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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 43/2 of 17 October 1988, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/498 an% Add.1) an% requested the United Nations an% the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to continue co-operation in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace an% security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonisation, fundamental human rights an% the establishment of a new international economic order.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their co-operation with OIC, particularly by negotiating co-operation agreements, an% invite them to multiply the contacts an% meetings of focal points for co-operation in priority areas of interest to the United Nations an% OIC. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen co-operation an% co-ordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system an% OIC, in order to serve their mutual interests in the political, economic, social an% cultural fields.

3. The General Assembly also recommended that a co-ordination meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations an% OIC should be organized during 1989 at a time and place to be determined through consultations with the organisations concerned; the Assembly also expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in the promotion of co-operation between the United Nations and OIC and expressed the hope that he would continue to strengthen mechanisms of co-operation between the two organizations.

II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

4. On 29 September 1988, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference held their annual co-ordination meeting at United Nations Headquarters to review items on the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, particularly those which were of great concern and interest to OIC. In response to an invitation from the Chairman, the Secretary-General designated the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship to attend the meeting on his behalf.

5. The meeting undertook an examination of the current international situation dealing, in particular, with issues concerning the Middle East and the question of Palestine, Afghanistan, the conflict between Iran and Iraq, South Africa and Namibia. The meeting reiterated the adherence of OIC to the holding of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983. The meeting expressed satisfaction at; the cessation of the conflict between Iran and Iraq and hoped the negotiations being conducted by the two sides under the auspices of the

Secretary-General of the United Nations for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) of 20 July 1987 and for a comprehensive settlement would be successful. The meeting also welcome% the signature of the Geneva Accords as a step towards a **comprehensive** settlement of the problem of Afghanistan and called for the establishment of a broad-based government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan.

6. On 15 November 1988, Mr. S. Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, whose term of office was due to conclude at the end of 1988, paid a farewell call to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York. Mr. Piraada **expressed** satisfaction on the **progress** achieved through the co-operation between the two organizations. They took the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern to the two organizations. The Secretary-General was **informed** that the incoming Secretary-General of OIC would be Mr. **Hamid Algabid**, a former Prime Minister of the Niger,

7. At the invitation of OIC and the Government of Saudi Arabia, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, **Decolonization** and Trusteeship represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Riyadh from 13 to 16 March 1989, and delivered a **message** on behalf of the Secretary-General to the Conference,

8. Representatives of OIC participated in the meetings of the Security Council and of the General Assembly, as well as the session of the General Assembly held at Geneva from 13 to 15 December 1988 and its resumed sessions **on** 14 February, 1 March and 18 April 1989.

9. The co-ordination meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations and OIC called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/2 is scheduled to be held at Geneva from 13 to 15 September 1989. The report of the meeting will be issued as an addendum to the present report.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD GENERAL MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

10. It may be recalled that the third general United Nations/OIC meeting, which took place at Geneva **in July** 1988 (see A/43/498/Add.1), discussed the proposals put forward by the focal points of the lead agencies and by the individual agencies and organizations of the United Nations and OIC. The meeting decided to continue co-operation between the two systems and agreed upon some conclusions and recommendations, particularly in relation to the seven priority areas of co-operation, namely, food security and agriculture, development of science and technology, investment mechanisms and joint ventures, education and eradication of illiteracy, assistance to refugees, technical co-operation and development of trade.

11. It should be recalled that the two organizations established seven priority areas as the basis for their co-operation and designated specific agencies and organizations on both sides to serve as the focal point for each priority area.

The United Nations designated the following agencies and organisations to **serve** as the focal points!

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Agency/organization</u>
Food security and agriculture	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Development of science and technology	Centre for Science and Technology for Development
Investment mechanisms and joint ventures	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
Education and eradication of illiteracy	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
Assistance to refugees	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Technical co-operation among Islamic countries	United Nations Development Programme
Development of trade	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

13. In the period under review, the agencies and **organizations** concerned have reported the following **action**.

A. Food security and agriculture

13. As follow-up action to strengthen co-operation, the Food and Agriculture **Organization** of the United Nations (FAO) undertook various activities in the following fields.

1. Meetings

14. Two senior officers from FAO attended the Third OIC Ministerial Meeting on Food and Agriculture held at Islamabad in October 1988. FAO participated actively at that meeting and presented the following three important **documents**.

15. Review of the food security situation in OIC member countries. The delegations expressed appreciation for this valuable contribution and stressed the need for periodic monitoring of the food security situation in the Islamic countries on the basis of empirical indicators so that timely corrective measures could be planned and implemented.

16. Increasing trade in food commodities among OIC member countries. The Conference appreciated the report prepared by FAO and expressed grave concern that the dependence of Islamic countries on imports for food commodities had shifted

from near self-sufficiency to a net deficit of **\$US** 16.6 billion per year. The delegates noted with satisfaction that the Standing Committee on Economic and Trade Co-operation had approved a number of measures and initiatives for expanding intra-Islamic food trade,

17. Identification of measures and policies necessary for increasing the production of livestock, including poultry and fisheries. The Conference commended **FAO** for its report and requested a similar study on the expansion of poultry and fish production for the next ministerial conference. It **also** recommended that a small working group of experts from member States be set up to assist the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries at Ankara in its work in connection with poultry and fish production.

2. Co-operation with the Islamic Development Bank

18. Two senior officers of **FAO** attended the Symposium on Food Security and Development in the Islamic World, organized by the Islamic Development Bank (**IsDB**) and held at Rabat in February 1989. **FAO** collaborated very closely with the keynote speaker of this important symposium.

