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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF AMERICAN STATESReport of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 October 1987, the General Assembly adopted resolution **42/11** on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (**OAS**), in which the Assembly, inter alia, invited the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for promoting and expanding co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and OAS in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations for the attainment of their **common** objectives: and requested him, in close co-ordination with the Secretary-General of OAS, to promote meetings between representatives of the two organizations for the purpose of holding consultations on policies, projects, measures and procedures that would facilitate and broaden co-operation between them.

2. The General Assembly also urged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations **system** to collaborate with the Secretary-General in the submission and follow-up of proposals designed to intensify and expand co-operation in all spheres between the United Nations **system** and OAS and its **specialized** agencies: and to initiate, maintain and increase consultations with the specialized agencies, organizations and related programmes of OAS responsible for development projects for the purpose of co-operating with them in the attainment of their objectives.

3. On 22 January 1988, letters transmitting the above resolution were sent, on behalf of the Secretary-General, to the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation (**ILO**), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Universal Postal Union (**UPU**), International Telecommunication Union (**ITU**), World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**), International Maritime Organization (**IMO**), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (**IFAD**), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (**UNIDO**), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Similar letters were also sent to the following: United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**), United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations University (UNU), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations Centre for Human **Settlements** (Habitat), United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Council (**WFC**), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (**INSTRAW**).

4. The present report outlines the measures taken to implement the provisions of resolution 42/11. Section II provides a brief **account** of consultations between **representatives** of the two organizations. Section III sets out the replies received from the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations **system** concerning co-operation between the United Nations and OAS.

II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAS and their representatives collaborated closely, during the period of its functioning, as members of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission established under the Procedure for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America, signed at Guatemala City on 7 August 1987, commonly referred to as the Esquipulas II agreement, 1/. In October 1987, in conformity with its mandate of verifying and monitoring fulfilment of the commitments set forth in the agreement, and in response to the request made by the other members of the Commission, the two Secretaries-General decided to dispatch a joint preliminary technical mission to evaluate the requirements for possible on-site inspection of the compliance by the five Central American countries of their commitments as regards security. The mission, after visiting the five Central American countries in October and after a second round of consultations in November with the representatives of the Central American Governments, submitted two reports for the consideration of the International Commission,

6. The Secretary-General of the United Nations reviewed developments in Central America with the Secretary-General of OAS, in the context of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings of the International Commission, held respectively on 28 September 1987 in New York, on 7 November 1987 in Washington and on 4 December 1987 in New York.

7. At the invitation of OAS, a delegation from the United Nations Secretariat attended in an observer capacity the seventeenth regular session of the General Assembly of OAS held in Washington from 9 to 14 November 1987,

8. Contacts have been maintained throughout the rest of the year between the two Secretaries-General or their representatives on matters of mutual interest to the two organizations.

III. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

9. There are no joint activities between the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and OAS and the specialized agencies,

B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

10. The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has no co-operation arrangements with OAS at this time.

C. United Nations Development Programme

11. The Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP and OAS have been involved in joint efforts to assist the development of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean since the inception of UNDP. This collaboration has been intense in various fields, including science and technology, development planning and critical poverty. This collaboration has concentrated mainly on co-ordinating assistance under technical co-operation projects. Some prevailing legal constraints do not as yet permit cost-sharing arrangements that could enhance mutual co-operation.

12. Consultations and co-operation between the Regional Bureau and OAS have recently gained a new momentum with the drawing up of the special plan of economic co-operation for Central America requested by the General Assembly in resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987 and 42/204 of 11 December 1987, which will provide a more fruitful support to the economic development of the region and open new avenues for co-operation (see also A/42/949). UNDP is also in consultation with OAS institutions in the region, such as the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences (IICA), to undertake joint projects, including a regional project for the application of technological innovation in agriculture in Central America.

13. UNDP will participate in the Regional Conference on Critical Poverty organised by OAS at Cartagena, Colombia, in August 1988.

