

52. UNDP and UNOV reached an agreement on three major areas for increased co-operation during 1989. These involve a UNOV-led evaluation of the social aspects of UNDP-financed technical co-operation activities; UNOV participation as full partner in the UNOV/UNDP/UNICEF Initiative on Human Development; and assistance to the Government of Bolivia to strengthen its planning capacities in priority areas of social concern.

53. To increase general awareness of the social aspects of development and to strengthen institutional capacities to deal with them, UNDP has engaged the substantive expertise of UNOV to carry out an evaluation of the social effects and implications of selected technical co-operation project experience. The findings will form the basis of a programme advisory note on social policy and development for use by UNDP resident representatives and concerned government officials.

54. UNOV is contributing its expertise in social development to the UNOV/UNDP/UNICEF Initiative on Human Development and is a member of the tripartite steering committee to plan country missions which will advise interested Governments in this field.

55. UNOV has agreed to assist Bolivia in strengthening its planning in areas of social concern, particularly in the light of its recent experience with economic adjustment. It is co-operating with UNDP and is providing a senior technical adviser on social development and a team of consultants. During 1989, the adviser undertook a mission to Bolivia to identify priority needs and to draw up preliminary proposals for action. During the 1990s, the advisory team will examine the present situation and needs of Bolivia in depth and submit proposals for immediate action to improve living conditions and overcome obstacles to social progress and development, without prejudice to the Government's overall commitment to maintaining economic stabilization.

56. During the 1988-1989 biennium, grants from the trust funds administered by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) totalled nearly \$800,000; they were used in 56 catalytic and innovative projects in the fields of aging, disabled persons and youth and to ensure that social group-related concerns are effectively incorporated in mainstream development. Most of the projects benefited the developing regions. The largest share of the grants went to the African region in view of its continuing critical economic and social situation.

57. Although the grants disbursed remain modest, they have been instrumental in mobilizing on average four times as many additional resources, or some \$3 million, which might not otherwise have been available for operational activities in the social field.

58. The UNOV-administered trust funds have served to develop a number of innovative approaches to building national capacities for the full and effective participation of social groups in development. Training and technical exchanges have been the principal activities supported during the period under review. These have included: (a) training in appropriate income-generating activities to promote self-reliance; (b) involving young persons in community approaches to environmental protection and improvement; and (c) leadership training of disabled persons to further their empowerment as agents and beneficiaries of development. Despite this solid record of achievements, contributions to the trust funds are declining and their operational reserves are nearly depleted.

59. The continuing critical social and economic situation of many developing countries, particularly in the African region, places a considerable strain on the already limited resources available from the United Nations system for technical co-operation in the social field. In response to this situation, CSDHA has sought to mobilize critically needed extrabudgetary resources from a number of sources. A significant contribution to this effort continues to be made by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), which, during the biennium 1988-1989, approved \$291,000 for nine disability-related projects. The Federal Republic of Germany has also been providing earmarked grants for aging and development activities in Uganda.

60. The non-governmental community also continues to make important contributions. Non-governmental resources are supporting the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, whose office is attached to UNOV. The Impact Foundation of the United Kingdom continues to co-operate with UNOV in the development of a global information and fund-raising event in support of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. This innovative programme also envisages close involvement of the private sector. While feasibility studies indicate that this project would generate very considerable sums for projects for the disabled in developing countries, it has not been possible to launch it because the required seed money of approximately \$500,000 cannot be raised.

61. In the field of aging, the Secretary-General convened in September 1989 at United Nations Headquarters a group of eminent persons under the chairmanship of the Director-General of UNOV to discuss international fund-raising strategies. The

meeting established a special task force, which met at UNOV in December, to study the feasibility of a world foundation on aging and to prepare a blueprint for it. The main group will meet again in the spring of 1990 to determine the course of action to be recommended to the Secretary-General.