19. Other important joint activities between **FAO** and **IsDB** include the following!

(a) **FAO** continued an earlier dialogue initiated by its headquarters mission of May 1987 on the established pipeline list of project ideas. At the request of **IsDB**, a detailed document covering a forestry project in the Niger in June 1988 was sent for appraisal. In this connection, it was recently learned that a Saudi firm, SAUDICONSULT, may execute the project, while **IsDB** would like **FAO** to consider another project in Chad;

(b) An **IsDB** mission visited **FAO** headquarters in May 1988 and reviewed the emergency programme regarding locusts with the **FAO** units concerned. Consequently, the Bank approved the sum of \$14 million to aid countries affected by locusts and grasshoppers and three regional bodies - the Joint Committee of Magreb Experts on Locust and Grasshopper Control, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa and the Joint Anti-Locust and Anti-Avarian Organization

(c) In February 1989, **FAD** seconded to **IsDB** a forestry development officer to assist an **IsDB** appraisal/formulation mission for a forestry development project in Senegal. **IsDB** reimbursed **FAO** \$5,300 for his services. The project itself could be of interest for **FAO** to execute;

(d) At the request of the Government.. of Indonesia, **FAO** fielded an appraisal/formulation mission for an investment project- supporting the development and further processing of rattan. The Government of Indonesia may submit this project to **IsDB** for funding and request **FAO** to execute its technical assistance component,

3. Agricultural sector analysis

20. During the period **under** review, a technical co-operation **project** to strengthen the capacity of OIC training institutions in agricultural sector **and project analysis** was implemented by **FAO** in conjunction with the **Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries**.

21. The project objectives were to strengthen **the** capacity of relevant institutions in OIC member countries for training in **agricultural sector and project analysis**, and to **promote** inter-country technical co-operation among training staff of agricultural development institutions. In pursuance of **these** objectives, two workshops for trainers were organized **covering** the computerised programmes developed by **FAO** for agricultural project analysis and **agricultural sector analysis** :

(a) The workshop on the **use of** the data analysis and simulation programme for agricultural project **analysis** took **place** from 26 September to 14 October 1986 at Ankara and was **attended** by 13 participants from 10 OIC member States. Follow-up activities at the national **level** have been initiated in Pakistan:

(b) **The** workshop on the **computerized** system for agricultural and population planning **assistance** and training was carried out from 20 March to 7 April 1989 at Ankara and was attended by 14 participants from 11 OIC member States.

4. Statistics

22. A statistical officer from **FAO** headquarters attended the following meetings:

(a) The First Conference of **Islamic Countries on Statistical Sciences**, held at **Lahore**, Pakistan, from 27 to 31 August 1988;

(b) The annual session of **the** Board of Governors of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics;

(c) The annual meeting of Heads of Statistics Departments of Arab Countries organized by the Council of Arab Economic Unity.

23. **FAO** publications (trade, production, fertilizer yearbooks) have been mailed to all OIC **member** countries. Statistical information and computer print-outs have also been forwarded to **member** countries.

5. Forestry

24. A pipeline project proposal for the forestry sector has been prepared for various OIC member countries for presentation to the Islamic Development Bank.

25. Assistance under the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, a multi-donor approach and conceptual framework to forestry sector development, which is co-ordinated by **FAO**, is being provided to 12 OIC member countries,

26. FAO, as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the **Transnational Green Belt Project** for North Africa, **continued** its technical support to this project and is participating in the sessions of the Committee.

27. A co-operative programme on reforestation and **desertification** control in arid zone for the Sudano-Sahelian and Near East regions was formulated and is being presented to countries for finalization.

28. FAO worked very closely with the Government of Indonesia on the preparation of a study entitled "Programme for the study of agricultural infrastructure in Islamic countries". Two senior officers visited Indonesia in order to discuss and **finalize** the terminal report on this important project. The report will soon be sent to OIC secretariat for distribution to its member States.

6. Information systems

29. Thirty-three OIC member countries participate in the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) and 33 in the Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS). They all benefit from the systems' outputs and services,

30. FAO continued to provide assistance upon request to Strengthen national and regional agricultural documentation capacities. Missions by FAO staff and consultants were carried out in nine countries and training at headquarters or in the field was provided to nationals from 11 countries,

31. Documentation projects are currently being executed in Benin, Cameroon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon and Uganda and at the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, at Khartoum. Two projects (in Sierra Leone and Yemen) were completed in 1988,

B. Development of science and technology

32. The Centre for Science and Technology for Development arranged an inter-agency mission to review the impact of the activities of the United Nations system in science and technology on Jordan, which was scheduled to take place from 3 to 8 June 1988. In addition, the Centre is implementing a project on the endogenous capacity building of Jordan in science and technology. A series of comprehensive analytical studies has been undertaken by the Higher Council for Science and Technology of Jordan, on behalf of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, designed to provide the background and basis for a notional policy dialogue among the stakeholders in the development process in Jordan. The dialogue was scheduled to take place at Amman on 11 and 12 June 1989. It was expected that a portfolio of activities in science and technology designed to enhance Jordan's endogenous capacities, ranked by priority, would emerge from the dialogue and provide the framework for national, bilateral and multilateral activities, including those of the next: country programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

33. The regional meeting took place at Amman from 5 to 9 March 1989 in the context of the **end-of-decade** review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action **on Science** and Technology for Development. The meeting was attended by a number of **experts** drawn from different countries of the west Asian region. The ideas and input **received** from this meeting have been used in preparing the end-of-decade review that will be considered by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its tenth session in August 1989.

34. The Executive Director of the Centre attended the meeting of the **Islamic Academy** of Sciences held at **Islamabad** in December 1988 **and** made a **statement on** the concept, of endogenous capacity building in science **and** technology.

C. Investment mechanisms and joint ventures

35. As the lead **agency** of the United Nations system in the field of investment mechanisms and joint ventures, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) **organized** a co-ordination meeting with the Islamic Development Bank on 18 and 19 July 1989 to **discuss** specific areas of co-operation between UNIDO and **IsDB in** OIC member countries. The meeting served as a preparatory meeting of focal points of the United Nations lead agencies scheduled to take place in Vienna on 3 and 4 August 1989. On 2 August, UNIDO **organized** a meeting with **representatives of other** United Nations system agencies to **prepare** for the meeting of the lead agencies.