D. United Nations University

14. UNU has no co-operation arrangements with OAS, although it has undertaken a number of programme activities, notably in Latin America and the Caribbean, including a major project on "Latin American perspectives" and a project on "Technological capacity and prospective in the Third World: the case of Latin America". This will be followed by a new project on "High technology in Latin America year 2000". UNU has also recently concluded an agreement with the Government of Venezuela concerning a biotechnology programme for Latin America and the Caribbean.

15. Consultations are to be held with the secretariat of OAS as soon as possible to discuss potential areas of co-operation.

E. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

16. Since the establishment of ECLAC 40 years ago, it has been the wish of the Governments of the region to ensure efficient co-ordination among the organizations operating in the economic and social fields in Latin America and the Caribbean. Article 9 of the terms of reference of ECLAC states:

"The Commission shall co-operate with and take the necessary measures to co-ordinate its activities with the appropriate organs of the Inter-American System in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort between those

organs and itself; to this end the Commission is empowered to, and shall seek to, make working arrangements with the appropriate organs of the Inter-American System regarding the joint or independent study or execution of economic problems within its competence and the fullest exchange of information necessary for the co-ordination of efforts in the economic field. The Commission shall invite the Organisation of American States and other regional bodies to nominate a representative to attend meetings of the Commission in a consultative capacity,"

17. Throughout the years, OAS, along with other organisations at the regional and world levels, has played an active part in the sessions of ECLAC as well as in other meetings of various kinds sponsored by the Commission. In addition, the ECLAC secretariat has collaborated with these organisations by attending meetings and frequently making written or oral contributions on topics related to the Commission's programme of work,

18. During the 1950s, the ECLAC office in Washington was established in order, among other things, to provide a link between the Commission and OAS.

19. As the field of activity of OAS covers a broad spectrum of topics, whose priority changes with time, it is to be expected that, during ECLAC's 40 years of existence, relations between the two institutions have evolved in accordance with the greater or lesser emphasis placed by the former's programme of work at any given moment on economic and social affairs, which constitute the Commission's field of action,

20. In recent years co-ordination has been reflected in the increasingly active participation by ECLAC in meetings convened by OAS, and in particular in those at which economic and social affairs have been considered. Particular mention should be made of meetings dealing with international trade issues held within the framework of the Special Committee for Consultation and Negotiation (CECON) and meetings concerned with development issues held within the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. In addition, ECLAC has followed with interest new OAS activities, such as those which led to the establishment of the Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse (CICAD), and has taken part in the meetings held in connection with such activities.

21. Co-operation between the two institutions has also been reflected in the preparation of documents such as the one entitled "Algunas tendencias y políticas en el comercio internacional de América Latina y el Caribe" [Some trends and policies in international trade in Latin America and the Caribbean] (E/CEPAL/L.290), which was submitted to a specialized conference of OAS, and the document on technical co-operation in statistics prepared jointly by ECLAC and OAS and submitted to the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas, held in September 1987, for the consideration of its participants.

22. Mention should also be made of joint activities such as the training programme carried out as part of the project on the development of the national statistical system in Guyana (GUA/84/015).

23. As for the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), as part of the ECLAC system, it has in recent years co-operated regularly with OAS both in the sphere of population and development and in that of demography and teaching. It has also collaborated with the regional organisation within the Information System for Planning in Latin America (INFOPAL).

24. In the area of population and development, CELADE has performed a number of co-ordination and assessment missions in connection with the inter-American course on migration held in 1985 and the course on internal or international migration held in 1986.

25. In the field of demography it has co-operated with the Inter-American Statistical Training Centre (CIENES) and participated in the Ninth Inter-American Statistical Conference held at Rio de Janeiro in September 1986. In addition, staff members of the Inter-American Centre for Social Development (CIDES), CIENES and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IIE) have taken part in a number of census evaluation workshops organized by CELADE.

