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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/44/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 25 October 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/12, by which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) (A/43/497 and Add.1) and of his efforts to strengthen such co-operation; noted with appreciation the increasing and continued participation of OAU in the work of the United Nations and the specialised agencies and its constructive contribution to that work; commended the continued efforts of OAU to promote multilateral co-operation among African States and to find solutions to African problems of vital importance to the international community.

2. The General Assembly also expressed concern over the main problems facing the African continent, including the urgent development needs of independent African States, the refugee situation and the need for special economic and emergency programmes to help African States affected by natural and other disasters and socio-economic problems. In this context, it called upon the international community to continue to give its maximum support to Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity at its twenty-first session, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985 (see A/40/666, annex I). The Assembly also called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to ensure closer co-operation and co-ordination with the Secretary-General of OAU in the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, (General Assembly resolution S-1312 of 1 June 1986, annex), as well as in the search for solutions to Africa's debt and debt-servicing burden, and to consult with OAU with a view to establishing a group of experts to undertake an in-depth assessment of the question of commodities of interest to Africa and the scope for export diversification.

3. Reference was also made to southern Africa, particularly with regard to the deteriorating situation arising from South Africa's policy of apartheid and its acts of aggression against neighbouring States.

4. In the following sections of the present report are indicated the nature and extent of co-operation between the United Nations and OAU during the past 12 months, as well as the responses of the various components of the United Nations system to the measures called for in the resolution.

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

5. On 4 October 1988, the Chairman of OAU, His Excellency General Moussa Traoré, President of Mali, visited United Nations Headquarters and addressed the General Assembly at its forty-third session (see A/43/PV.16). On that date, the Chairman met with the Secretary-General to discuss matters of mutual interest to the two organisations. Mr. Ide Oumarou, Secretary-General of OAU, also met with the Secretary-General on 6 October 1988.

6. In his address to the General Assembly, President **Traoré** reviewed the main social, economic and political developments in Africa. These included the United Nations Programme of Action, the external debt of African countries, the fall in export earnings of Africa, the problem of the environment and the questions of refugees, health, drought and desertification. He described the continuing efforts of OAU to seek solutions to African Political questions, including those of Western Sahara and Chad, and called upon the United Nations to help to ensure Namibia's independence and to put an end to ~~apartheid~~.

7. During the period under review, the Secretary-General and the Chairman of OAU, acting within the framework of General Assembly resolution 43/33 of 22 November 1988 and in the exercise of their good offices, continued their efforts for a solution to the question of Western Sahara. In addition to discussions at United Nations Headquarters, the Secretary-General visited Bamako on 21 June 1989 for talks with President **Traoré** on the question of Western Sahara, as well as on other African issues of common concern to the two organisations.

8. In March 1989, the Secretary-General of OAU visited United Nations Headquarters for discussions with the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning arrangements for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on the question of Namibia. The discussions centred on the establishment of an OAU observer mission in Namibia, the modalities governing the repatriation of Namibian refugees in neighbouring countries and on matters relating to the electoral process as set out in the United Nations plan.

9. The Secretary-General was invited to attend the twenty-fifth Summit Conference of OAU, which took place at Addis Ababa from 24 to 26 July 1989. The occasion enabled the Secretary-General to discuss matters of common concern, not only with the current Chairman and Secretary-General of OAU, but also with many other African leaders, including the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Chairman of the front-line States and the current Chairman-Designat. of OAU, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

10. In his address to the Conference, the Secretary-General focused primarily on the questions of Namibia, Western Sahara, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, environment, human rights, the draft convention on the rights of the child, and the problems of African refugees and internally displaced persons.

11. Referring to the question of Namibia, the Secretary-General declared that the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1970) was an irreversible process and that the United Nations had the responsibility of supervising and controlling the bringing into existence of an independent Namibia. The Secretary-General mentioned the visit he had paid to Namibia a few days earlier, where he was proud to see 6,000 people of 109 different nationalities working together in the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG). They included civilian officials, election supervisors, doctors, policemen, soldiers, airmen and even sailors. He was moved by the energy, enthusiasm, impartiality and integrity with which they were tackling the common objective of bringing Namibia to independence through free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations.

12. **Consultations** have taken place between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAU concerning proposals for reactivating the machinery for co-operation between the secretariats of the United Nations system and of OAU and its affiliated organisations. In preparation for a joint meeting between the two secretariats during the early part of 1990, it was decided that there should be further consultations between representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAU towards the end of 1989.

III. CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

A. Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the Secretariat

Security Council

13. Co-operation between the United Nations and OAU was marked by an increase in the working relations on political matters relating to peace and security. The adoption of Security Council resolution 626 (1988) on 20 December 1988 enabled the establishment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) after the tripartite agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa was signed.

14. The Council decided to implement its resolution 435 (1978) in its original and definitive form to ensure conditions in Namibia that will allow the Namibian people to participate in a free and fair election process under the supervision of UNTAG.

Apartheid

15. The Special Committee against Apartheid has continued to pursue the strengthening of its co-operation with OAU.

B. United Nations Council for Namibia

16. Pursuant to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/14 C of 6 November 1987, and in fulfilment of its mandate as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence, the United Nations Council for Namibia continued to maintain close co-operation with OAU and to participate in its meetings. The Council was represented at the forty-ninth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held at Addis Ababa from 20 to 25 February 1989. Representatives of OAU were also invited to participate in Council meetings.

C. United Nations Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries Peoples

17. The Special Committee continued to maintain a close working relationship with the secretariat of OAU and to co-ordinate information relating to developments with regard to Namibia and southern Africa in the discharge of its mandate.

18. During the year' under review, the Chairman sent a message on behalf of the Special Committee to the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa at its fifty-first ordinary session, held at Tripoli from 13 to 15 February 1989, and represented the Committee at the forty-ninth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held at Addis Ababa from 20 to 25 February 1989. Within the framework of the Special Committee's consideration of the items relating to southern Africa, representatives of OAU participated in the meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,

D. Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat

19. The activities of the Office of Legal Affairs involving direct co-operation with OAU are for the most part procedural in nature. In this context, the Office of Legal Affairs maintains close contact with the secretariat of OAU in order to obtain updated information on the names and addresses of African national liberation movements.* The information thus obtained is provided by the Office to the various units of the United Nations Secretariat, to enable them to issue invitations to the liberation movements.

E. United Nations Development Programme

20. Under the special programme of assistance to liberation movements, UNDP continues to extend to the liberation movements technical assistance for the promotion of professional expertise and human resources development, in such areas as general education, administration and management of community services, vocational training, agriculture and food production.

F. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

21. During the period under review, UNHCR maintained its traditional close co-operation with OAU in various fields of humanitarian assistance for refugees and returnees in Africa, in accordance with the terms of the UNHCR-OAU Agreement of Co-operation of 13 June 1969.