36. As a follow-up to the meeting held in 1987 at Istanbul, organized jointly by UNIDO and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industry and Commodity Exchange for the promotion of co-operation and joint ventures between selected OIC member countries, another meeting will be **organized** by UNIDO **in** close co-operation with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and **IsDB**. The 1987 meeting brought together over 200 participants from 23 OIC members and 17 financial institutions of OIC members, and resulted in the identification of 79 joint venture agreements at a value of over \$500 million (see sect. V).

D. Education and eradication of illiteracy

37. In accordance with the recommendations relating to education and eradication of illiteracy, a specialist in technical and vocational education from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) attended a meeting at Bangladesh related to the establishment of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research and supplied the Centre with a selection of documents and studies produced by UNESCO on technical and vocational education.

38. UNESCO has designed a regional project to introduce informatics in education in Arab countries, and seven countries of the region have confirmed their willingness to participate. The project has been submitted to UNDP for approval. Similarly, national projects are being worked out for the Syrian Arab Republic and Egypt. Within the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme of UNESCO, a project is being implemented in Algeria and Mali. During the International Congress on the

topic "Education and informatics", held in Paris from 12 to 21 April 1989, several activities were **suggested** especially for the Arab region with regard to the implementation of new **information** technologies and the pace of implementation. The Congress concluded that such activities should be based on a needs analysis that should take into consideration the country's social, economic and **cultural conditions**.

E. Assistance to refugees

39. Pursuant to **recommendations** and within the spirit of the agreement of co-operation signed ~~between~~ the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and OIC, a senior-level delegation from UNHCR participated in the **Eighteenth** Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Riyadh from 13 to 16 March 1989. During the **deliberations** of the organisation's commission for political affairs, the refugee question was discussed at length. Consideration was given to issues relating to the situation of the refugees *in* the Islamic World and the provision to them of protection and assistance, as well as assistance provided to countries hosting refugees, and reinforcement of co-operation between OIC member countries and UNHCR (see sect. V).

40. A resolution on refugees, the role of UNHCR and co-operation between UNHCR and OIC was **discussed** and adopted by the Conference. The resolution urged **members** to pursue the co-ordination of their activities and co-operation with UNHCR.

F. Technical co-operation

41. The Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) exercised its focal point role for technical co-operation among Islamic countries in three different **ways**: first, by involving relevant specialised agencies in the Unit's programming exercises for Islamic and developing **countries**; second, by sharing with the subsidiary bodies of the OIC catalytic support for technical co-operation activities in both Islamic and developing **countries**; and third, by continuing to expand information on the technical **assistance** capacities of institutions in developing countries (including those in **Islamic** countries) *in* the **computerized** data base of the Unit's Information Referral System (INRES South) and **making** the information available to would-be users on request.

42. In 1988, two Islamic countries, Egypt and Pakistan, undertook programming **exercises** *in* technical co-operation for development. The Egyptian **exercise** involved technical co-operation in different social and economic **sectors** with 14 developing **countries**, 7 of which were Islamic countries in the African region. The exercise resulted in agreements on more than 300 projects of technical co-operation between Egypt and the participating countries. In the same year, Pakistan organized its programming exercise in the field of industry and science with 20 developing countries, of which 12 were Islamic countries, resulting in 148 projects of technical co-operation between Pakistan and the participating developing countries. The UNDP Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing

Countries assisted in both exercises and enlisted the participation of several organisations of the United Nations system, as well as the Islamic Development Bank.

43. During the year, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, in co-operation with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, organised a seminar on investment analysis and economic management held at Lahore, Pakistan, from 4 to 29 December 1988. The seminar was aimed at improving the investment analysis and economic management skills of senior executives involved in making investment decisions and those concerned with project management. The Institute and the Centre shared the local expenses and the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of UNDP funded the cost of international travel for participants from eight Islamic countries.

44. In the latter part of 1988, the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, together with IsDB and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries commenced programming for technical co-operation among Islamic countries in the field of food security and agricultural development among the 43 OIC members. The exercise, expected to be completed during 1990, should result in the formulation of a substantial number of projects to be supported by UNDP and IsDB.

45. As of December 1988, the INRES South Information Referral System of the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries had, in its computerised data base, information on the technical assistance capacities of about 4,000 multi-sectoral institutions of more than 100 developing countries, many of which were Islamic countries. The information from this data base is available to all users on request.

G. Development of trade

46. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) undertook follow-up action in the area of technology within the framework of a co-operative project funded by IsDB. The project was aimed at strengthening the technological capacity of Islamic countries with technological assistance provided through IsDB to supplement national initiatives for technology. Under this project, a seminar on technology selection, acquisition and negotiations was held at Kuala Lumpur in December 1988 for 15 member countries of OIC. The seminar was intended to assist officers who deal with the economic, commercial, development and administrative aspects of technology acquisition (see sect. V).

IV. CO-OPERATION IN THE POLITICAL FIELD

A. Political and security-related matters

47. The Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers reaffirmed earlier decisions and undertook new initiatives with regard to various aspects of the situation in the Middle East, in particular the Palestinian question, the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in Afghanistan, as well as other political issues of concern to

OIC members with which the United Nations is also currently **seized**, namely, support for the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations,

48. The **Conference** declared its recognition of the **independent** Palestinian State and reiterated the need for a speedy convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations. The **Conference** expressed **great** satisfaction at the ending of the fighting between Iran and Iraq and hoped that both parties would redouble their **efforts** to implement Security Council resolution **598** (1987) of 20 July 1987 to reach a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. The **Conference** also welcomed the **Geneva** Accords as an important step **towards** a political solution to the Afghanistan question and hailed the completion of the withdrawal of Soviet **forces** from Afghanistan. It also invited the representatives of the Afghan Mujahidin to occupy the seat of the State of Afghanistan in OIC, which had been vacant since 1980.

49. The **Conference** expressed its deep **satisfaction** at the commencement of the implementation of the United Nations **plan** for the independence of Namibia. It reaffirmed the legitimacy of the **heroic** struggle waged by the people of South Africa against the policies of **apartheid** of the minority **régime** in Pretoria. The **Conference** urged members to give priority consideration to the critical economic situation in the African countries of the Sahel with a view to strengthening their economies.