26. Finally, the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) is working in conjunction with OAS in carrying out a regional programme to strengthen co-operation between headquarters and national information for development systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOLAC). The main aim of this programme is to enhance both the autonomy and the individual and joint capacity of national institutions in the region to set up and run mechanisms for organizing and providing access to the "information resource". Responsibility for the technical secretariat of INFOLAC has been offered by ECLAC, working in conjunction with OAS and UNESCO.

F. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

27. INSTRAW has on several occasions been in contact with the Inter-American Commission for Women (CIM) in charge of women's programmes within OAS.

28. Consultations have been held between INSTRAW and CIM with a view to developing joint activities. It is hoped that the newly restructured women's unit within OAS will permit a more active co-operation.

29. In addition, INSTRAW has provided inputs for the Secretary-General's special plan of economic co-operation for Central America (A/42/949),

G. World Food Programme

30. WFP has no co-operation arrangement with OAS as such, but countries belonging to OAS receive WFP assistance, both for development projects and emergency operations.

31. **WFP assistance to OAS countries is substantial: as at 14 April 1988, there was a total of 63 ongoing development projects in 20 member countries, at a total cost to WFP of \$US 491,857,923. In addition there are at present 21 ongoing operations in seven member countries at a total cost to WFP of \$US 43,259,541.**

H. International Labour Organisation

32. **Relations between ILO and OAS exist within the framework of the terms of collaboration agreed upon between the Director-General of ILO and the Secretary-General of OAS at a meeting held at Lima in November 1978 on the occasion of the Sixth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour,**

33. **Areas of co-operation include information and consultation; reciprocal participation in conferences, technical meetings, courses and seminars, as well as assistance in preparing and holding such events, where necessary; and assistance and mutual support in technical co-operation activities,**

34. **The development of relations between ILO and OAS is examined and directed at co-ordination meetings, three of which have already been held, and which will be resumed as soon as circumstances allow,**

35. **As a result of collaboration between the two organisations, reciprocal participation of officials and experts of ILO and OAS in conferences and technical meetings has been intensified and expanded. In addition to the exchange of lecturers in courses and seminars, ILO and OAS scholarship holders have attended such events held under the auspices of one or the other organisation. At the request of OAS, ILO participated in drawing up working documents on labour relations, employment and labour administration submitted for consideration to the last Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour.**

36. **Joint technical co-operation between ILO and OAS has been carried out in Nicaragua and El Salvador since 1982 by the Inter-American Centre for Labour Administration (CIAT) of ILO and the Social Development, Manpower and Employment Division of OAS in the field of labour administration, productivity, labour inspection and labour statistics, in the form of research, studies, staff training and direct technical advice. Special attention was given to occupational safety and health, and OAS provided the service of a specialist for one year to assist the ILO regional team at Lima. ILO has provided assistance requested in the field of labour migration by preparing documents and participating in specialized seminars and meetings organised by OAS.**

37. **In the field of human resources and employment, ILO contributed, through technical assistance provided by the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) and the participation of experts in three missions organized by OAS, to setting up employment-generating programmes in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama. The regional office of ILO has maintained a constant exchange of information with CIM, collaborating actively in several of its technical orientation and assistance missions.**

38. The most active collaboration in recent years **has** been in the field of activities relating to indigenous populations in America. In 1980, the regional office of ILO and the Inter-American Indian Institute (IAII) adopted a collaboration agreement, the terms of which have been satisfactorily fulfilled in every aspect: information and consultation, assistance and mutual support in respective projects, implementation of joint projects and a concerted approach at international meetings and forums on the subject.

39. The development of collaboration between ILO and the Institute is examined at co-ordination meetings held every year at Lima and Mexico alternately.

40. The most important results of this co-operation include the following: ILO support in the implementation of the five-year Inter-American Indian Action Plan: joint implementation of the research programme on traditional forms of social organization and economic activity within the indigenous population of the Andes (Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, 1982-1985); participation of the Director of the Institute in the Twelfth Conference of American States Members of ILO (Montreal, March 1985) and in the ILO Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107) (Geneva, September 1986); and joint technical co-operation in programme design and stepping up the activities of the Bolivian Indian Institute and the Indian Affairs Bureau in Ecuador.

