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**CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND
THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES**

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1	3
II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION	2 - 5	4
III. AGREEMENT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES	6	5
IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS	7 - 82	5
A. Disarmament	8	6
B. Population	9 - 18	6
C. Technical co-operation	19 - 22	8
D. Copyright and related matters	23 - 28	8
E. Diversification of Arab economies	29 - 32	9
F. Food and agriculture	33 - 50	10
G. Development of industry	51 - 53	14

* A/44/150.

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
H. Maritime transport	54 - 71	14
I, Child care	72 - 82	17
v. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON BILATERAL PROPOSALS	a3 - 194	19
A, Political matters	a4 - 89	19
B. Economic matters	90 - 98	20
C. Trade and development	99 - 103	21
D. Development financing	104 - 110	22
E. Co-operation with the regional commissions	111 - 122	24
F. Human settlements	123 - 129	26
G. Environment	130 - 138	27
H. Labour	139 - 150	28
I, Education, science and culture	151 - 164	29
J. Health	165 - 169	31
K. Refugees	170 - 174	32
L. Natural disasters	175 - 177	33
M. Women	178 - 179	33
N. Civil aviation	180 - 182	34
O. Postal services	183 - 189	34
P. Public information	190 - 194	35

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 October 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/3 on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, paragraphs 6, 7, 9 to 11, 13 and 14 of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to co-ordinate the follow-up action to facilitate the implementation of the proposals of a multilateral nature adopted at the Tunis meeting in 1983, and to take appropriate action regarding the multilateral proposals adopted at the Amman meeting in 1985, and at the Geneva meeting in 1988, including the following measures:

"(a) Promotion of contacts and consultations between the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies concerned;

"(b) Setting up of joint sectoral inter-agency working groups

"7. Calls upon the specialised agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system;

"(a) To continue to co-operate with the Secretary-General and the programmes, organizations and agencies concerned within the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in the follow-up of multilateral proposals aimed at strengthening and expanding co-operation in all fields between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

"(b) To maintain and increase contacts and consultations with the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies concerned regarding projects of a bilateral nature, in order to facilitate their implementation;

"(c) To associate whenever possible with organizations and institutions of the League of Arab States in the execution and implementation of development projects in the Arab region;

"(d) To inform the Secretary-General, not later than 15 May 1989, of the progress of their co-operation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in particular the follow-up action taken on the multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the Tunis, Amman and Geneva meetings:

" . . .

"9. **Decides** that, in order to intensify co-operation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of **progress as well as** to **prepare** comprehensive periodic reports, a general meeting between the United Nations **system** and the League of Arab States should take place **once** every three years and inter-agency **sectoral meetings** should **be** organised annually on areas of priority and **wide** importance in the **development** of the Arab States, the **time** and place to be determined by **consultations between** the United Nations and the League of Arab States;

"10. **Recommends** that, in order to make the already existing **co-operation** comprehensive and meaningful, **as well as** to **give** it a legal and formal **status**, the **Secretary-General** of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States should take necessary **steps** to conclude an agreement of **co-operation between** the United Nations and the League of Arab States when the text of such an agreement is finalised by the two organisations, as called for in paragraph 10 of **General Assembly resolution 42/5**;

"11. **Invites** the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to initiate consultations for the purpose of holding a preparatory meeting in 1989 **between** the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the League of Arab States with a view to **considering** the possibility of holding a **seminar** on **disarmament matters** in the Arab region in 1990;

"...

"13. **Requests** the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to hold periodic consultations, **as and** when appropriate, **between representatives** of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the **General Secretariat** of the League of Arab States on follow-up policies, **projects**, actions and **procedures**;

"14. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to **submit** to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth **session** a progress report on the **implementation** of the present resolution. "

II. CONSULTATIONS AND **EXCHANGES** OF INFORMATION

2. Throughout the period under review, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the **Secretary-General** of the League of Arab States (LAS) have maintained close contacts *on* the question of the Middle East and on other matters of mutual *concern* to the two organisations.