50. The **Conference** reaffirmed the commitment of the member to the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations to safeguard international peace and security. It expressed its support for the international efforts exerted within the framework of the United Nations to achieve complete and general disarmament.

51. The **Conference** reaffirmed its support for the unity and territorial integrity of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros and its sovereignty over the Comorian island of **Mayotte**. It urged the States of the Horn of Africa to continue the contacts they have started in order to resolve existing problems between them through peaceful means,

52. The **Conference** expressed its deep concern at the plight of millions of refugees throughout the world and urged member countries to co-ordinate their actions at the international level to help solve the refugee problems.

53. The **Conference** noted with satisfaction the growing co-operation between the United Nations and OIC in various fields and requested the **Secretary-General** of OIC to continue to work for the expansion of such co-operation, which is to the mutual interest of the two organisations.

54. During the period under review, the **Security Council** co-operated with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, in response to the latter's request to the Council to address several items under consideration, such as the situation on the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and all issues relating to the Islamic world.

B. Outer space

55. The Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs has co-operated with OIC on regional and international meetings, training courses and workshops organised under the auspices of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

56. During the period, technical advisory services were carried out in Nigeria at the request of the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Survey and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and in collaboration with the regional remote-sensing centres in Africa.

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

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

57. In the context of its activities in the projections and perspective studies area, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has considerable technical expertise in the development of national econometric models, which can be utilised by member countries of OIC in analysing their economic outlook and evolution of economic policies. These capabilities can be further used to broaden the economic horizons of the research conducted by those countries, by giving more explicit treatment to specific socio-economic development issues. The Department can also provide information on world trade matrices, which now cover a 22-year period from 1965 to 1986 for four commodity groupings and comprise 80 countries/regions, including developed market countries/regions and countries with centrally planned economies. In its analysis of global trade patterns, the Department treats 15 member countries of the Conference individually and others as member of subregional groups. The Department also prepares comprehensive sets of internationally standardized data measuring economic activity and social conditions in most countries of the world. In the past, such data have been made available to the Conference and can continue to be made available in the future.

58. The Department analyses various aspects of the economic situation of member countries of OIC regularly and reports on relevant international economic developments in the annual publication *World Economic Survey*. The 1989 issue assesses current economic developments in West Asia, which comprises a large number of OIC members, and in member countries in other regions. The survey also regularly analyses developments in the area of energy, which is of particular importance to many OIC members. A special chapter of the 1989 issue of the publication has been devoted to energy and related issues.

59. The Statistical Office of the Department continues to provide assistance to OIC members in the various areas of its responsibility, including the provision of a wide range of economic and social statistics, methodologies, guidelines and technical reports on the collection, classification, processing and dissemination of statistics and the provision of substantive support for technical co-operation

in statistics **and** statistical data **processing** through the **Department** of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

60. The Population Division of the Department of **International Economic and Social Affairs** carries out research on population-related issues which **are** of importance to the work of OIC and its member countries. The Department's most **relevant** publications on this subject include a report published every two **years** on population trends and policies covering all countries and regions, including OIC member States, reports **on** population estimates and projectinns, and a recent three-volume compilation of population policies that also **covers** all countries. The Department's series of publications entitled Case Studies in Population Policy includes a monograph on Kuwait.

B. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

61. For updated information, see paragraphs 32 to 34 above.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

62. UNICEF and OIC continued to invite each other to attend high-level meetings of their **respective organizations** as observers. OIC was invited to attend the UNICEF Executive Board session held in New York in April 1989; UNICEF was invited to attend the **Islamic** Conference of Foreign Ministers held at **Riyadh** in March 1989.

63. Contacts between focal points in UNICEF and OIC continued within the framework of the joint committee **to** review and co-ordinate the co-operation between the two organisations.

64. **UNICEF** and OIC consulted each other **and** discussed activities related to mothers and children,

65. OIC will support co-operation by UNICEF with organisations established within the network, such as **IsDB** and the Islamic Red Crescent Societies. It will also encourage Islamic countries to support UNICEF programmes, financially or otherwise.

66. UNICEF provided OIC with **available** relevant publications, some of which described its ongoing co-operation with OIC.

67. Co-operation between OIC and UNICEF (through its Gulf area office at Riyadh) on information and media **has** been strengthened.

68. UNICEF and **IsDB** signed a co-operation agreement on 28 January 1989 setting the general framework for future co-operation between the two organizations.

69. UNICEF Attended the thirteenth annual Conference of the Board of Governors of **IsDB** held at Rabat in February 1989.

D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

70. The secretariat of UNCTAD has continued to co-operate with OIC in three substantive areas of the UNCTAD programme, namely, economic co-operation among developing countries, shipping and technology,

71. In the area of economic co-operation among developing countries, the UNCTAD secretariat is prepared to support the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade in implementing the programme for co-operation between UNCTAD and OIC as adopted at the third general meeting between the representatives of the United Nations and other organisations of the United Nations system and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, held in July 1988. The overall modalities for implementing the programme need to be worked out jointly by UNCTAD and ICDT. As regards those aspects of the programme that can only be implemented on request from the Governments concerned, the UNCTAD secretariat would appreciate an indication from OIC members of their specific requirements,

72. In the field of shipping, the study on the scope of co-operation among member countries of OIC for the purpose of obtaining optimum shipping capacity utilization was completed in August 1988 by the UNCTAD secretariat, with ISDD financing the project. OIC is scheduled to review the report during the second half of 1989.