41. **ILO** also provides support to the Institute in training activities in connection with its rural development programme for the indigenous population at Oaxaca, Mexico. Since 1987, ILO provided the services of an associate expert specialised in data processing to the Institute's library. In August 1988 the **Andean** Commission of Jurists is organising a workshop on human rights for indigenous peoples with assistance from **ILO**, and the Institute will provide joint support.

I. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

42. **FAO** has collaborated with OAS in joint missions to the Dominican Republic and Honduras during 1984-1985, together with other organisations, to determine the possibilities of generating employment and formulating appropriate policies, programmes and projects.

43. In addition, logistical **and** technical support was given to CIENES to implement an international training course on agri-livestock statistics: practical instructions on accounting applied to agriculture were also provided.

44. During the biennium 1986-1987, FAO, through its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, collaborated with OAS in activities related to **wildlands** and watershed management in **both** Latin America and the English-speaking Caribbean. Co-operation **has** taken **the** form of technical workshops and training courses. **FAO** participated in the **Specialized** Conference on Drug Trafficking (Rio de Janeiro, April 1987). It also participated in a multi-agency **mission** to Haiti to assist the Government in its efforts to promote employment-generation opportunities and to formulate specific projects in this field.

45. More recently, in January-February 1988, FAO participated in a Multinational Mission on Employment-Generating Projects in El Salvador. Previously, the Government of El Salvador had requested FAO assistance on price policies and diversification of agricultural exports. Particular emphasis was given to the diversification of peasant agriculture and less priority to the promotion of exports of new agricultural crops.

J. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

Education

46. OAS participated, as an observer, in the 2nd meeting of the regional intergovernmental committee of UNESCO on the major project in the field of education in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the sixth Regional Conference of Ministers of Education and Those Responsible for Economic Planning of Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Bogotá, in March/April 1987,

47. UNESCO is co-operating with OAS in the field of data processing in the service of education. Close co-operation is maintained with OAS under the Caribbean Network of Educational Innovation for Development (CARNEID) project,

48. In the field of higher education, there exist two possibilities for co-operation in the immediate future; (a) the inter-university Amazonian co-operation programme proposed by the Association of Amazonian Universities (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela); and (b) the OAS Educational Sciences Study Unit, based at Caracas, might co-operate with the Regional Centre for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean of UNESCO under the REDESLAC co-operative network for the pedagogical training of staff in higher education and educational researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Sciences

49. Scientific and technological policies: In July 1987, OAS and ECLAC (ILPES) jointly financed a Caribbean seminar on planning in the field of science and technology: problems and choices. The seminar was organised by the ECLAC Caribbean office and by UNESCO's Regional Office for Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean.

50. Earth sciences: Under the major project, "Geology from the perspective of economic development", an exchange programme has been established, enabling Brazilian scientists to work in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria in 1988, while Nigerian specialists went to Brazil in 1987,

51. Water sciences: Two activities are currently under discussion: (a) as its contribution to the UNESCO/International Hydrological Programme hydrogeological atlas, OAS is currently preparing a hydrological map of Saint Lucia. This co-operation could be extended to other projects; (b) OAS could provide support for the international colloquium on the development of hydrology and water-management, strategies in wet tropical zones.

52. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission: Collaboration could be promoted through improved information exchanges between OAS and IOC, in particular by more regular participation by the representatives of OAS in the meetings of the IOC Subcommission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions.

Social and human sciences

53. Human rights: Under programme XIII.3, Education for peace and respect for human rights and the rights of peoples, UNESCO is considering the organization of a human rights training seminar in co-operation with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, OAU and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights at Geneva (document 24 C/5, **para.** 13306). The experience acquired under the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights would be useful for other regions of the world.

54. Population: UNESCO is following an active population programme at the regional level and the Population and Human Settlements Division could co-operate with OAS in this connection.