B. Division of Narcotic Drugs

62. During 1989, the Division of Narcotic Drugs continued to undertake various technical co-operation activities, within the limits of its regular and extrabudgetary resources. These included technical assistance to Member States upon request, the distribution of information and training material and the rendering of advisory services and programme support. The Division assisted Member States with the provisional application of the United Nations 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances pending its entry into force, and provided assistance with regard to its ratification. With financial support from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), the Division continued to organize and service a number of expert group meetings on such specialized areas as the Establishment of Guidelines for Training Programmes in Forensic and Toxicology Analysis (Banjul, the Gambia, March 1989); the Use of Drug-Scenting Dogs (Vienna/Budapest, April 1989); Recommended Methods of Testing Barbiturate Derivatives under International Control and Hallucinogenic Plant Products (Wiesbaden, June 1989); the Detection and Assay of Controlled Drugs in Biological Specimens (Singapore, September 1989); the Detection of Illicit Narcotic Crop Cultivation by Satellite (Vienna, October 1989); Pre-Trial Destruction of Seized Narcotic Drugs; Psychotropic Substances; Precursors and Essential Chemicals (Vienna, November 1989); and Environmentally Safe Methods for the Eradication of Illicit Narcotic Plants (Vienna, December 1989).

63. During 1989, the Division trained 36 fellows from 21 countries in laboratory techniques for the identification and analysis of seized drugs. Seven were trained at the regional centre in Buenos Aires supported by the Division. Two others began a three-month programme in toxicology at Helsinki and Padua, Italy, in November. The UNFDAC-supported programme of development and strengthening of national laboratories continued with the establishment of laboratories in seven Member States in Africa and the strengthening of regional training laboratories in Bangkok and Buenos Aires. The Division's laboratory also established international training curricula for basic and advanced training in methods for seizure analysis and continued to develop methods for the identification and analysis of analogues of controlled drugs which will be made available to national laboratories. Scientific documents and reference material related to the analysis and identification of seized drugs were distributed to numerous national laboratories.

64. To increase international drug law enforcement co-operation, the Division convened the Second Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Vienna from 11-15 September, attended by representatives of 101 States.

65. In the context of the Division's technical assistance programme on drug demand reduction, three regional workshops on the utilization of community resources for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse were organized at the invitation and

with the support of the Governments of the host countries in La Paz, Bolivia, in March, in Nairobi, Kenya, in May and in Vigo, Spain, in July. An expert group met to formulate collection procedures for an International Drug Abuse Assessment System in July in Vienna. Through its video/film library, the Division continued to provide material for training programmes, public awareness campaigns and other activities related to drug demand reduction.

66. The Director-General of UNOV, as Co-ordinator of all United Nations activities relating to drug control, and the Division intensified the promotion of a co-ordinated United Nations system response to drug abuse through close co-operation with relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other concerned international organizations. An inter-agency co-ordination meeting, chaired by the Director-General and attended by 14 entities was convened in February at Vienna, the seat of the United Nations drug control units, and a second with 11 participating bodies was held in September at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris. A discussion paper agreed upon at the February inter-agency meeting was later submitted to the first regular session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) at Geneva in April. ACC reviewed that paper and issued a special statement on the need to accelerate the international fight against drug abuse, subsequently submitted to the Economic and Social Council (E/1989/72). Drug abuse control was considered at the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and ACC in October. At their joint meetings, CPC and ACC reconfirmed the need to enhance co-ordination in drug abuse control and concluded that appropriate intergovernmental bodies should consider a system-wide plan of action prepared by ACC, which would lead to specific activities to be undertaken by organizations of the United Nations system, individually and collectively. The proposed plan of action is among the items for consideration at the special session of the General Assembly scheduled for February 1990.

VIII. OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

67. 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 the related funds and offices, and the regional commissions, on matters pertaining to the establishment, application and interpretation of legal rules relating to co-operation programmes. The work, which is of a continuing nature, included drafting and interpreting constitutive instruments, terms of reference as well as financial and other regulations, rules and directives of United Nations bodies; drafting, interpreting and advising on basic assistance agreements, loan agreements, project documents, trust-fund arrangements, cost-sharing agreements, and management-services agreements with Governments, intergovernmental organizations and executing agencies; provision of legal advice and assistance in negotiating and settling legal disputes; and advising on operational questions (administrative, personnel, financial and contractual) as well as problems involving United Nations privileges and immunities.

68. The Office also 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 to 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. Sixteen fellowships were awarded in 1989. 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 fourth Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship of the Law of the Sea, which is financed from a trust fund of voluntary contributions.