.. On 13 March 1989, a meeting **was** held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, between the Under-Secretary-General of LAS and the Under-Secretary-General ^{for} Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, **Decolonization** and Trusteeship to discuss (a) **the** signing of the Agreement between the United Nations and the League of Arab States; (b) the holding of a preparatory meeting in 1969 between the League of Arab States and the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat with a

view to considering the possibility of holding a seminar on disarmament matters in the Arab region in 1990; and (c) the subject of sectoral meetings as called for in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 43/3.

4. On 24 April 1989, the Security Council urged all parties to respond favourably to appeals for effective cease-fire in Lebanon and invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the ministerial committee of the League of Arab States, to make all possible efforts and to make all contacts which could be deemed useful for these same purposes (Note by the President of the Security Council, S/20602). In this connection, a meeting was held at Geneva on 28 April 1989 between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait in his capacity as President of the Committee of the Arab League on Lebanon,

5. Consultations have also taken place between the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonisation and Trusteeship and the Office of the Permanent Observer of LAS to the United Nations concerning follow-up action on proposals relating to multilateral co-operation, as well as the signing of the Agreement between the United Nations and LAS and the proposed seminar on disarmament matters in the Arab region in 1990. The offices exchanged information on the subject of sectoral meetings.

III. AGREEMENT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

6. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 43/3, the draft agreement of co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States was prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, at the request of LAS. The final text (in both the Arabic and the English languages) has been approved by the Council of LAS and is ready for signature by both parties, as called for in the above-mentioned resolution. The agreement is to enter into force upon signature.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS

7. At the meetings between representatives of the United Nations and the League of Arab States systems, held at Tunis and Geneva from 28 June to 1 July 1983 and from 29 June to 1 July 1988 respectively, a number of proposals were adopted for implementation through co-operation between the two systems (see A/39/299 and Corr.1, sect. V, and A/43/509/Add.1, sect. III). Some of those proposals call for action by two or more bodies of the United Nations system in co-operation with LAS and its specialized organizations. Action has been initiated on these multilateral proposals in consultation with the interested organisations and agencies of the United Nations and LAS systems. The following information, based on replies received from United Nations bodies in response to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 43/3, summarizes progress made since the previous report (A/43/509, sect. III). The paragraphs cited in parentheses after headings, relating to specific recommendations, refer to paragraph 6 of the addendum dated 17 August 1988 to the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/509/Add.1).

A. **Disarmament** (para. 20 (c) and (d))

8. Consultations were held between representatives of LAS and the Department for Disarmament Affairs early this year, in implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 43/3, with respect to a preparatory meeting in 1989 to consider the possibility of holding a seminar on disarmament matters in the Arab region in 1990. The Department will continue to maintain its contacts with LAS to consider this and other proposals further.

B. **Population** (paras. 59 and 60)

9. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General dated 12 August 1988 (A/43/509, para. 10), the project entitled "Assistance to the Population Research and Training Unit" is funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and executed by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat within the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. While UNFPA approved and allocated funds to the Department for two years (1987-1988) for implementation of the project, it was agreed between UNFPA, the Department and LAS that an in-depth review of the project would be undertaken before the end of 1988 to determine UNFPA assistance for the next three years (1989-1991).

10. In October 1988, a mission was fielded to review the work plan and activities of the project undertaken during 1987-1988, the staffing situation of the Population Research and Training Unit of LAS, and the institutional development and self-reliance attained by the Unit. The mission submitted a report that addressed the main strengths and weaknesses of the project as encountered in its implementation in 1987-1988. UNFPA and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development concurred with the findings of the mission that the original project document was too ambitious and that the work programme of the project for 1989 to 1991 should be revised and reduced so that it could be implemented within the limitations of the number of staff available to the Unit and their professional skills.

11. At the request of UNFPA, and as executing agency, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development reformulated the project activities and financial requirements to be provided by UNFPA for the three years between 1989 and 1991. This was done in consultation with LAS, taking into account the recommendations of the in-depth review conducted in October 1988. In May 1989, LAS appointed a director for the Population Research and Training Unit, and UNFPA approved and allocated funds for execution by the Department in the amount of \$730,450 over three years (\$196,800 for 1989, \$269,000 for 1990 and \$263,750 for 1991).