K. International Civil Aviation Organization

55. ICAO co-operates with OAS through exchange of documentation and invitations to relevant **meetings** of each organization by the other. OAS is invited to the triennial sessions of the Assembly of ICAO. ICAO attends meetings convened by the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference of OAS that are of interest to **ICAO's** work programme in the field of aeronautical telecommunications. ICAO was also represented at the Inter-American Specialised Conference on Drug Traffic, convened by **OAS** in April 1986.

L. World Health Organization

56. By joining forces, both the United Nations system and the inter-American system have been able to respond more effectively to the needs of the health sector in the Americas without duplicating efforts, thus becoming an example of collaboration in the international arena.

57. The Pan American Health Organization (**PAHO**) is one of the world's oldest international health organizations. Composed of 38 member countries, **PAHO** serves as the regional co-ordinator of international health prevention and control activities throughout the Americas and assists individual countries in coping with health problems. It **works** closely with the countries' **ministries** of health, social security institutes and other national institutions in the health, education, agriculture and environment sectors.

58. When **WHO** was created in 1946, **PAHO's** constitution was revised and its objective was concisely defined: "to promote and co-ordinate efforts of the countries of the Western Hemisphere to combat disease, lengthen life, and promote the physical and mental health of the people". At the Directing Council of **PAHO** in 1947, it was agreed that **PAHO** would serve as the WHO Regional Office for the

Americas, while maintaining its own separate identity, PAHO was also recognised by OAS as the inter-American specialised organisation for health,

59. PAHO/WHO and its member countries have made great strides in recent decades towards improving the health of the people of the Americas. One of the most notable achievements came in 1973, when the region of the Americas became the first in the world to eradicate smallpox completely,

60. The other significant accomplishments of PAHO/WHO include: (a) the reduction by half of infant mortality rates between 1960 and 1980 through a series of intensified maternal and child health programmes in each country; (b) the initiation of a hemisphere-wide immunisation programme that has reduced the incidence of major childhood diseases as a prime cause of death in the Americas, and now aims to eradicate poliomyelitis from the continent; (c) the increase of life expectancy in the continent by working with countries to improve health conditions; (d) the assistance to countries of the region in providing safe water and basic sanitation, thus helping to reduce the incidence of many water- and food-borne diseases; and (e) the maintenance of a hemisphere-wide disease surveillance and control system for insect-borne diseases, manually transmitted diseases, communicable childhood diseases and others.

61. WHO also assisted countries in improving nutrition and reducing the incidence of diseases related to vitamin deficiencies; increasing food protection activities and maintaining food safety throughout the Americas and assisting countries to combat the epidemic of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) by providing information and assistance in setting up national AIDS prevention and control programmes.

62. WHO was instrumental in obtaining external financing for health activities in member countries and in helping them to develop their health institutions, services and research capabilities, as well as the training and use of health workers. It collaborated with OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank in the process of formulating and promoting the Programme of Social Investment for the Development of the Central American Isthmus. The PAHO/WHO contribution is based on the Central American Health Initiative, also known as "Health: A Bridge for Peace".

M. Universal Postal Union

63. Currently there are no co-operation arrangements between UPU and OAS. However, in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the UPU Constitution, the Union maintains active links of co-operation with the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS), the regional body responsible in the postal field. A co-operation agreement was concluded between UPU and PUAS in March 1985 for the sake of effective co-ordination of technical assistance activities on behalf of the postal development of the Latin American countries.

64. UPU attaches particular importance to strengthening co-operation with PUAS and endeavours to implement with that regional organisation, in the interests of the countries of Latin America, activities designed to improve and develop the postal services under its regular programme or through UNDP.

N. International Maritime Organization

Marine pollution prevention and control

65. A meeting of the smaller Caribbean islands on oil spill contingency planning was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 16 to 20 June 1980 at the invitation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The meeting was conceived and resources acquired through the joint efforts of OAS, the United States Man and the Biosphere Programme and IMO, with financial support provided by the United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**) and UNEP.