22. UNHCR and OAU, together with the United Nations Secretariat and UNDP, co-operated in the preparation of the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, which was held at Oslo in August 1988. UNHCR also took part in joint OAU/United Nations/UNHCR high-level missions to brief major donor countries on the objectives of the Conference.

* The liberation movements referred to in the present report are those recognised by OAU and invited to attend conferences and other meetings held under the auspices of the United Nations.

23. The Conference adopted the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (A/43/717, appendix), which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 43/116 of 9 December 1988. The Declaration and Plan of Action identified the activities best suited to deal positively with the problems of refugees in southern Africa. UNHCR is directly involved in the follow-up process.

24. In addition, UNHCR participated in the work of the OAU Commission of Fifteen on Refugee Matters and of its Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa to promote a better legal protection climate and durable solutions for refugees in Africa.

25. Exchange of basic information has taken place with the secretariat of OAU on the preparatory activities for the Namibian repatriation operation. UNHCR will continue to maintain this co-operation in Namibia, where OAU at present has observer status.

G. World Food Programme

26. As a result of continuing civil strife and destabilization, there continues to be an escalation in numbers of refugees and displaced persons, including large numbers of women and children, in the southern Africa subregion. In collaboration with other United Nations bodies and bilateral organizations, WFP has provided substantial amounts of assistance to meet the critical needs of the affected populations. In 1988, WFP approved emergency operations for Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe, under which approximately 164,000 tons of food were committed, at a total cost of over \$61 million, to assist about two-and-one-half million refugees and displaced persons.

27. WFP has upgraded its representation in the subregion (with the establishment of an area office in Zimbabwe) in order to enhance its capacity to work closely with the Government and the secretariat of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference. In addition, WFP is in the process of establishing an office in Namibia in response to the peace initiatives taking place and in order to meet the operational demands of the country's transition to independence. WFP assistance is foreseen for returnees and displaced persons, as well as possibly for activities that might promote longer-term (developmental) solutions to resettlement problems.

H. International Labour Organisation

28. With regard to assistance to the liberation movement in southern Africa, ILO efforts focused, in particular, on vocational training, the promotion of income-generating activities (including activities for women and refugees), labour administration, workers' education and co-operatives.

29. Further ILO activities directly related to OAU fields of interest included studies on **worker** productivity and structural adjustment, with special emphasis on the social implications, the continued **updating** of the 1981 ILO Declaration **Against Apartheid**, and the organization of the Seventh ILO African Regional Conference held at **Harare** in November and December 1988.

I. World Health Organization

30. WHO co-operation with OAU with regard to the situation in southern Africa included; supporting training in various fields related to public health; recruitment of health experts required by **countries**; and supplying vaccines, medical equipment and supplies, and transport facilities. Angola, Mozambique and Namibia received special support in strengthening their emergency preparedness and response mechanisms.

31. WHO participated in a number of international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the situation in southern Africa, including the International Conference on the Plight of Refugee, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, held at Oslo from 22 to 24 August 1988, and the United Nations inter-agency consultation on Namibia, held in New York in March 1989.

32. In support of General Assembly resolution 43/26 of 17 November 1988 on the question of Namibia, the forty-second World Health Assembly, held in May 1989, requested the Director-General of WHO to field a mission to evaluate the health situation in Namibia. Action has already been taken to implement that request and an initial programme of health assistance will be established for an independent Namibia. The forty-second World Health Assembly also requested the Director-General to intensify humanitarian assistance to national liberation movements and to use available funds, as well as to mobilise extrabudgetary resources to help to solve the health problems in southern Africa.

IV. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the Secretariat

33. The Outer Space Affairs Division co-operated with OAU through regional and international meetings, training courses and workshops organized under the auspices of the United Nations Space Applications Programme.

34. During the period covered by the present report, technical advisory services were carried out in Nigeria at the request of the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys and of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and in collaboration with the regional remote sensing centres in Africa. The Space Applications Programme assisted in revising the project document on a remote sensing information programme for Africa in December 1988 in Kenya.

35. Other major developments included:

(a) The offering on an annual basis of long-range fellowships by States Members of the United Nations and of international organisations within the framework of the Space Applications Programme. Several candidates from OAU member States were among the beneficiaries of those fellowships;

(b) The nomination by member States of OAU of candidate6 for participation in United Nations international training courses and meetings of experts.

B. Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat

36. The secretariat of OAU was kept informed about and participated in the activities and events organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa at Lomé. Senior officials from the OAU secretariat participated in the World Disarmament Campaign Regional Conference on African Disarmament and Security, organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and the Egyptian Institute for Diplomatic Studies, and held at Cairo in March 1989.

37. In April 1989, the OAU secretariat also participated in the Regional Disarmament Training Course held at Lagos by the Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme in co-operation with the Government of Nigeria.

C. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

38. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs continues to provide assistance to the member States of OAU in the various areas of its responsibilities. This includes the provision of a wide range of economic and social statistics, methodological guidelines and technical reports on the collection, classification, processing and dissemination of statistics. The Department also provides substantive support for technical co-operation in statistics and statistical data processing through the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat.

39. In addition, upon request by OAU, the Department provide6 technical support to the OAU secretariat in the review and establishment of a new scale of assessment for the member States of OAU compatible with United Nations methodology.

40. The Department also continues to give special attention to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. For example, the Department has taken steps to contribute to the assessment of the question of commodities of interest to Africa, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/12 on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU. In this context, the Department has also made provisions for assessing the impact of the changing cost and availability of energy on growth prospects of African countries.

41. The Department was also responsible for the preparation of a report on international measures taken in support of national policies aimed at eradicating poverty in developing countries, including countries in Africa. The report will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, pursuant to its resolution 43/195 of 20 December 1988. In addition, the Department has undertaken to prepare ad hoc reports on aspects of interrelations between global socio-economic trends and the socio-economic development in African countries.

42. As previously reported, the Department, in co-operation with ECA, is exploring the possibilities and modalities for expanding African country coverage in Project LINK (an econometric model of the world economy) and is working jointly with ECA to produce short-term forecasts of African economies. The Department plans to take on full responsibility for Project LINK from the University of Pennsylvania during 1989. Discussions were under way with ECA on transfer of the African country models in Project LINK to ECA for future updating and maintenance. This would provide OAU with easier access to its source of data on African economies.

D. Department of Conference Services of the Secretariat

43. As in the past, the Department of Conference Services continued to enhance United Nations co-operation with OAU, by scheduling meetings and providing the conference services and facilities required for meetings approved by the General Assembly.

44. The Department also continues to work closely with the New York office of the Executive Secretary of OAU by co-ordinating requests and arranging meetings of the African regional group. Interpretation services for the informal meetings are provided on an ad hoc basis in accordance with established procedures.

E. Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva

45. In 1988, within the framework of the United Nations Advisory Services Programme in the Field of Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights undertook to assist in strengthening the capabilities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of OAU. A number of seminars and training courses on regional arrangements in the field of human rights were organized. The primary purpose was to assist the members and staff of the African Commission in familiarizing themselves with the work of international monitoring bodies established by United Nations conventions on human rights and with the programme of the Centre, as well as with the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights.

46. Three members of the African Commission, including its Chairman and the Secretary, completed a five-day programme from 11 to 15 July 1988. The Centre for Human Rights made arrangements for the Chairman of the African Commission to participate as an expert in the training courses organized by the Centre and held in Togo and Tunisia, and in the International Seminar on the Teaching of Human Rights, held at Geneva from 5 to 9 December 1988, to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

47. From 24 April to 2 May 1989, the *Centre* for Human Rights organized, in co-operation with the African Commission on Human and **Peoples'** Rights and the Government of the Gambia, a training course on developing national strategies and mechanisms to promote and protect human rights in Africa, held at **Banjul**. The course was designed for representatives and experts from 26 African countries and the 11 members of the African Commission and **was** aimed at creating awareness among participants from the 26 countries of the need to adopt **appropriate** strategies and mechanisms to strengthen national infrastructures for the promotion and protection of human rights.

48. Both the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Secretary-General of OAU attended the inauguration of the headquarters at Banjul of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on 12 June 1989. The Under-Secretary-General also addressed the special *session* of the African Commission and consulted with members of the Commission on future areas of co-operation between the Centre for Human Rights and the African Commission.

F. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

Assistance to subregional economic groups

49. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations has been providing technical assistance to the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African **States** in its **object'** aimed at creating a full economic union. This has included assistance in the drafting of the Charter on Multinational Industrial Enterprises and formulation of the Harmonised Code on Investment. The Centre has embarked on a programme aimed at promoting multinational joint ventures in the region.

50. **Support** by the Centre to countries of the Preferential Trade Area is consistent with its policy of assistance to low-income countries and it **intends** to participate effectively in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and the OAU Lagos Plan of Action with respect to assistance to subregional economic groups and to technical support aimed at **increasing** the role of the private sector in the **economies** of African countries.

Environmental issues

51. At its forty-eighth ordinary session, held in May 1988, the Council of Ministers of OAU called upon **international** organizations to assist African countries in establishing appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the movement and disposal of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa.

52. In November 1988, the Centre organized a regional Workshop on Toxic and Hazardous Wastes at Monrovia from 8 to 12 May 1989, which was attended by 10 West African **States**. OAU was invited to participate. At the end of the lectures and discussions, the participants drew up an eight-point resolution that recommended **inter alia** a total prohibition on the transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous wastes in the African region: the constitution of a technical committee

under the auspices of OAU in order to carry out a comprehensive study of wastes generated in the region and the possible impact of such wastes on the environment and the harmonization of legislation on the environment at the regional level. The Centre will forward these recommendations to OAU for its **consideration**..

Study on increased foreign direct investment in Africa by transnational corporations

53. In resolution VI, **adopted** at its fifteenth session, the Commission on Transnational Corporations called upon the Centre on Transnational Corporations, inter alia, to upgrade the report on foreign direct investment in Africa, which had been prepared by the Centre at the request of the Economic and Social Council for the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action. The report is being upgraded to provide detailed and comprehensive coverage of foreign direct investment by transnational corporations in Africa on a sector-by-sector basis.

G. United Nations Children's Fund

54. The period under consideration marked a strengthening of relations between **UNICEF** and OAU. The Secretary-General of OAU attended two major UNICEF meetings in March 1989, namely, the Paris round table on "Today's World, Tomorrow's Children", and the **Bamako** Symposium of Artists and Intellectuals for Child Survival and Development. Furthermore, during the meeting in Paris, the heads of OAU and UNICEF examined ways and means to systematize relations between the two organizations. It was decided that a technical meeting would be held periodically and that the heads of both organizations would meet at least once a year to review the progress of the work being carried out.

55. The Conference of African Ministers of Health took place from 28 April to 5 May 1989, at Kampala, where three major resolutions were adopted, (a) supporting the call for the World Summit on Children: (b) declaring 1990 as the Decade of the African Child: and (c) supporting the 1987 Bamako Initiative (to achieve universal primary health care for women and children).

56. UNICEF continued to take part in OAU technical meetings at the country and regional levels in matters related to the survival, protection and **development** of the child.

57. In preparation for the session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity in July **1989**, all UNICEF representatives in Africa briefed the delegations of the respective countries on work undertaken for children and sought their endorsement for policies on behalf of the **children**.

H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

58. In compliance with General Assembly resolution **43/12** on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, the Secretary-General of the United Nations established a Group of Experts to undertake an in-depth assessment of the question of African

commodities and the scope for export diversification. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD was entrusted with providing organisational, technical and logistical support for the Group's work. The first meeting of the Group of Experts, in which OAU participated, was held at Geneva on 15 and 16 April 1989 and three further meetings were scheduled for 1989.

59. In pursuance of Trade and Development Board decision 363 (XXXV), the UNCTAD secretariat is mounting needs-appraisal missions to selected African countries. These missions seek to identify possibilities for technical co-operation with those countries, particularly in the areas of commodities, trade, debt, technology, transport, human resources development and in connection with the management of their structural adjustment programmes.

60. In the area of economic co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, and in response to an invitation by the Secretary-General of OAU, a team of UNCTAD staff participated in the OAU Fifth All-Africa Trade Fair held at Kinshasa from 16 to 31 July 1988 and in the seminar on Intra-African Trade promotion organized by OAU and the host country, during which lectures were offered on economic co-operation among developing countries and on trade between African countries and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

61. OAU was represented at the first session of the Meeting of Heads of Secretariats of Economic Co-operation and Integration Groupings held at Geneva from 15 to 17 March 1989 under the auspices of UNCTAD.

62. The UNCTAD secretariat co-operates closely with the OAU secretariat in a number of other areas, such as shipping, transfer of technology, development of trade with socialist countries and the question of African debt. In addition, UNCTAD secretariat staff participated actively in various meetings of OAU.

I. United Nations Development Programme

63. During the period under review, UNDP maintained close working relations with OAU and provided technical assistance in support of various activities of its secretariat and its member States. The sixth meeting of the OAU/UNDP Joint Committee was held in New York in September 1988 and provided an opportunity to conduct consultations and review progress in co-operation efforts.

64. UNDP continues to provide consultancy services to OAU and its Permanent Steering Committee regarding the preparation of a treaty for an African economic community. A project to provide further assistance by UNDP to OAU for the establishment of an African economic community moved towards completion.

65. Furthermore, discussions and activities have been pursued for the formulation of a project through which UNDP would assist the OAU secretariat in the strengthening of its administrative, financial and management mechanisms in such a way as to ensure optimum use of available resources. In this respect, UNDP has also provided a fellowship for a short-term interpretation course and supported the participation of OAU staff at a seminar on the design, formulation and implementation of projects.