73. UNCTAD has initiated contacts and sought input from a number of organizations, including OIC and its associated institutions, concerning the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

E. United Nations Development Programme

74. For updated information, see paragraphs 41 to 45 above.

F. United Nations Environment Programme

75. Some significant developments have taken place in the area of environment with respect to OIC. The Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers adopted a resolution on the dumping of dangerous toxic waste in Islamic countries in which it urgently called on all Islamic countries which have signed agreements, treaties or other arrangements facilitating the dumping of dangerous toxic waste on their respective territories to denounce and rescind those various contracts, which gravely prejudice the peace and security of the Islamic States. The resolution also mandated the Secretary-General of OIC to follow the negotiations in progress in the framework of UNEP and other forums and to submit a detailed report on those negotiations at the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to enable States to take appropriate measures. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General of OIC to seek the kind collaboration of the Executive Director of UNEP for the elaboration of a convention on trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes.

76. The Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers also adopted, as part of its resolution, a statement on the problems faced by the Islamic world which relate closely to the major environmental problems facing the world today. The

renolution welcomed the Declaration of The Hague signed *in* March 1989 on the preservation of the earth's atmosphere and called for member countries to co-operate *in* protecting the environment and to give consideration to the possibility of becoming *parties* to relevant existing agreements and to render their support to the efforts of international organisations concerned with the environment , It also decided to *include* on its agenda for the nineteenth session an item entitled "Co-operation among member States in the field of environment",

77. Immediately following *those* significant actions, the Regional Director of UNEP in West Asia visited the secretariat of OIC at Jeddah. It was agreed that UNEP would co-operate with OIC in the implementation of those important resolutions. Further, a draft memorandum of understanding *was presented as a* framework for future co-operation between UNEP and OIC. The draft memorandum of understanding, which would be signed by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of OIC, states that the two *organizations* appreciate the fact that it is to their mutual interest to *harmonize* their efforts to *assist* OIC member countries in attaining sustained economic *and* social development based on a rational *use* of *renewable and* non-renewable resources. It also states that both parties will hold periodic meetings. It was hoped that the memorandum of understanding would be signed *In* June 1989.

78. The Regional Director of UNEP in West Asia also had meeting⁶ with the Director of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries at Ankara immediately after the conclusion of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. As the Centre *was* concentrating on current, rather than new activities, it was agreed that the UNEP Regional Office for Western Asia would co-operate in the implementation of the *Centre's* proposal for the establishment of centres of co-ordination and a network of research and training *centres* in agriculture with special emphasis on environmental aspects. The Regional Office would *also* solicit the co-operation of the Centre in connection with the UNEP project on the incorporation of *environmental considerations* in development planning, which is being implemented in collaboration with the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait,

G. ~~United Nations Institute for Training and Research~~

79. UNITAR has *designed* a training programme on the use of informatics in development, *organization* and management. It *is* also involved in designing, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), a training programme on the planning and management of disaster relief programmes (see also A/43/498/Add.1, paras. 37 and 67). It should be recalled in this regard that such programmes have to be funded through special purpose grants. Unless UNITAR and OIC succeed in raising funds for their implementation, the programmes will have no chance of being realized.

H. United Nations Relief and Work Agency for
Palestine Refugees in the Near East

80. UNRWA has maintained periodic contact with the OIC secretariat. During visits to Jeddah in March 1987 and November 1988, meetings were held between senior UNRWA officials and the Under-Secretary-General of OIC for Palestine and Al Quds and other OIC secretariat staff.

81. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA plans to call on the Secretary-General of OIC at the first opportunity he has to visit Saudi Arabia. OIC is kept informed about UNRWA activities and programme through public information and other materials regularly sent to Jeddah.

82. An agreement was concluded in July 1988 between IsDB and UNRWA whereby the Agency would purchase and distribute food commodities in the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with a \$1.0 million contribution by the Bank. Thus, a satisfactory working relationship has been established with every indication that it will continue and strengthen in the future.

I. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

83. ESCWA, in co-operation with the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the Government of Jordan, organized a regional expert group meeting to carry out an end-of-decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development in the ESCWA region. That meeting was held at Amman from 21 to 23 November 1988, with the participation of the Islamic Foundation for Science and Technology and Development, which is the focal point for science and technology for OIC.

84. The meeting reviewed the progress and constraints facing national and regional efforts for the integration of science and technology for development since the convening of the Vienna Conference in 1979. It formulated 57 recommendations to enhance further the endogenous capacity of member countries in the Western Asia region,

85. ESCWA also participated in the meeting of the Islamic Academy of Science held at Islamabad in December 1988 relating to endogenous capacity-building in science and technology. At that meeting, ESCWA provided an overview of the state of science and technology in the region in relation to the recommendations mentioned in the foregoing paragraph.

86. Following the signing on 29 March 1987 of an agreement on co-operation between ESCWA and IsDB covering the general and sectoral studies related to economic and social development, ESCWA submitted to IsDB project proposals for co-operation in the areas of industrial development, science and technology covering the "arabization" of informatics. In that regard, two proposals were submitted in 1987 and approved in 1988. They involved (a) a task force to define the requirements of an expandable computerized Arabic dictionary, which met from 28 to 31 January 1989, and (b) a conference on Arabic computational linguistics to be held from 26 to 28 November 1989.

J. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

87. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has maintained a high level of co-operation with, and assistance to, member countries of OIC in the field of human settlements.

88. The Centre's publications on different aspects of human settlements are sent regularly to OIC member countries from UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters at Nairobi and from its regional information offices at Amman and Bangkok. In turn, UNCHS (Habitat) also receives information from these countries on their activities to commemorate World Habitat Day, observed on the first Monday of October every year,

89. In the area of human settlements training, UNCHS (Habitat) implemented a seminar on training in urban finance and management for senior policy makers from Morocco and Tunisia in January 1989. The seminar, jointly sponsored by UNCHS (Habitat), the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development, identified priority training actions for strengthening local government finance and management and formulated a three-year regional pilot programme for the training of trainers, assessing of training needs and development of training material. A similar training course was organised at Dakar in 1988, in which senior officials from Guinea, Mauritania, the Niger, Cameroon and Senegal participated.

90. In the field of technical co-operation, during 1988, UNCHS (Habitat) implemented a total of 66 projects with a total budget of \$39,542,619 in 27 member countries of OIC. An additional 30 technical co-operation projects with a total budget of \$33,906,608 have also been prepared, in consultation with the Governments concerned, for implementation in 17 member countries of OIC as soon as funds become available.

K. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

91. Since the third general United Nations/OIC meeting at Geneva from 4 to 6 July 1988, UNDRO has kept OIC informed of assistance it has provided to OIC member countries stricken by natural disasters,

92. UNDRO is ready to develop co-operation with OIC in the field of disaster preparedness and prevention, which was again emphasized during the United Nations/OIC meeting at Geneva. Action will be taken in this regard as soon as OIC considers the proposals.

L. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

93. In July 1988, the Secretary-General of OIC and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees signed an agreement of co-operation. That agreement called for co-operation between the two organizations in the humanitarian sphere to be reinforced, specifically by holding regular consultations on issues of mutual interest and through the regular exchange of information and documentation on the policies and activities of the two agencies. In addition, OIC may participate as

an observer in meetings of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, while UNHCR may participate as an observer at conferences and other activities of OIC.

M. World Food Programme

94. WFP assistance to the developing countries that are members of OIC has been substantial. Since 1963, \$5,715 million has been provided to those countries in the form of food aid to achieve economic and social development, as well as to provide relief assistance to meet emergency needs.

95. Development projects implemented with food assistance in OIC countries include directly productive projects such as land development and improvement, land settlement, afforestation, seedling production, construction of canals, water points, low-cost houses, etc. In such cases, food aid is being provided either as part payment of wages or as a means of carrying out self-help programmes. Larger-scale programmes in this field are being implemented in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Indonesia, Mali, Morocco, the Sudan and Uganda.

96. Food aid was also used to support such activities as feeding projects for mothers, pro-school children and school children. One of the largest WFP feeding projects was carried out in Egypt, under which approximately 1.2 million school children from poor rural areas received free snacks. This project was aimed at improving the nutritional status of the school children and reducing the rate of drop-outs.

97. WFP has made a major contribution towards supporting emergency operations. The largest such operation is in Pakistan, where 3 million Afghan refugees are currently receiving assistance. Similar operations for refugees are also being supported in Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Somalia and the Sudan, while emergency aid is being extended to displaced persons in Lebanon and Uganda.

98. WFP food assistance is directed mainly towards the poorest segments of the rural population in low-income countries. Low-income countries among OIC member countries receive priority consideration for WFP project food aid.

99. The Programme has been participating in OIC conferences since 1983 and at the last meeting reiterated its commitment to seek closer collaboration with the OIC secretariat. OIC is also invited to attend the meeting of the WFP governing body, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, as an observer.

100. Detailed figures of WFP cumulative commitments to member countries of OIC are available in the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonisation and Trusteeship of the United Nations Secretariat.

N. International Labour Organization

101. ILO has been ~~undertaking~~ large projects related to refugees in the OIC member countries, namely, in Afghanistan, Somalia *and* the Sudan. In the Sudan, the "Income-generating activities for refugees" project is the most advanced. At present, there is a revolving fund project that finances self-employment ~~activities~~ for refugees and Sudanese alike. That project is funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Community (EC) and USAID. Another project on mechanical workshops ~~is aimed~~ at providing necessary capital for refugees to carry out repair and maintenance work, which is badly needed in the Sudan.

102. Co-operation efforts have been undertaken in three main **fields**: manpower and labour market, vocational training and rehabilitation, and social security. The following is a summary of the relevant activities.

103. Employment promotion and manpower **planning projects** and related activities have been undertaken in Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia and Turkey. The activities include the strengthening of institutional capability in labour market information and analysis, formation of a human resources development plan project, improvement of the labour market information system, strengthening of the manpower and employment programme, implementation of an employment creation strategy and manpower management information system, and formulation of the national employment strategy for the 1990s.

Labour market information

104. An ongoing African regional project, "Training for upgrading labour market information systems in French-speaking countries", includes operational activities in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Senegal and Mali. **These** activities focus on national training seminars designed to strengthen national capacity.

105. In the broad area of population, human resources development and family welfare, UNFPA-funded national projects are being **executed** in Malaysia, Democratic Yemen, Senegal, Mali, Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, (Jordan, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, Bangladesh, Niger and Indonesia. ILO also collaborates with the Arab Labour Organization in the implementation of multi-country projects on population and family welfare,

Vocational training

106. ~~Sudan - Third education project.~~ The training facilities of the Khartoum Polytechnic have been expanded and improved. Six vocational training centres have been re-equipped and new training programmes introduced. The Directorate General of the Vocational Training Administration has been upgraded. A pre-investment study for the development of 15 secondary training schools and 8 artisan vocational training centres has been carried out. A total of 23 experts worked on the project.

107. Malaysia Manpower skills development centre. The project assisted the Ministry of Labour and Manpower in the development of three new centres and in the expansion of two other existing centres. New, highly-specialized fields of training such as industrial electronics, glassware and ceramics were introduced.

108. Indonesia - East Java manpower development and training project. This project became operational in June 1987, and in 1988 the main activities included the improvement of the manpower training programme with a view to *increasing* employment in Indonesia, Work continued *in* the development of an integrated regional vocational and industrial training system, A total of 65 persons worked in the project in 1988.

109. Niger - Training and support for rural enterprises. A non-conventional training project currently implemented by ILO for the Office for the Promotion of Enterprises in the Niger has identified rural artisans and helped them to produce better goods and services, After *an* analysis of their technical competence and their management skills, alternative ways and means of production are proposed to increase their productivity or the quality of their products.

110. Egypt - Development of modern training material. Fifteen managers of vocational training centres were trained at the Turin Centre in training management and training materials production. Modules of employable skills learning elements were developed and 100 instructors were trained in their use.

111. Democratic Yemen - Technical assistance and fellowship training programme. The training adviser was appointed in August 1988, A review of the vocational training system was carried out in order to establish policies for skills testing and certification. A manual for the National Training Committee was prepared and standards for trades were established.

112. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya - Development of vocational training in the Zawia region. The project's training adviser was appointed, lists of equipment amounting to \$1.8 million were prepared and the subcontractor responsible for providing training instructors was selected and started work in December 1988.

113. Tunisia. The views of the National Vocational Training and Qualification System were prepared. A programme for the reorganisation and rationalization of the system was prepared and submitted to the Government.

Selected activities in the social security field in Islamic countries in 1988
(actuarial activities)

114. Indonesia - UNDP project. An actuarial valuation of a proposed social security pension scheme was carried out within the framework of the first part of the project, which was concerned with the development of pension scheme proposals. That part of the project has now been terminated) the second part, which deals with health care, has just been started.

115. Kuwait - Trust fund project. The third actuarial valuation of the Public Institution for Social Security has been undertaken and is in its final stages.

116. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya - Trust fund project. An interim investment report, as well as a report concerning the investments of the Social Security Fund, were issued.

117. Malaysia - Part trust fund and part regular programme (cost-sharing). The third actuarial valuation of the Employees' Social Security Scheme was undertaken and completed.

118. United Arab Emirates - UNDP funding. A preparatory actuarial mission was undertaken.

119. Democratic Yemen - UNDP funding. A short consultancy was provided in February 1989 in order to undertake a general review of the scheme, including an assessment of technical and administrative needs of the social security institution.

120. Tunisia. With World Bank funding, a financial and actuarial study of the entire social security system (both private and public sectors) has been initiated.

Concluding remarks

121. During the third general meeting between the representatives of the United Nations, other organisations of the United Nations system and OIC, the ILO representative stated that ILO considered that human resources development and manpower planning must be identified as fields of priority. The representative proposed that OIC, ILO and UNDP take the initiative in convening a meeting or a seminar to discuss the issue, and expressed the readiness of ILO to **organize** such a meeting.

122. Documents concerning human resources had been sent to the Secretary-General of OIC at the request of the OIC delegation during the United Nations/OIC meeting in July 1988 at Geneva. ILO representatives continued to attend OIC meetings of a general and specialized nature. Co-operation between ILO and OIC had increased and had taken the form of exchange of information and attendance at meetings and seminars. On the whole, the activities of ILO in OIC member countries had been quite extensive and had covered many social and technological aspects.

O. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

123. For updated information, see paragraphs 13 to 31 above.

P. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

124. Technical and vocational education. OIC was invited to participate in two meetings organized by UNESCO in the field of technical and vocational education; the first meeting was held in 1987 and the second in 1989. (For more information, see paras. 37-38 above.)

125. Teaching of informatics. The level of education (e.g. university, secondary or primary levels) in the programmes for the teaching of informatics should be more clearly defined.

126. **Eradication of illiteracy.** UNESCO takes note of paragraphs 35, 36 and 38 of the report of the **Secretary-General** on co-operation between the **United Nations** and **OIC (A/43/498/Add.1)**, and will co-operate with **OIC** in the framework of the findings of the May 1988 meeting between **UNESCO** and the **Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation**.

127. **Culture and communication.** Within the framework of the programme relating to various aspects of **Islamic** culture, **UNESCO** co-operates with **OIC** and its subsidiary organs such as the **Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Rabat)** and the **OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (Istanbul)**, **OIC** recently sought **UNESCO** assistance for an expert in **Islamic studies** to **finalize** a project on **cultural strategy** and a **plan of action on Islamic world** in that field.

128. **Exchange of statistical data and training.** During the meeting between **UNESCO** and the **Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization** held at **UNESCO** headquarters on 25 May 1988, co-operation between the **UNESCO Office of Statistics** and the **Islamic organisation** was discussed and the following was agreed upon;

(a) The **exchange** of statistical data on education, science, technology, culture and communication between the two **organizations** would continue]

(b) The Office of Statistics would **organize** two months of statistical training for a specialist from the **Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization** who would later establish a statistical unit or **division** in that organization.

Q. International Civil Aviation Organization

129. As in the past, **ICAO** remains ready to co-operate, within its area of responsibility, with **OIC**, and continues to co-operate with **OIC** member countries. **ICAO** was represented at the third general meeting between the representatives of **OIC** and the **United Nations system of organizations** in July 1988. The meeting was informed of the 65 projects being **executed** by **ICAO** in 38 member countries of **OIC** and of the role of the **Gulf Civil Aviation College**, which represents an exercise in technical co-operation and the pooling of resources to provide sophisticated technical training to a number of member countries of **OIC**.

R. World Bank

130. The World Bank continues to support economic and social programmes in individual **OIC** member countries by providing development assistance. In 1988, assistance to those countries was centred on adjustment programmes, agriculture and rural development, and small-scale enterprises. The sectoral breakdown of lending by the World Bank and the International Development Association to **OIC** members in 1988 is available in the **United Nations Secretariat**.

S. International Monetary Fund

131. The thrust of IMF relations with OIC members has **remained unchanged since** the last report. The Fund continues to **advise** many of OIC member countries on the formulation and implementation of economic and financial policies. In addition, the Fund continues to pursue research on **issues of interest to those countries**, in particular on the **Islamic economic system**, which has led to the publication of a study on Islamic banking. At present, a study on fiscal policy **under** the Islamic system is being prepared.

132. ~~Between~~ April 1988 and April 1989, there were 76 staff **visits** to 28 member countries of OIC and the Fund to hold periodic **consultations**, as well as to discuss **adjustment** policies that might be supported by the **Fund's** financial **resources**. Additionally, the following entered into effect during the 12-month period ending 30 April 1988: five **stand-by** arrangements totalling 1,040.37 special drawing rights (SDR), four structural adjustment facility arrangements totalling SDR 420.41, four enhanced structural **adjustment** facility arrangements totalling SDR 395.02, one compensatory **financing** facility arrangement for SDR 46.35, one extended fund facility arrangement for SDR 2,073 and one emergency **assistance** loan for SDR 71.87. There were also 48 staff technical **assistance missions**, relating to budget and taxation (12 missions), domestic and international banking issues (20 missions), general statistics (8 missions), and balance of payments (1 mission). Staff advisers were **stationed** in five countries throughout this period and the **services** of an outside expert were provided to **one** country in the area of budget execution.