12. It is expected that by the end of the three years the Population Research and Training Unit will become a permanent institution within LAS to respond to the needs of the various bodies of the League for population data collection, research and study, and to serve the Arab countries in the formulation and implementation of population policies within the framework of their socio-economic development strategies and plans.

13. The **Population** Research and Training Unit was successful in establishing a data base, **initiating** research and producing information and documentation for dissemination. An international migration survey was undertaken in Tunisia and studies were made on women's contribution to economic activities and their impact on marriage and fertility.
14. In an effort to strengthen the infrastructure of the Unit, LAS will recruit a director for the project. Studies on women will continue and the results of seminars and research will be published. Research activities will be strengthened by a United Nations consultant.
15. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and LAS are working together to organize a seminar on the demographic and socio-economic implications of international migration in the Arab world, with special reference to return migration, to be held at Amman in **December** 1989, to establish a data base of labour statistics, to provide assistance to labour ministries to establish labour force and employment information units, **and** to publish joint studies in the field of labour.
16. ESCWA and the Population Research and Training Unit **of LAS** are co-operating on the preparation of the following publications: Bibliography of Population Literature in the Arab World. Part I: Arabic Literature and Part II: Non-Arabic Literature, a series of country profiles containing basic data on population and policies along with a succinct analysis.
17. The Economic Commission for Africa (**ECA**) is also co-operating with LAS in the demography subsector. In 1984 the Population Research and Training Unit of LAS invited the Population Information Network, Africa Co-ordinating Unit, to hold discussions and consultations on preparations for the establishment of a Pan-Arab Population Information Network (now entitled Population Information Network in the Arab Region). The latter organization was to serve as the Arab region counterpart of the Population Information Network, Africa Co-ordinating Unit, both serving as regional nodes to the global network, whose headquarters are based at the Population Division in New York. Since then, the two networks have maintained reasonably close, though informal links. Furthermore, LAS has completed the Arab thesaurus to supplement the Population Multilingual Thesaurus put out by the global network.
18. ECA, ESCWA and LAS are implementing joint activities and collaborating in line with the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly and LAS in the area of research. Several planned activities relating to (a) an infant and child mortality survey, (b) measurement of women's economic activities in the Arab region, **(c)** studies to measure the impact of **family** planning programmes on fertility trends, (d) studies investigating trends in marriage and fertility, (e) research on drawing up a regional population policy, and (f) a survey on international migration, and others, have been discussed as **areas** where there could be strong collaboration and where much information could be shared or exchanged between the two organizations.

C. Technical co-operation (paras. 22 (a) , (b) , (d))

19. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to increasing the use of the specialized agencies of LAS as executing agencies for the implementation of regional projects. It has assisted LAS in the execution of the projected administrative development of the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States (RAB/86/047), which has become operational. Additional cost-sharing financing (\$678,000) has been mobilised from the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisation⁸ (AGFUND). UNDP assistance for the Arab Regional Information System Network (ARISNET) (\$400,000) was approved and promotional activities planned under this assistance have been started.

20. IAEA has completed or is implementing a number of technical co-operation projects in Arab States. Since 1987, LAS has been invited to attend as an observer the meetings of the Agency's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Committee.

21. Technical co-operation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and LAS continued at an excellent level. For instance, FAO (a) provided to LAS an FAO film, a set of slides and a videotape for use in the Research Colloquium for the Productive Family, and a document on expertise available from FAO for promoting activities oriented towards the improvement of social and economic conditions of the rural populations (b) executed a funds-in-trust project in Morocco, on strengthening of the agricultural planning system, financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD); and (c) made arrangements with the Arab Centre for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) to organise in 1989, with financial support from FAO, a workshop on the development of fruit trees adapted to dry lands.

22. Technical co-operation also continued between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) and LAS. During 1988 the Centre implemented a total of 30 projects with a budget of approximately \$8.6 million in 13 Arab countries. Six other technical co-operation projects with a total budget of \$3.9 million have also been prepared in consultation with six Arab countries.

D. Copyright and related matters (paras. 23 (a) and (b))

23. In June 1988, two government officials from Kuwait met with representatives of the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) at Geneva and discussed a draft copyright law for Kuwait prepared by WIPO. Also in 1988, WIPO trained three officials from two Arab countries, Kuwait and Morocco, and one organisation, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in the field of copyright and related rights.