66. Through the projects financed by the UNDP Trust Fund for Assistance to Refugee-related Development Projects in Africa, assistance has been provided for development activities benefiting refugees and returnees) missions have also been carried out to assess the needs of African refugees and displaced people.

67. In addition, UNDP has continued to provide full support for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. UNDP participated in the meetings of the United Nations Steering Committee and of its Inter-Agency Task Force and provided financial resources for the functioning of the secretariat of the Steering Committee. Furthermore, UNDP financed a project for the establishment of the high-level Group of Experts, which, in pursuance of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 43/12 on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, would undertake an in-depth assessment of the question of commodities of interest to Africa and the scope for export diversification.

J. United Nations Environment Programme

68. During the period under review, UNEP and OAU intensified their close co-operation and continued to attend each other's main meetings. In this spirit, UNEP provided support to OAU in the preparatory work for

(a) The Conference of African Ministers of Health held at Kampala in April and May 1989, and especially in connection with the agenda item on hazardous wastes in Africa;

(b) The first OAU subregional meeting at the Heads-of-State level, scheduled for June 1989, on the co-ordination of regional initiatives undertaken to address major problems of the region in relation to environmental protection, conservation of ecosystems and control of toxic wastes.

69. The main area of co-operation between UNEP and OAU, however, remains the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development 1986-1990 within the context of the Programme of Action of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which is administered by UNEP in collaboration with OAU and ECA. Activities of the African Ministerial Conference encompass the environmental aspects of the United Nations Programme of Action, with the objective of conserving and rehabilitating the environment so as to enable African countries to achieve self-sufficiency in food and energy. As a result, the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference, which is located in the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, continued with its follow-up work on its activities through its operational mechanisms of four committees and eight regional networks, each with a special mandate. As a starting point, village and semi-arid pastoral zone pilot projects have been chosen as models to demonstrate ways of achieving self-sufficiency in food and energy, using local skills, experiences and resources. By the end of February 1989, the status of progress in the work of the African Ministerial Conference was as follows:

(a) The four committees have completed their work plans of high-priority subregional activities and initiated action accordingly;

(b) The regional networks on environmental monitoring, water, soils and fertilisers, energy, climatology and environmental education and training have also adopted work plans and assumed their functions. The remaining networks on genetic resources and science and technology will be brought into operation as soon as possible)

(c) A total of 21 countries have prepared 41 pilot village project proposals, 15 of them with UNEP assistance. So far, 16 pilot village projects in 7 countries are being implemented.

70. In an effort to involve a greater number of African women in the work of the African Ministerial Conference, UNEP convened the African Women's Assembly in Sustainable Development at Harare in February 1989, to provide a forum for defining the role of African women in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference.

K. United Nations Population Fund

71. In order to strengthen the institutional and technical capabilities of OAU for promoting and co-ordinating population and development activities in its member States, UNFPA has been providing technical and financial support to OAU since 1983. The project's phase II, which is currently being negotiated with OAU, will last three years and UNFPA will provide approximately \$500,000.

72. The main objective of the project will remain basically the same as the previous one and activities will consist of: (a) workshops, seminars and other activities on population and development policies; (b) promotion in the member States of OAU of the infrastructure necessary to implement those policies; (c) dissemination to member States of OAU of information on relevant policies and programmes; and (d) provision of technical advice to OAU governing bodies and the OAU Population Commission on population and development issues.

L. Economic Commission for Africa

73. ECA participated in preparations for and organisation of the fifteenth session of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee, which took place in November 1988. The fifteenth session of the Committee gave the opportunity to the two secretariats to propose recommendations for the promotion of economic integration in the various African subregions, in order to speed up the establishment of an African economic community.

74. The Steering Committee requested the policy-making organs of ECA and OAU to take measures to prepare, adopt and implement sectoral and multisectoral economic integration programmes that were likely to promote accelerated sustaining and self-reliant development. It was pointed out that higher priority should be given

to a number of key sectors with greater integration capacity, such as transport and communications, industry, agriculture, energy, education, **science** and technology, trade, money and finance,

75. The Steering Committee indicated that the **multisectoral** approach should take into account the necessary interaction between market. integration, development of subregional infrastructure and production. In order to ensure harmonious development between the subregions, the Committee also called upon all the subregional economic groupings to take the **necessary** steps to promote the co-ordination and harmonisation of their activities under the activities of the Permanent Steering Committee of OAU, with the collaboration and technical assistance of ECA, the African Development Bank and other appropriate African **organizations** and international organisations, such as **UNDP**.

76. In order to accelerate the process of establishing an African economic community, the Steering Committee recommended thatr (a' only **one economic** integration grouping should be **recognized** in **each subregion** as defined by the Final Act of Lagos) and (b) the subregional **integration groupings** should provide **follow-up** mechanisms for the harmonisation **and** co-ordination of ongoing programmes within the subregions,

77. The Steering Committee requested that ECA should be a full Committee member and should play a key role in carrying out studies necessary for the advancement of an African economic community.

M. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

78. As provided for in the memorandum of understanding signed between the United Nations Centre for Human **Settlements** (Habitat) and OAU in 1986, the Centre participates in meetings organised by OAU and all technical publications, newsletters and other documentation produced by the Centre are sent to OAU. On that basis, the Centre participated in the meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the secretariat of OAU that was held in New York from 33. August to 2 September 1988, and Habitat documents on **Africa** were distributed.

79. The Centre is strengthening its contacts with the Habitat focal points of all OAU countries in order to keep them abreast of developments in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and to facilitate the **preparation and** implementation of national shelter strategies. Special advisory services were provided by the Centre for projects assisted by the World Food Programme **related** to **human** settlements development in OAU countries and on the design and use of suitable financial models, incorporating community participation and loan-repayment procedures, in a number of OAU countries. In order to disseminate **knowledge** on the role of women in human settlements, a seminar was held in Tunisia from 28 March to 1 April 1980 and **another** in Zambia from 31 October to 4 November 1988,

80. In September 1988, the Centre, identified **and** suggested to OAU a number of subject **areas for** possible co-operation, with the objective **of** enhancing co-operation **between** the two organisations. Those areas included!

(a) The provision of **technical assistance** to OAU in the field of human settlements ;

(b) Co-operation in the implementation of technical co-operation projects for the training **of personnel** and development of **human** resources in human settlements planning)

(c) The mobilisation **of** human-settlements financing and the establishment **of** financial institutions to provide shelter and related **infrastructure**;

(d) The facilitation technical co-operation **among** developing countries, including OAU member **States**;

(e) Assistance to African national liberation movements **recognized** by OAU;

(f) Promotion **of** the development of housing for **refugees**;

(g) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

81. OAU invited the Centre **for Human Settlements** to participate in the nineteenth session of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee on Assistance to Refugees, held at Accra, *in* May 1989.