IX. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

69. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) assisted developing Governments during 1989 in carrying out human settlements, needs assessments and in the planning, appraisal and implementation of human settlements projects and programmes funded by UNDP, national Governments, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, and in funds-in-trust at the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

70. In 1989, UNCHS (Habitat) was executing 251 technical co-operation projects in 99 countries. Ninety projects were in the least developed countries (LDCs). UNCHS (Habitat) technical co-operation activities have grown significantly over the last five years, from 163 projects with a current year budget of \$15.5 million in 1985, to 251 projects with a current year budget of over \$28 million in 1989. Close to 70 per cent of the financing for these projects came from UNDP; 20 per cent was government and third-party cost-sharing; 5 per cent was funds-in-trust; and 5 per cent came from the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (mainly for preparatory assistance to mobilize other sources of financing).

71. UNCHS (Habitat) activities help Governments create and strengthen self-reliant development management capacity at both national and local levels. Capacity-building focuses on the assessment of human settlements development constraints and opportunities; the identification and analysis of policy options; the design and management of human settlement development interventions, and the mobilization of national as well as external resources to increase the impact of investments for upgrading human settlements conditions. This capacity-building process includes not the public sector, but community organizations, universities and national research institutions. Increased emphasis is also on information technologies to strengthen government data management and analytical capacities in human settlements management.

72. The New Agenda for Human Settlements, adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements in 1987, and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly in December 1988, alerted decision makers in many countries to the critical need to bring human settlements management into the mainstream of national development planning. As a result, UNCHS (Habitat)

technical co-operation activities in support of national settlements policies and strategies expanded significantly in 1989. The analysis of high-priority human settlements policy issues and assistance in strategy formulation were the main focus of 46 projects in 27 countries.

73. In 1989, UNCHS (Habitat) worked with 25 developing countries on 29 settlements-planning projects. These projects have shifted from traditional land use and master planning to a more pragmatic and multi-sectoral approach in which planning is a continuous, adaptive process. In this approach, spatial planning is combined with infrastructure programmes and investment planning linked to resource mobilization and human resource development.

74. Strategies for community participation in shelter improvements and the dissemination of policy lessons from pilot projects was the focus of 51 projects in 40 countries in 1989. Budgets of these shelter and community services projects totalled \$7.8 million, making this the largest UNCHS (Habitat) programme. The commitment of UNCHS (Habitat) to TCDC promoted the quick cross-fertilization of the latest ideas and lessons on shelter policies and strategies, enhancing replicability of successful approaches.

75. UNCHS (Habitat) supported 15 projects during 1989 aimed at strengthening the indigenous construction sector in 15 developing countries. Work focused on developing appropriate standards and technologies to encourage the use and production of locally available building materials and on reducing building costs.

76. The promotion of efficient infrastructure for human settlements was the focus of 10 projects in nine countries in 1989. These projects address environmental problems caused by inadequate water supply and refuse collection and the lack of sanitation and drainage. A major new focus under this programme is strategies to improve urban infrastructure in developing countries.

77. UNCHS (Habitat) supported eight projects in eight countries during 1989 which were focused on critical land management issues.

78. In 1989, UNCHS (Habitat) was supporting seven projects in four countries aimed at mobilizing finance for human settlements development. Through many other projects, UNCHS (Habitat) also promoted a better understanding of the direct linkages between human investments and economic growth and productivity. UNCHS (Habitat) seeks opportunities to link its project identification and preparation activities with the loan operators of multilateral development banks. During 1987 and 1988, investment commitments related to human settlements projects were \$1.063 billion and \$1.966 billion respectively (the third highest of any United Nations sector).

79. In its largest sub-programme, human settlement institutions and management, UNCHS (Habitat) was executing 85 projects in 58 countries in 1989 with budgets totalling over \$10 million (a little more than one third of the total UNCHS (Habitat) 1989 technical co-operation programme). Many new projects focus on strengthening the municipal and regional levels of Governments. In the face of rapid urban growth, the ability of cities to continue to perform their economic

functions and to improve living standards depends on proper infrastructure and municipal services which, in turn, depend on local governments and effective urban management. UNCHS (Habitat) has joined forces in this regard with UNDP and the World Bank in a major interregional programme for urban management. The first phase of this programme covers land management, infrastructure operations and maintenance, municipal finance, environmental issues in urban management and capacity-building. The programme has strong support from donors and has elicited many requests for assistance from developing countries.