24. In January 1989, WIPO prepared and sent to Jordan a draft law on copyright and related rights. Also in January 1989, WIPO organised at Algiers, in co-operation with the Government of Algeria, a specialized training course on copyright and related rights. High-level government officials from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia attended the course.

25. Using funds made available by UNDP, WIPO provided preparatory assistance for a regional project for Arab countries, entitled "Upgrading of Industrial Property Systems in Arab Countries, Phase II". During that project, WIPO undertook missions to selected Arab countries and discussed with government officials the means for strengthening industrial property systems in their respective countries. Within the framework of the preparatory assistance, a policy planning meeting on industrial property for Arab countries was organized at Amman from 3 to 5 December 1988. The meeting was opened by the Minister for Industry and Trade of Jordan and by the Director-General of WIPO. It was attended by 32 officials from 14 countries and 2 Arab intergovernmental organisations. The meeting made specific recommendations related to strengthening of the industrial property systems in Arab countries.

26. WIPO assisted the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils in translating into Arabic volume 9 of the International Patent Classification, which has been distributed to all Arab countries,

27. WIPO assisted the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) in drafting uniform patent law for the States concerned and proposed the necessary implementing regulation for the said law. WIPO also prepared proposals regarding the structure and financing of the central office, which will be in charge of patents in the Council's member States.

28. A third activity under discussion is an action-oriented meeting to draft copyright and protection laws for the computer software industry. The work would initially focus on Egypt and be done in collaboration with the Information and Decision Support Centre. Drafting such legislation would be an essential first step in protecting intellectual property rights and establishing copyright protection laws for the Arab region. It would make an important contribution to the larger Arab regional project on regional software technology centres, sponsored by the Arab Fund and UNDP.

E. Diversification of Arab economies (para. 24)

29. The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has maintained co-operation with a number of specialized organisations of LAS concerning the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Financial Flows Programme of UNCTAD, and has continued to co-operate with the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) in evolving a trade financing facility for the region. In co-operation with the office of LAS in Geneva, the UNCTAD secretariat has reformulated the comprehensive project proposal entitled "Regional co-operation for economic diversification of the Arab economies through strengthening co-operation among their enterprises". This project awaits approval by UNDP.

30. In response to a request by LAS, the secretariat of UNCTAD compiled information (on tape) on trade control measures of LAS member States. In May 1988, the LAS secretariat requested UNCTAD to assist in processing commercial data on tariff restrictions and a mission to LAS headquarters in this connection is expected to be undertaken in the near future.

31. UNCTAD also maintains close contacts with LAS concerning issues relating to **the economy** of the occupied Palestinian territory. A mission was undertaken to the LAS headquarters in February 1989, during which the Economic Department of LAS agreed to collaborate with UNCTAD on the study entitled "Prospects for sustained economic development in the occupied Palestinian territory". In particular, it considered co-sponsoring **one of two seminars** in support of the study, and to exchange information on the **economic and social situation of Palestinians** in the occupied territory. The UNCTAD secretariat also co-operated in the preparation of a chapter of the Joint Arab Economic Report devoted to the economic and social situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

32. Based on the above-mentioned proposed study, ESCWA delegated **one of its** officers to discuss the proposal in 1988, and expressed its readiness to contribute to its **implementation**.

F. Food and agriculture (paras. 26-29)

Regional seminars, workshops and technical meetings

33. **FAO and LAS** continued to **participate** in each other's seminars, workshops and technical meetings, which contributed to strengthening the collaboration between them. Invitations to participate in the **FAO** statutory bodies and their official meetings have been extended regularly to the LAS subsidiary bodies. The Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (**AOAD**) participated as an observer in the Foundation Meeting for the Agricultural Food Marketing Association for the Near East and North Africa **sponsored by FAO and** convened at Amman from 3 to 6 December 1988. **FAO participated** in various ministerial and other high-level meetings organised by LAS and its subsidiary bodies, such as the Conference of the Permanent Technical Committee of the **Heads of Statistical Organizations in the Arab Countries**; the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank seminars on agricultural adjustment in the Arab States held in Kuwait and in the Syrian Arab Republic, organised in collaboration with AOAD, where a paper on macro-economic framework for agricultural adjustment **programmes was presented**; the Consultative Meeting on the Arab Regional Information System Network, convened by LAS to review and make recommendations regarding the establishment of that network. **FAO** also finalized the report of the Round-table Meeting on Medium and Long-term Agricultural Development, co-sponsored by **FAO, AID and AOAD**.