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

82. Pursuant to the resolution adopted at ~~the~~ fourteenth Ministerial Conference of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), held at Niamey in 1988, in which the Executive Secretary of **ECA** was requested to establish, *in* co-operation with OAU and UNDRO, ~~a~~ plan of action to confront natural disasters in the continent, it was agreed to convene a regional meeting to discuss matters related to natural disasters. Following the conference, which will be sponsored **by** ECA and UNDRO, and in which OAU is **scheduled** to participate, a plan of action will be drafted by UNDRO for discussion with ECA and OAU. The final draft will be submitted for consideration and adoption at the next ECA Ministerial Conference.

83. UNDRO has continued to **keep** OAU informed of assistance provided to OAU member States *in* relief as well as *in* the field of disaster preparedness and prevention.

84. A joint meeting was held at OAU headquarters *in* April 1989 to discuss **ways** to enhance further **UNDRO/OAU** co-operation. During this meeting UNDRO offered (a) to provide **advice and** training for OAU departments and staff dealing with disaster matters and (b) to contribute to the preparation **of** studies and recommendations on disaster matters to be presented to the concerned authorities of OAU.

85. UNDRO co-sponsored and **organised** a seminar, jointly with the **OAU/ECA** African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, on the African social situation, **One of** the topics dealt with at the seminar, **which** was held at Tripoli in June 1988, was the effects of natural **disasters** on social and economic development in Africa, and **emphasis** was put on the **need** to find **ways** to mitigate those effects,

O. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

86. In response to joint initiatives of UNHCR and OAU, during the period under review, **several** African Governments ratified the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa. 1/

87. OAU and UNHCR also campaigned jointly and successfully for the maintenance of liberal asylum policies on the part of African refugee-hosting countries, in line with the OAU Convention referred to above.

88. Together with the **Governments** of Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire, **UNHCR** organised a series of high-level missions in Rwanda to discuss modalities and conditions for the voluntary repatriation of some 55,000 Burundi refugees who had fled to Rwanda. OAU attended those meetings in an observer capacity.

P. World Food Council

89. In order to assist in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and of African food strategies, in co-operation with OAU and **ECA**, **WFC** actively supported the establishment of food policy management and training programmes in Africa. Visits were made to some 20 African countries and training institutions; a high-level workshop for African and international experts was organized jointly by WFC and the European Centre for Development Policy at Maastricht, the Netherlands, in October 1988; and a joint **WFC/African** Development Bank consultation on food policy management training programme in Africa was held at Abidjan, from 6 to 8 February 1989. At the consultation, in which various donors participated, a training curriculum for inclusion in the training programmes of selected African institutions was agreed upon and plans were made to submit it to OAU.

90. As mandated by WFC during its fourteenth session, held at Nicosia, in May 1988, the **President** of the Council prepared a report 2/ on the Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger in the World, which articulated a co-operative programme of action for combating hunger. The programme entails political, social, economic and technical measures to be implemented by all concerned, including the OAU countries. Plans were made to present the report to the OAU summit meeting of heads of State and Government after its approval by the Fifteenth Ministerial Session of WFC in May 1989.

91. WFC continued to collaborate with OAU with regard to South-South co-operation, both at the regional and subregional levels, in four priority areas identified

during sessions of the Council held at Beijing in 1987 and at Nicosia in 1988, namely, food production, agro-industry, regional trade and institution-building. An umbrella project for the promotion of regional and South-South co-operation in the food and agriculture sector is to be launched soon. Funded by UNDP, the project has evolved through close consultations and collaboration between UNDP, WFC, OAU and various United Nations agencies on the one hand, and African Governments on the other.

Q. World Food Programme

92. Before the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 was adopted, the World Food Programme (WFP) had long singled out Africa - and in particular sub-Saharan Africa - as a high priority area for directing its assistance. Now under the Programme of Action, WFP has taken further steps to consolidate this policy through renewed efforts to improve the quality of projects in the region.

93. One such step taken by WFP to intensify its support to member States of OAU was the Action Plan for Africa adopted by the Governing Body of WFP, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, in June 1988. The Action Plan emphasizes the key sectors set out under the United Nations Programme of Action, namely, agriculture and food security, the environment (drought and desertification), human resources development, the development and maintenance of infrastructure and emergencies. The Action Plan covering the period covered by the United Nations Programme of Action, 1986-1990, foresaw a total investment level of \$1.8 billion, of which 80 per cent would be directed to sub-Saharan Africa.

94. In its actual programming of assistance, WFP has continued to accord the highest priority to sub-Saharan Africa. In 1988, \$266 million was committed for new development projects in sub-Saharan Africa, \$39 million more than in 1987.

95. In addition, WFP has been working closely with the World Bank in forging initiatives focusing greater attention and resources on food security in Africa. Joint work has already been undertaken in countries such as Lesotho, Mozambique and the Sudan. Further joint missions are to be undertaken with the purpose of drawing up food security action plans. To strengthen further collaboration between the two agencies, WFP is outposting a senior officer to World Bank headquarters as part of a food aid/food security unit.

96. Overall WFP assistance to OAU member States has remained at a considerably high level, in line with the trends of previous years, and in keeping with the priority status accorded by WFP to the region. WFP development assistance committed to OAU member States in 1988 amounted to almost \$370 million, up to 47 per cent of total commitments, and up from 37 per cent in 1987. For the same period, \$168 million was committed to emergency operations in OAU member countries, which amounted to 66 per cent of total WFP commitments for emergencies for that year - up from 59.7 per cent for the previous year.

R. International Labour Organisation

97. Since the relation agreement was **signed** between ILO and OAU in 1965, co-operation between the two organisations has been progressing steadily. During the period under review, ILO participated in a large range of meetings organised by OAU, both at the policy-making and technical levels, such as the heads of State and Government summit, OAU Labour Commission, African Social Affairs Ministers' Conferences, Advisory Committee meetings, regional conferences and meetings **concerning refugees, returnees** and *migrant* workers. In the specific context of Africa's Priority Programme and the United Nations Programme of Action, ILO **assistance** focused on employment-oriented training, the development and **maintenance** of rural and urban infrastructure through labour-intensive schemes, the improvement of working and living conditions, and the alleviation of hardship occasioned by structural adjustment programmes, particularly **for** vulnerable groups.

98. In addition, joint technical co-operation activities with OAU gained momentum in such **areas** as **population** and development, social security, vocational rehabilitation of the **disabled**, assistance to national liberation movements of southern **Africa** recognised by OAU, and refugees.

99. Thus, a regional adviser on population and development was attached to the OAU secretariat to assist in the establishment of such a service within OAU headquarters. The OAU secretariat was also provided with technical expertise in the setting up of a social security scheme. The vocational rehabilitation of the disabled continued to be promoted through assistance to the jointly established and directed African Rehabilitation Institute in **Harare**, inaugurated in May 1988.