80. As in previous years, Regular Budget funds financed special advisory services and training with emphasis on LDCs. In 1989, 28 missions were undertaken on building materials and low cost construction technology, on human settlements data management and on housing finance mechanisms.

81. Through the UNCHS/World Food Programme (WFP) Co-ordinator, UNCHS (Habitat) continued to provide technical support to WFP in the identification, formulation and evaluation projects which have a bearing on human settlements, especially on housing, infrastructure and community services. UNCHS (Habitat) is also working with the Government of Finland, as in previous years, in support of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. The preparatory assistance phase has been completed in five countries and is ongoing in Indonesia. The main phase towards the formulation of a national shelter strategy is in progress in Costa Rica, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and is expected to commence in Nicaragua, the Philippines and Indonesia during the first half of 1990. A strategy formulation training package was also provided for Malaysia. The entire programme has recently been extended through 1991 with \$1.5 million provided by the Government of Finland. Strong linkages between World Bank lending programmes and UNCHS (Habitat) technical co-operation activities exist in countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan.

X. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

82. The year 1989 was highlighted by the technical assistance provided by the Centre to countries which have recently relaxed restrictions to foreign investment and which have requested expertise in investment policies, in structuring régimes for investments in specific sectors and in drafting model contracts and agreements. Technical assistance was also initiated in countries of Eastern Europe as they move to a more liberalized approach to foreign investments. This approach, which has characterized the relationship in the 1980s between host developing countries and transnational corporations, was reflected in the types of assistance requested by host developing countries in their efforts to attract more appropriate investments and much needed technologies. During 1989, the Centre has provided advisory assistance to boards of investments or central planning units of several developing countries in the formulation, review and re-formulation of investment policies, laws and regulations. The Centre also continued to provide expertise in the development of natural resources. In 1989, the Centre was instrumental in bringing about contractual agreements between host Governments and transnational corporations which are expected to lead to sizeable investment commitments and monetary gains for the host countries. Finally, the Centre increased technical assistance to economic integration efforts among several subregional economic groups.

83. During the period under review, the Centre completed or initiated 120 advisory and information projects. Of these, 14 were regional or sub-regional projects and the rest were provided to 44 individual developing countries. Among them, 65 were in 25 African countries, 42 were in 15 countries in the Asia and Pacific region, and 13 were in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

84. Fifty-six per cent of advisory and information services in 1989 were related to the formulation of foreign investment régimes. Forty-four per cent related to specific contractual arrangements with transnational corporations, particularly at the negotiation stage. In Africa 54 per cent and in Latin America 92 per cent of the projects were in the first category. In the Asia and Pacific region, however, more than half of the projects dealt with specific contractual arrangements.

85. Of the 120 projects completed or initiated, 30 related to general issues, while 20 projects were on hardrock mining, 16 on tourism and other services and 20 pertained to petroleum. A significant number of projects dealt with technology transfer, manufacturing and the forestry, agriculture and fisheries sectors.

86. During 1989, the Centre implemented 30 training projects consisting of 20 workshops and 10 study tours and fellowships. A fourth of the workshops held were in the services sector, including financial issues and tourism. Other workshops dealt with contractual agreements in the natural resources sector, technology transfer, toxic/hazardous waste regulations and agreements, investment evaluations, export processing zones, accounting and reporting and general issues on joint venture agreements. In the 10 study tours and fellowships arranged by the Centre, 21 grants were provided to officials from Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, Thailand and Zimbabwe. Places of assignment included Brazil, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and institutions based in developed countries. Training covered such areas as general foreign investment issues, capital market development, investment promotion, investment appraisal and technology transfer.

87. The Centre's support to institutions of higher learning in developing countries has developed syllabuses in Economics, Business Administration and Law on transnational corporation matters. The experience gained in the above programme to universities in Asia has been transferred to Africa and plans are under way to introduce the programme to universities in Latin America and the Caribbean. A number of universities in Asia, including the universities of Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and the South Pacific, are now implementing the curriculum on transnational corporations. Although the programme is still at the introductory phase in Africa, the Universities of Lagos and Ile Ife in Nigeria have started implementing the curriculum. Interregional seminars for university faculty members are planned for early 1990, to be followed by intensified implementation of the programme in Asia and Africa and introductory phases in Latin America and the Caribbean.