Training

34. **FAO** co-operation with the subsidiary bodies of LAS continued also in training activities. **FAO** has supplied the Population Research and Training Unit of LAS, at its request, with updated computer software and country data bases and assistance enabling the Unit to apply the Computerized System for Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance and Training (CSPPA) to a current total of eight LAS member countries for either training or **research** purposes. **FAO** also conducted a CSPPA demonstration session at the seminar on agricultural adjustment in Arab States held at **Damascus** from 29 October to 10 November 1988, in joint collaboration with **AOAD** and the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank.

Exchange of information

35. FAO provided computer programs to *scientific* bodies of LAS for the design and processing of data resulting from fertilizer experiments developed by the Organization. Statistical publications (Trade, Production, *Fertiliser Yearbook*®, FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics) were regularly dispatched to the LAS secretariat and its specialised agencies.

36. During 1988, and in response to the needs of the Arab region, the strategy of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the region focused on the support of dryland farming and the development of low rainfall areas to alleviate rural poverty, creating more work opportunities, increasing staple food production and saving on foreign exchange. It placed special emphasis on strengthening central and local institutions for rain-fed agriculture designed to make them more responsive to farmers' needs. It also stresses the integration of livestock development and crop production to diversify the sources of farm income, to conserve soil and water resources, to develop range lands, to develop small and medium-sized rural enterprises, research and application of new technology, marketing improvements and land consolidation, and to place more emphasis on suitable programmes and projects for women, the landless and semi-sedentary populations in the marginal areas.

Loans to Arab countries by the International Fund for Agricultural Development

37. During 1988, IFAD approved three new projects for the Arab countries, two under its Regular Programme and one under its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries. The projects approved under the Regular Programme were the Pilot Project in Algeria and Tunisia for the Integrated Rural Development of the Melleque Watershed, which represents IFAD's first design of a joint project between two countries, with a IFAD loan of \$26 million; and the Eastern Regional Agricultural Development Project in Democratic Yemen, with an IFAD loan of \$10.5 million. The project approved under the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa was the "En Nahud Co-operative Credit Project" in the Sudan with a loan of \$9.5 million. These projects reflect, to varying degrees, regional concerns with environmental degradation in both rain-fed and semi-arid areas, with credit provision to diversify farmers' incomes with enhanced institutional support and efficiency and with the needs of rural women. The Fund's total loans of \$46 million towards these projects helped mobilize approximately \$50.6 million from other external donors and recipient countries.

36. With these new projects, cumulative IFAD assistance for the region up to the end of 1988 under both the Regular Programme and the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa amounted to \$419.1 million for 40 projects in 12 countries. The total IFAD investment in the Arab countries helped mobilize an additional amount of \$793.4 million from other external donors and \$1,325.7 million from recipient countries.

Technical assistance grants to institutions belonging to the League of Arab States

39. In addition to its loans to the Arab countries, IFAD also provided in 1988 a new grant of \$500,000 to ACSAD, in addition to previous grants totalling \$6,851,000, to enable it to extend its successful trial of drought-tolerant, high-yielding wheat and barley and for experiments in crop rotation, tillage depths, weed control, fertiliser levels and types of ploughs best suited to dryland farming.

40. In collaboration with AOAD, IFAD organised, during 1988, two regional training workshops on project implementation and monitoring and evaluation, one in Morocco and the other in Tunisia. These workshops were financed out of two IFAD grants to AOAD, which totalled \$1,416,000, for training, manpower development and institutional building. These workshops were attended by 26 and 30 participants respectively from Algeria, Djibouti, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia. In addition, IFAD is currently considering, in co-operation with other institutions, possibilities for the establishment of a number of collaborative research networks that will benefit a number of LAS countries. These networks are:

(a) Collaborative research network for the development of biological control methods of desert locusts

(b) Collaborative research network for camel research and development;

(a) Regional research network on date-palm.