100. ILO continued to maintain close co-operation at the field level with the OAU subregional **offices** and OAU-affiliated organisations, including **the** Organisation of African Trade Union Unity, the Pan-African Confederation of Employers' Associations and numerous subregional economic groupings, in which national employers' and workers' **organisations** are also associated.

S. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

101. FAO continues to provide full support to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action and OAU's Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. FAO participates in all the work of both the United Nations Steering Committee on the United Nations Programme of Action and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force,

102. Close co-operation between FAO and the OAU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) continued with regard to the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign. Through seven OAU-sponsored projects under this Campaign, FAO **assisted** in improving vaccine production and quality control of the vaccines for **rinderpest** and contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia, improving capabilities of national laboratories, training African nationals, strengthening data-processing and management **systems**, preparing motivational aids for the Campaign, and **establishing** a regional **animal** disease diagnostic centre. The Joint FAO/IAEA Division of

Nuclear and biotechnology Applications in Food and Agriculture has set up a network of scientists in Africa carrying out rinderpest sero-monitoring. OAU states that it will participate in co-ordination meetings of the network.

103. FAO is a member of the OAU/IBAR-sponsored International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control. A series of joint *training* courses and seminars are organized with IBAR on trypanosomiasis control; the latest of these was held at Mombasa, Kenya, in April 1989. FAO continued its collaboration with OAU in the publication of the Information Quarterly on Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis.

104. The collaboration of FAO with OAU and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture continued in the area of biological control of the cassava mealybug, green spider mites, the mango mealybug and other food crop pests. FAO also collaborates with the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of OAU. The latest in a series of joint expert workshops and consultations on the control of striga took place in 1988 at Banjul, and a Joint FAO/OAU Task Force on Striga has been formed. There is also close FAO/OAU collaboration in the development of a plant quarantine action plan for Africa..

105. The first phase of the OAU-sponsored project for the integrated management of the Fouta Djallon Mountains, which was funded by UNDP and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and executed by FAO, has been brought to a successful conclusion. With UNDP funding, FAO is now preparing the second phase of the project.

106. Co-operation continued with the OAU regional remote sensing centres at Nairobi and Ouagadougou, especially in the organisation of training courses.

107. As a member of the Africa Regional Technical Group on Nutrition, FAO participated in preparations for the meeting of the Africa Region Task Force for Food and Nutrition Development, convened by WHO, hosted by OAU and chaired by FAO in August 1988.

108. Within its mandate and areas of competence, FAO continued to provide assistance to Namibia and the African national liberation movements.

T . United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

109. During the period under review, UNESCO established a special Inter-Sectoral Task Force and designated a special adviser to the Director-General of UNESCO to ensure the effective implementation of those aspects of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 which fall within its purview, and to strengthen and expand co-operation with those of its member States which are also members of OAU.

1.10. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Programme of Action in 1986, UNESCO has been an active participant in the work and activities of

the Inter-Agency Task Force, which held its ninth meeting at the UNESCO secretariat in Paris on 4 and 5 May 1989.

111. Overall UNESCO assistance to OAU member States, especially to the least developed countries of sub-Saharan Africa, has remained at a high level in line with previous years' trends, and *in* keeping with the high priority status accorded to the region. The organisation ~~is~~ presently in the process of finalising a special programme for Africa in the fields of its competence.

U. International Civil Aviation Organization

112. OAU is invited to ICAO meetings within ~~its~~ sphere of interest, and has been invited to attend the twenty-seventh session of the ICAO Assembly to be held in September and October 1989 as an observer. Documents and studies of interest to the African region are provided to OAU on a regular basis, to allow it to maintain basic documentation on civil aviation matters.

113. ICAO continues to support the United Nations Programme of Action, and to participate actively in the inter-agency ~~co-ordinating~~ committee for the First and Second Transport and Communications Decades *in Africa*.

114. ICAO also continues to maintain a ~~close~~ and continuous working relationship with the African Civil Aviation Commission, providing the Commission with expert and secretariat assistance upon request.

V. World Health Organization

115. Collaboration continued between the OAU Health and Nutrition Bureau and the WHO Liaison Office with OAU and ECA at Addis Ababa. Links to the WHO regional offices at Braasaville and Alexandria, Egypt have been strengthened. The third OAU Conference of African Ministers of Health, co-sponsored by WHO at Kampala from 28 April to 5 May 1989, addressed a wide range of health problems. The Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS (acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome) presented a situation analysis *on* AIDS, as well as on ~~efforts~~ made to mobilise support. to fight the disease, and indicated future actions which were agreed upon by the Conference. All African countries have established national AIDS committees, which work closely with the WHO Global Programme on AIDS.

116. The Pan-African Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response at Addis Ababa became operational in 1989. Arrangements were made for the first series of training courses to start in June 1989, and the organization of national workshops to facilitate the drawing up of national disaster preparedness plan~~s~~ as recommended by the Conference was considered. WHO also supports OAU effort~~s~~ to control the dumping of toxic and industrial wastes in Africa. Special measures are being taken to strengthen support to African countries, especially the Least developed among them, to ensure that they will attain health for all through primary health care.

W. World Bank

117. The World Bank continues to support the objectives of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, aimed at providing the political, economic and financial support needed to enable the Governments of African countries to implement their policy reforms and development programmes.

118. In this context, the Bank committed over \$3 billion in fiscal year 1988 for development assistance to OAU member countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. This assistance included substantial support for policy reform, economic adjustment and rehabilitation programmes. In this critical area of human resource development, World Bank lending to sub-Saharan Africa more than doubled from 1987 to 1988.

119. During the period under review, the Bank reported signs of economic growth and improvement in a number of African countries implementing policy reform, with the warning, however, that much more needed to be done to assist all African countries to return to the path of sustainable growth. The Bank also continued to urge the donor community to increase the level of concessional flows to Africa and to help to reduce the region's onerous debt burden. In this regard, steady progress is being made under the World Bank Special Programme of Assistance for the low-income, debt-distressed African countries.

120. The Bank is collaborating with international donors and with Governments of African countries on a range of other Bank initiatives aimed at addressing longer-term development issues. For example, a Bank initiative to improve food security has been launched, and food security action plans are currently being developed in a number of sub-Saharan African countries.

121. In addition, in over 30 countries in Africa, the Bank is supporting an agricultural productivity initiative, which combines research, extension services and management of agricultural systems. In the high priority area of education, the Bank has helped to forge a consensus among African Governments and donors on approaches to improve education systems. Over a dozen sub-Saharan countries are in the process of preparing or implementing education sector adjustment operations supported by the International Development Association.