XI. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

88. In 1989, expenditure under technical co-operation activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reached the record level of about \$19 million, representing an increase of some 50 per cent over the 1988 level.

89. The overriding objectives of UNCTAD technical co-operation have remained the strengthening of national capacities for the formulation and implementation of national and international policies, strategies, measures and instruments for the development of international trade, the promotion of a better functioning of the international economic system in support of national development and the enhancement of ECDC.

90. UNCTAD sought to promote these objectives by linking operational activities as far as possible with the research and analytical work of the secretariat. The secretariat has attempted to make the corpus of the policy initiatives, knowledge, expertise and data developed by UNCTAD available to developing countries for use in building up their national and collective capacities. At the same time, the interlinkage between normative and operational activities enables the secretariat to use its technical operation arm as a source of feedback for the identification of (a) areas for improvement and (b) issues for further research and analysis, as well as for intergovernmental consideration.

91. Within the international trade programmes, 1989 was a year of intensive activity for UNDP-financed projects which assist developing countries in participating effectively in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations through studies and seminars/workshops on the issues involved. Steps have also been taken to distribute a software system, Software for Market Analysis and Restrictions to Trade (SMART), developed jointly by UNCTAD and the World Bank, which is geared to the needs of national trade policy analysts of developing countries. All of these projects are aimed at creating and extending the permanent negotiating capabilities of developing countries in trade matters.

92. Technical co-operation also continued to help developing countries benefit from the various schemes offered under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). Advisory services, regional and national seminars addressed GSP as well as other trade laws. In 1989, UNCTAD responded to increasing requests from developing countries for assistance in studying and developing the service sector of their economies. Several projects which continued under the Advisory Service on Transfer of Technology focused on human resources development and institution-building in the area of transfer and development of technology. As regards technical co-operation with interested developing countries to expand their trade with socialist countries in Eastern Europe, seminars and workshops in 1989 have addressed the implications of the new reforms in the foreign trade systems and external economic relations of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries.

93. Under the resources for development programmes, assistance was carried out within the framework of the debt management and financial analysis system. In 1989, an improved software version of this system was introduced. Increased

attention was given to supporting government efforts to strengthen the administrative and institutional environment in offices which deal with national debt. Since 1981, a total of 26 developing countries have benefited from the use of this system.

94. Technical co-operation activities of the Special Programme for Least Developed land-locked and island developing countries reached a particularly high level in 1989 as a result of two factors: (a) UNCTAD assisted LDCs in their preparations for the 1990 United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; (b) the Special Programme, jointly with the Shipping Division, implemented two large-scale projects in southern and west/central Africa to support the Governments of land-locked countries and their transit neighbours in improving transit-transport arrangements.

95. In the field of insurance and re-insurance, there were seven ongoing projects in 1989.

96. As regards commodities, contributions from the Governments of Switzerland and Italy provided an impetus to UNCTAD assistance in 1989 to food-importing developing countries to improve their import management and policies in the context of national food plans, and to reduce the foreign exchange costs of food imports. In 1989, two interregional preparatory assistance projects promoted the processing and the commercialization of commodities, respectively. UNCTAD was also asked to support the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to undertake an in-depth assessment of the issue of African commodities and the scope for export diversification. This group started its work in 1989 and should conclude it in early 1990.

97. Although an increasing number of technical co-operation activities in ECDC countries are being carried out by regional and subregional institutions, UNCTAD continued to implement 10 projects in 1989 to enhance developing country efforts in this area, with special reference to the Global System of Trade Preferences, monetary and financial co-operation and enhancing the contribution of the enterprise sector to ECDC.

98. Maritime and multimodal transport remained a main focus of the UNCTAD technical co-operation programme. This area covers interlinked activities related to the management and operations of ports, shipping, multimodal transport, maritime legislation and training on maritime issues. In 1989, 35 projects focused on improving transport chain operations. In addition, an evaluation was made of the TRAINMAR programme, the results of which will guide future activities.

99. Technical co-operation in data management expanded rapidly in 1989. Activities continue to improve and disseminate the data base on trade control measures and to support simplification of trade procedures. There has been an increased demand for demonstration and implementation of the automatic system customs data system developed by UNCTAD. Progress in software development and assistance to developing countries in implementing the system and in training users has been made possible by funding from UNDP and bilateral donors.