66. A **meeting** of government experts on subregional oil spill contingency planning for the island States and territories of the wider Caribbean region was held in Saint Lucia from 7 to 11 May 1984. The meeting was convened jointly by **OAS**, UNEP and IMO, with financial support provided by OAS, the Caribbean Trust Fund, administered by UNEP, **USAID** and the Swedish International Development Authority.

67. The purpose of the meeting was twofold: firstly, to review data submitted by individual island States and territories on the state of their oil spill preparedness: and secondly, in the light thereof, to develop a framework or plan under which the Governments might co-operate at the operational level in responding to major oil spill incidents.

Facilitation of maritime traffic

68. Contacts are in the process of being established between IMO and OAS in order to co-ordinate their programmes on facilitation of international maritime traffic. The IMO Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, amended, which is global in scope, was adopted after OAS drafted its Convention on Facilitation of a regional character. While in essence, there is great similarity between the two conventions, since the 1965 IMO Convention was drafted using the model of the OAS Convention on Facilitation, there is a need to harmonize small items and strategies for promoting full implementation of the Conventions in the American States.

Maritime search and rescue

69. OAS has adopted a Maritime Search and Rescue Manual of a regional character. IMO has adopted the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, and also the Merchant Ship Search and Rescue Manual (MERSAR) and the IMO Search and Rescue Manual. While there is great correspondence between the manual proposed by OAS and those adopted by IMO, there is a need to harmonize some aspects of these instruments.

O. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

70. Activities of GATT in areas of interest to OAS in 1987 have been closely linked to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, which was launched at the ministerial meeting held in September 1986 at Punta del Este and should last until the end of 1990.

71. These multilateral trade negotiations cover both trade in goods and trade in services, and are intended amongst other things, to bring about further liberalisation and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries, to strengthen the role of QATT and improve the multilateral trading system based on the principles and rules of GATT, and to increase the responsiveness of that system to the evolving international economic environment,

72. Following the adoption of the ministerial declaration, the structure of the negotiations and the negotiating plane were agreed on 28 January 1987. Since then, work has proceeded in all 15 negotiating groups, with the aim of fulfilling their programme for the so-called "initial phase" of the negotiation in December 1988, a meeting of the participating countries at the ministerial level, to be held at Montreal, will examine progress in the negotiations.

73. Nineteen countries members of OAS, which are Contracting Parties to QATT or have already started accession procedures, are participating in these negotiations. Developing countries that our members of OAS have shown particular interest in the negotiations relating to tropical products, agriculture, tariffs, non-tariff measures and trade in natural resource-based products, though the so-called "new issues" (i.e. services, trade-related investment measures and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, including counterfeit goods) have also attracted a great deal of attention,

74. Apart from activities related to the Uruguay Round, GATT is also pursuing the specific tasks allotted to its different committees, in particular to the Committee on Trade and Development, which keeps under review the application of the provisions of Part IV of the General Agreement and of the Enabling Clause regarding differential and more favourable treatment in favour of developing countries.

75. In the area of technical co-operation, QATT has pursued its assistance programme, inter alia, in the form of seminars and commercial policy courses. Several seminars have been organised in the developing countries members of OAS in the last year and a half: at the national level, in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala and three seminars at the regional level. These seminars, whether national or regional, aim at informing government officials and, in some instances, private sector representatives, of QATT activities and the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, as well as at assisting relevant developing countries towards preparation for, and completion of, the process of their accession to GATT.

76. In the field of training activities, each year the GATT secretariat organizes at Geneva one commercial policy course in English and one in French or Spanish, alternately, for officials from developing countries. Since early 1986, 59 officials from developing countries that are members of OAS and from regional organizations of these countries have participated in these courses.

Notes

1/ In conformity with article 10 of the Esquipulas II agreement (A/42/521-S/19085, *annex*), the International Verification and Follow-up Commission consisted of the Secretary-General of OAS, or his representative, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, or his representative, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of Central America and of the Contradora Group and its Support Group.