122. The Bank is also giving greater attention to the state of the African environment by promoting agricultural technologies that sustain natural resources and formulating environmental action plans in specific countries. These special actions underline the high priority which the Bank accords to sub-Saharan Africa and to its partnership with OAU and other regional organisations.

X. International Monetary Fund

123. Co-operation between the International Monetary Fund and OAU takes place through OAU member States that are also Fund members, and at the United Nations, through contacts between the Director of the Fund's liaison office and Special Representative to the United Nations, and the Steering Committee of OAU in relation to Africa's Priority Programme.

124. In accordance with its role, IMF carried out its regular consultations with the Governments of member States regarding their economic and financial situations and provided financial and technical assistance in support of adjustment programmes in African countries. The Fund also played an active role in helping African countries to mobilise additional external resources to finance their adjustment programmes.

125. In 1988, the Fund continued to provide balance-of-payments support to a large number of African countries that have adopted adjustment programmes. As at the end of 1988, 27 African countries were being supported by the Fund's financial assistance, with the total amount committed under all its facilities reaching SDR 2.1 billion. As at that date, 3 countries had stand-by arrangements (SBA), 14 countries had arrangements under the structural adjustment facility (**SAF**), 5 had arrangements under the newly created enhanced structural adjustment facility (**ESAF**), including one country with an arrangement under both the ESAF and SBA, 4 had arrangements under both the SAF and SBA, and one country had an arrangement under the extended fund facility.

Y. Universal Postal Union

Framework for the development of co-operation

126. Co-operation between the Universal Postal Union and OAU takes place within the framework of the activities conducted jointly by UPU and the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU), mainly in technical assistance.

127. A co-operation agreement between UPU and PAPU, a specialised agency of the OAU, has been concluded, with a view, inter alia, to co-ordinating programmes and jointly implementing technical assistance activities, taking account of the resources made available by each of the two parties.

Specific co-operation actions

128. Under the agreement signed for specific co-operation in 1988, a course on costing methods and rate-fixing policy for certain French-speaking African countries was organized in October and November 1988. A consultant was recruited by PAPU to lead the course, while UPU financed the participation of nine officials.

129. UPU has also contributed to the **organization** of a conference on mail circulation in Africa, inter alia, by financing the participation of 24 postal staff from the least developed countries.

130. Further, UPU has contributed to the search for, and recruitment of, a consultant to study a possible merger between PAPU and the African Postal Union. The study, financed by UNDP in the framework of a project on the establishment of an African economic community (**RAF-37-104**), has already been completed and the conclusions submitted to OAU for consideration.

2. International Maritime Organization

131. IMO has **continued** to contribute to the implementation of the transport component of the **Lagos Plan of Action** within the framework of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, in co-operation with OAU and ECA.

AA. World Intellectual Property Organization

132. During the reporting period, WIPO intensified its co-operation with OAU. In November 1988, a WIPO official met at **Addis Ababa** with the Secretary-General of OAU and together they identified the following **areas** for future co-operation!

(a) Holding of joint medal-awarding ceremonies for outstanding African inventors)

(b) **Organizing** of a joint WIPO/OAU meeting in the industrial property field;

(c) Training by WIPO *of* OAU officials in the field of copyright.

133. In April 1989, a WIPO **official met** at **Addis Ababa** with the Secretary-General of OAU to adopt a timetable for joint activities, as follows;
The following was **agreed**:

(a) A WIPO/OAU joint industrial property seminar is to be held in Mauritius in December 1989. The Secretary-General of OAU agreed to attend the opening **ceremony**;

(b) A WIPO/OAU joint modal-awarding ceremony is to be held in 1990;

(c) Two OAU officials are to be awarded WIPO training fellowships in 1989 and two are to have study tours in 1989.

134. WIPO agreed to assist OAU in the field of copyright by elaborating an African model law on copyright and by giving appropriate support in the implementation of a resolution of African Ministers of Culture to fight copyright piracy.

'135. The intensification of co-operation between WIPO and OAU was confirmed by the Secretary-General *of* OAU in his report on the activities of the General Secretariat covering the period from May 1988 to February 1989 and presented at the Ministerial meeting held at **Addis Ababa** in **February 1969**.

136. In addition to direct co-operation with the OAU secretariat, WIPO continued to co-operate with OAU member States within the *framework* of the two regional industrial property organizations, namely, the African Regional Industrial Property Organization and the African Intellectual Property Organization, and also with the African Regional Centre for Technology. The co-operation has involved the organization of joint training courses, the award of WIPO training fellowships, assistance with the drafting of new industrial property legislation and with the computerization of the industrial property offices of some of the member States.

BB. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

137. During the reporting period, UNIDO continued to intensify its co-operation with OAU through the implementation of a number of activities. UNIDO continued to attend meetings of the OAU Steering Committee, the OAU Council of Ministers and the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. These meetings enabled it to provide information on its programmes, as well as on measures taken by African countries to implement industrial activities in support of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the United Nations Programme of Action. This has contributed to the efforts of the legislative bodies of OAU in monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Programme.

138. Within the **framework** of the Joint Committee of the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO for the Implementation of the Programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the three secretariats co-operated in the **organization** of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the preceding meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa held at **Harare**, in May and June 1989. The Ministers agreed on an African **common** position for the Third General Conference of UNIDO scheduled to take place at Vienna from 20 to 24 November 1989. They also reviewed the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade, the United Nations Programme of Action and the African Memorandum on the Industrialization of Africa, as well as of the programmes for the promotion of industrial co-operation at the subregional level, taking into full account the impact on industrial development in Africa of the ongoing structural adjustment and stabilization programmes.

139. In addition, the Ministers examined and took decisions on the report on the independent mid-term evaluation of the Industrial Development Decade, the study on the proclamation of an Africa Industrialization Day, and the report on the African Industrial Development Fund, called for by the Eighth Conference of Ministers. They strongly recommended the proclamation of a second Decade and the proclamation of 20 November as Africa Industrialization Day and provided guidance to the three secretariats on a number of high priority activities of particular significance to Africa.

140. The secretariats of OAU and ECA participated actively in the preparatory activities for the Third General Conference of UNIDO. The main thrust of that participation was to ensure that the concerns of the African countries and of the region as a whole were directly reflected in the decisions to be taken by the Conference, with particular attention to the potential contribution of the industrial sector in providing a lasting solution to the economic crisis faced by African countries, and to the proclamation of a second Industrial Development Decade.

141. The secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO also undertook the preparation of the eighth joint progress report on the implementation of the programme for the Decade, as well as follow-up action to the decisions of meetings of the Conference of Ministers of Industry and of the legislative bodies of OAU, ECA and UNIDO, relating to the **industrialization** of Africa.