133. In addition, there were seven missions to regional organisations, including the Arab Monetary Fund, aimed at providing technical assistance and maintaining collaboration. Finally, the staff participated in two conferences dealing specifically with **Islamic economic issues** in Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Regular contacts and discussions were held with all OIC/IMF members in the course of the last annual meeting of the Fund, through informal visits by **senior** staff of the Fund.

T. Universal Postal Union

134. The information contained in paragraph 94 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/498) remains valid.

U. International Maritime Organization

135. The situation regarding IMO remains as reflected in paragraph 102 of the Secretary-General's report (A/43/498). IMO remains ready and willing to consider concrete measures of co-operation with OIC.

V . World Intellectual Property Organization

136. Since the third general United Nations/OIC meeting held in Geneva in July 1988, WIPO has pursued its efforts to conclude a co-operation agreement with OIC, which, after acceptance by the two organizations, would constitute an excellent basis for strengthening co-operation between them.

137. In February 1989, the Director General of WIPO held discussions at Geneva with the Director General of the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a specialized agency of OIC, on the possibility of initiating co-operation between the two organizations.

138. In March 1989 in Geneva, a co-operation agreement was signed between the two organizations, and it was agreed to convene at Rabat, in August 1989, a joint Working Group on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in Member States of the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

139. Since the majority of OIC member countries are also members of WIPO, WIPO already co-operates with them on a bilateral level.

140. The International Bureau of WIPO is prepared to have a working agreement with the OIC secretariat and would welcome the opportunity to revive discussions, at the highest level, in order to conclude the co-operation agreement referred to in paragraph 136.

W. International Fund for Agricultural Development

141. IFAD continued its efforts in 1988 to strengthen further co-operation with OIC, as reflected in the assistance IFAD has been providing to OIC member countries in resolving their food and agricultural problems. During 1988, of the 23 projects approved under both the IFAD regular programme and the special programme for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and desertification, for a total IFAD contribution of about \$229.6 million, nine projects totalling approximately \$115.3 million went to Islamic countries, accounting for about 50 per cent of total IFAD loans in that year.

142. During its 11 years of operation (1978-1988), IFAD has financed 243 projects in 93 developing countries, for a total amount of \$2,637 billion. Islamic countries accounted for 97 of those projects in 29 countries, for a total amount of \$1.16 billion, approximately 44 per cent of all IFAD commitments. In addition, nearly \$11 million has been provided in the form of technical assistance grants. IFAD investments in the Islamic countries have also helped generate additional funds of \$1.76 billion in the form of co-financing from other external sources.

143. In line with its concern over the food security and agricultural development issues of the Islamic countries, and in the spirit of the co-operation agreement signed in 1983, IFAD participated at the third OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held at Islamabad from 18 to 20 October 1988.

144. Furthermore, IFAD has established close co-operation with IsDB with which it signed a co-operation agreement in 1979. The two institutions collaborate in financing projects in the Islamic countries. To date, Four IFAD projects in Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Yemen have been co-financed by IsDB. Of the projects, totalling \$203.42 million, IFAD loans amount to \$72.28 million, while IsDB has provided \$26 million. IFAD and IsDB hold annual consultations to review ongoing mutual efforts and to plan future activities. IsDB has also participated in the special programming missions organized by the Fund in two Islamic least-developed member countries, namely, the Sudan and Yemen. Those contacts and the involvement of concerned staff of the two institutions have culminated in the planning and execution of a number of projects for which funding will be provided in the near future,

X. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

145. UNIDO has continued its close co-operation with OIC through IsDB, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange and the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries.

146. UNIDO participated actively in the eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in March 1989 at Riyadh. It held fruitful discussions with senior staff of OIC and related agencies on further joint activities and ways and means of financing them,

147. UNIDO maintains close co-operation with the Standing Committee of Economic and Commercial Co-operation of the Islamic Conference Organization and will be participating in the fifth session of the Standing Committee scheduled to be held at: Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 6 September 1989,

Y. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

148. Twenty member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference are contracting parties to GATT and, as such, take part in its continuing activities and functions as the principal framework for international trade relations, negotiations for further liberalization of trade, and settlement of disputes between countries. Those OIC member States which are at present contracting parties are Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Turkey and Uganda. Tunisia, which had acceded to GATT on a provisional basis, is currently completing the procedures for accession to it on a definitive basis. In addition, eight member States of OIC, namely, Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Democratic Yemen, apply GATT rules for the conduct of their trade policy on a de facto basis. Saudi Arabia, another member State, has observer status at the meetings of the GATT Council.

149. Since 1986, GATT activities have been focusing on the ongoing process of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which was launched at a

ministerial meeting held *in* September 1986 at Punta del Este, Uruguay. All contracting parties to **GATT** are participating in those negotiations. Algeria, which has formally informed the GATT **secretariat** of **its** intention to accede to **GATT**, is also participating in the negotiating process.

150. The GATT **secretariat** has continued to maintain its programme of technical assistance **to** developing countries, **both** in the context of **GATT's** normal work and the Uruguay Round negotiations. The programme includes *providing* assistance to delegations of developing countries at **Geneva** on a continuing **basis**; briefing delegates, including those visiting from **capitals**; and organising training workshops and seminars in capitals, on a national or **regional** basis, so as to facilitate a **more** effective participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading **system** and in **GATT** negotiations. Since mid-1988, national **seminars** have been held in Egypt, Tunisia and the Sudan, **Several members** of OIC have participated in seminars organised on a regional basis in Africa and Asia, **At** the request of the Gulf Co-operation Council, **a** seminar on GATT and *the* Uruguay Round was organised at Riyadh in February 1989.

151. In the area of training activities, GATT organises commercial policy training courses for **officials** **From** developing countries twice a year. **Officials from** member countries of OIC, not all of them **GATT** contracting parties, have participated on a regular basis in those courses.

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