XII. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

100. Almost all UNEP substantive units provide technical assistance to developing countries. The technical co-operation programme allocation of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1988-1989 was \$4.3 million, of which \$3.0 million was allocated in 1989. UNEP provided advisory services and fellowships to developing countries through its regional offices and institutional support to several Governments.

101. Following the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in 1985, the Cairo Action Plan called for the establishment or strengthening of eight regional networks made up of national institutions in: (a) environmental monitoring; (b) climatology; (c) soils and fertilizers; (d) water resources; (e) energy; (f) education and training; (g) genetic resources and (h) science and technology. Further, the Conference decided to establish four committees to deal with the following four main areas of environmental concern which coincide with the four major African ecosystems: (a) deserts and arid lands; (b) river and lake basins; (c) forests and woodlands; and (d) seas. During 1989, UNEP continued to provide the Secretariat of the Conference, in close co-operation with ECA and OAU. The third session of AMCEN, held in Nairobi from 10-12 May 1989, requested that UNEP continue to support the implementation of the Cairo Action Plan.

102. The sixth ministerial meeting on the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia on 30-31 March 1989, requested that UNEP initiate, in consultation with the Governments of the region, the formulation of an Action Plan for the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean. This will be presented to the seventh ministerial meeting in October 1990.

103. The International Environmental Information System (INFOTERRA) continued to promote national information infrastructure through the establishment of INFOTERRA national focal points in participating countries. In each country, environmental institutions able and willing to provide their expert knowledge have been included in the INFOTERRA data base. 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 in the provision of information. INFOTERRA is co-ordinating these activities through four corresponding networks.

104. A major priority in the work of INFOTERRA during 1989 was an increased provision of substantive information. Two new special sectoral sources were added, bringing the total to 28. INFOTERRA continued the operation of nine regional service centres. The number of INFOTERRA sources was increased by 340, bringing the total to 6,250. Three additional countries joined the INFOTERRA network, resulting in a total of 137. The emphasis on improved user services has resulted in 16,050 queries answered in 1989, an increase of 6 per cent over the previous year. Over half of these queries were received from developing countries and the majority were given substantive information in the form of publications, legislation, specially prepared reports, or bibliographic information from relevant data bases.

105. UNEP provides technical assistance to interested Governments for the formulation of national plans and programmes for combating desertification and for the establishment of networks as a mechanism for mobilizing regional and subregional actions for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Related support includes training, assessment of desertification, establishment of data bases and provision of technical information.

106. 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. 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 on behalf of UNEP in 22 Sudano-Sahelian countries. By the end of 1989, the UNSO-supported programme of desertification control consisted of some 67 ongoing projects with a total funding of over \$100 million.

107. The computerized central files of the International Register for Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) continued to be updated and expanded to a larger number of chemicals. Fairly complete data profiles now exist for over 600 chemicals of international concern. Priorities for further development are based on the needs identified in relation to the implementation of the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade. During 1989, one country appointed a second national correspondent to IRPTC, bringing the total to 119 national correspondents from 111 countries. The IRPTC query-response service continued to receive queries on chemicals from national authorities, academia, industry, NGOs and interested individuals. Half of the 421 queries in 1989 came from developing countries.

108. Transfer of technical information by the Industry and Environment Office of UNEP (IEO) is complementary to that carried out by INFOTERRA and IRPTC. During 1988/1989, a query-response service provided information to more than 500 requests, of which over 70 per cent came from developing countries. Technical co-operation activities continue to assist countries with specific problems or issues. IEO provides consultants to developing countries or arranges for study tours or familiarization programmes in industrialized countries. Technical assistance is financially supported by Governments and industries of developed countries who make their expertise available at no cost.

109. The UNEP clearing house mechanism, which helps developing countries find bilateral donor aid to deal with urgent environmental problems, assisted 10 developing countries (Mozambique, Yemen, Viet Nam, Philippines, Chad, Nepal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Rwanda, Maldives). The clearing house also found funding for two regional workshops on hazardous waste management, held in Bangkok and in Bahrain, and for preparing a technical co-operation project for African lusophone countries.

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