142. With regard to the monitoring of progress in the implementation of the programme for the Decade, UNIDO also continued to provide assistance to OAU and its member States and agencies, in monitoring activities at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. Such assistance included short-term advisory services not only to African Governments, but also to African intergovernmental organisations. The organization of a number of national seminars on industrial policies and strategies made a significant contribution in this respect, as the seminars helped the Governments to review and re-adjust their industrial policies, programmes and activities to the priorities of the Industrial Development Decade, Africa's Priority Programme and the United Nations Programme of Action.

cc!, International Atomic Energy Agency

143. IAEA continued to provide assistance to those of its member States in Africa which are also States members of OAU to support the peaceful uses of atomic energy in development projects. The assistance included the provision of equipment and supplies, expert services, fellowships and scientific visits, as well as participation in regional and interregional training courses.

DD. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

144. A total of 31 States members of OAU are Contracting Parties to GATT and, as such, take part in its continuing activities and functions as the principal international body responsible for international trade relations, negotiations for the reduction of trade barriers and trade measures that distort competition, and the resolution of trade disputes between States. Since September 1986, the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, encompassing all the diverse problems and issues relating to international trade in goods and services, has been the main focus of the work of GATT in which all its Contracting Parties are participating.

145. Another two States members of OAU (Tunisia and Algeria) are also participating in the Uruguay Round trade negotiations and are concurrently completing the procedures for accession to GATT. Nine other member States of OAU apply the basic GATT rules and principles in their commercial policy on a de facto basis.

146. The GATT secretariat provides technical assistance to developing countries towards a better appreciation of their rights and obligations under the GATT system, and of the opportunities and advantages for trade offered by it, as well as more effective participation in the continuing activities of GATT, including the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Technical assistance under this programme has been regularly extended to States members of OAU, Contracting Parties to GATT and others.

147. Twice a year, the GATT secretariat organizes commercial policy training courses for officials from developing countries in English, French and Spanish. Officials from States members of OAU - both Contracting Parties and others - participate in these courses regularly, with 20 having participated in 1988.

148. As part of its 'technical co-operation activities, the GATT secretariat organized national seminars on GATT and the Uruguay Round in the OAU member States of Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Nigeria, the Sudan and Zimbabwe. Several States members of OAU also participated in regional seminars held in Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Morocco since mid-1987,

149. In response to a *specific* request from the representatives of developing African countries that are members of GATT, arrangements in the GATT secretariat to provide technical assistance to those countries in order to facilitate and support their participation in the work of GATT, in particular, the Uruguay Round trade negotiations, have been further streamlined and strengthened. Such assistance includes the provision of analytical background notes and technical studies and data, arrangements for periodic briefing sessions for delegates and the organisation of national and regional training workshops and seminars.

V. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

150. During the past year, the Department continued to carry out information activities on subjects that are of joint concern to the United Nations and OAU. The Department provided extensive radio, television and photographic coverage of developments concerning Africa, including those relating to OAU. The United Nations information centres were especially active in stimulating discussion and support on issues of interest to both the United Nations and OAU. Press releases, periodicals and other publications of the Department continued to feature political, economic and social themes relating to Africa, highlighting, where appropriate, the activities of OAU. Most important, extensive coverage continued to be provided to the Africa recovery programmes, anti-apartheid action, Namibia and Western Sahara, emphasizing the involvement of OAU wherever relevant.

151. The Department continued to provide press release coverage, in both English and French, to those United Nations activities related to African political and economic issues. For example, press releases were issued on the speech of the Secretary-General of the United Nations before the OAU Conference of Heads of State and Government and on activities undertaken by him or his representative towards resolving such regional questions as Western Sahara and Namibia. The debate in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU was fully covered, as were all activities of the Main Committees of the Assembly, the Security Council, the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Council for Namibia and others.

152. Between April 1988 and December 1989, the Department provided television coverage for the following commemorative and special events: International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June); International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Women in South Africa and Namibia (9 August); Gorée-Almadie Memorial (5 October); and the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October),

153. In addition, the Department prepared 180 television news packages for such international syndicators as VISNEWS, for world-wide dissemination. These packages covered a wide range of political and economic activities *in* Africa on which the two organisations work closely. Included in these packages were meetings of the Security Council to discuss ~~apartheid~~ and Namibia, and General Assembly plenary meetings on such other subjects as the critical economic situation in Africa and aid to Ethiopia. Coverage was provided to press conferences given by the African National Congress of South Africa, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, and the Chairman of OAU.

154. United Nations publications, such as the UN Chronicle, reflected OAU activities undertaken jointly with the United Nations, as for example the peace process in Western Sahara and implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery *and* Development 1986-1990. The publication Development Forum also covered many social and economic areas of direct concern to OAU.

155. The Radio Section of the Department continued its extensive programmes on matters of interest to OAU and the United Nations. Excerpts from the address of the outgoing Chairman of OAU, H.E. Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia, were included in UN News Briefs, broadcast to Africa through Radio Cairo and the Voice of Nigeria, as well as in A Vitrine do Mundo, a weekly feature programme sent to all Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, Europe and Latin America,

156. Mr. Modibo Keita, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali and representative of the current Chairman of OAU, was interviewed in L'Afrique a l'ONU, the weekly current affairs magazine used in 47 stations in Africa. The Executive Secretary of OAU to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. G. Oumarou Youssoufou, was featured in Bonjour L'Afrique, the weekly news-magazine broadcast through Radio Cairo and the Voice of Nigeria via short wave,

157. Co-operation between the United Nations and OAU in the fields of information and human rights were also the subject of the weekly L'Afrique a l'ONU. The programme Perspective No. 9, entitled "Africa's Economic Recovery and Development", was adapted into official and non-official languages of the United Nations, including French, Chinese and Swahili and carried a statement by Mr. Keita as the representative of the Chairman of OAU.

158. An item on UNDP assistance to African national liberation movements was also featured in the anti-war weekly programme Southern Africa Review, produced in English, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa and Zulu. In addition, the United Nations Radio Section gave extensive coverage in several languages to the special event held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 October 1988 under the auspices of OAU, marking the launching of a competition for the Gorée-almadies Memorial in Senegal to Africa and its diaspora.

159. A special video programme in English and French entitled "The 25th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity; co-operation with the United Nations", was sent to all African television stations through Radio France Outre Mer. The footage included interviews with the outgoing Chairman of OAU,

H.E. Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia, with the current Chairman of OAU, H.E. Mr. Moussa Traoré, President of Mali, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with the Executive Secretary of OAU.

160. In addition to the radio, press, publication and television activity originating at Headquarters, the Department carried out many programmes relating to African issues through its world-wide network of United Nations information centres. Such centres in Africa and elsewhere distributed promotional publications, organised lectures, media seminars and non-governmental briefings, loaned films and videos and held screenings and exhibits. Many of the activities were planned around observances such as the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June).

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1001, No. 14691, p. 45.

2/ See the report of the World Food Council on the work of its fifteenth session, to be issued as Official Documents of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/44/19).