Co-operation agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council

41. To further bolster its co-operation with Arab countries, IFAD, at present, is in the process of signing a co-operation agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), composed of six Arab States of the Gulf: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. The Fund will also consider measures to establish similar co-operation agreements with the other two rubregional associations recently created, i.e. the Arab Co-operation Council, consisting of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen, and the Arab Maghreb Union, comprising Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

Participation at the meeting of the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States

42. As a demonstration of concern with issues of food production and food security requirements in the Arab region, the Fund participated for the first time in the forty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States, held at Tunis from 8 to 9 September 1988.

Deposits of the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Arab banks

43. In addition to providing loans and grants to Arab countries in the course of its development work, IFAD invests surplus funds in a large number of Arab commercial banks. The Fund's time deposits placed with Arab banks generally amount to the equivalent of between \$125 million and \$150 million at any given time.

44. Since 1983, the World Food Programme (WFP) has committed assistance worth \$996 million to Arab countries, of which \$683 million has been provided to support development projects and \$313 million in aid of emergency relief operations, WFP aid is directed mainly to the Poorest segments of the rural population.

45. Food assistance has been given to assist projects that can broadly be classified in two categories:

(a) Food-for-work projects intended to support agricultural development. For instance, food rations are being provided as part payment of wages to workers undertaking, for example, land protection works, tree planting and construction of irrigation works. Food rations are also being given to support settlement projects; in such cases, food aid is provided to assist the farmers on newly reclaimed areas until such time as their land becomes productive. Land reclamation and settlement projects are presently being supported in Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic, for example:

(b) Feeding projects such as those in which food rations are provided to school children from the poorest areas with the objective of improving the nutrition and health of the beneficiaries and attracting children to attend schools and to maintain the levels of attendance. Projects of this type are being supported in Democratic Yemen, Morocco, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen. Other WFP-assisted feeding projects include those for pregnant and nursing mothers.

46. While development projects are the major component of activities, WFP also plays an important role in providing emergency food assistance to those people affected by natural or man-made disasters. At present, assistance is being provided to refugees in Somalia and the Sudan and to displaced people in Lebanon.

47. ESCWA has prepared two plans of action to combat desertification, one for Jordan and the other for Yemen. Similar action is envisaged for other ESCWA countries, in co-operation with ACSAD and AOAD.

48. In 1988, two seminars on various aspects of the food industry were organised jointly with the Arab Federation for Food Industry (AFFI). A third will be organised in 1989.

49. UNDP will designate AOAD as executing agency for two UNDP-financed projects! (a) a project for strengthening agricultural research management in Arab countries through country studies and regional workshops; and (b) a full-scale regional project for the development of oil-seed crops in the least developed Arab countries,

50. AOAD will also, provided that it mobilizes 50 per cent of the financing, be associated with the International Trade Centre in the execution of the follow-up scale phase of the proposed project for establishment of network marketing information systems with the aim of promoting intra-Arab trade in agricultural commodities.

G. Development of industry (para. 30)

51. During 1988, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) successfully continued **its** co-operation with the Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO), a **specialized** organisation of LAS. At the outset of the year, co-operation with AIDO was highlighted by the signing of the Joint Communiqué on UNIDO/AIDO Co-operation on 18 February 1988. Specific projects listed in the Communiqué and approved and/or implemented in 1988 include *the* following:

(a) Arab country studies for the seventh Industrial Development Conference of the Arab States (UC/RAB/88/149);

(b) Training programme for management and control of industrial products, Algiers (UC/RAB/88/201);

(c) Training programme for maintenance of industrial equipment, Casablanca, Morocco (UC/RAB/88/202);

(d) Training programme for maintenance of industrial equipment, Sana'a, from 28 November to 16 December 1988 (UC/RAB/88/203);

(e) Workshop on Industrial Project Preparation, Evaluation and the Application of COMFAR, Baghdad, from 12 November to 1 December 1988 (UC/RAB/88/213).

52. In addition, co-operation with the Arab Railways Union has been developed further through the joint implementation of the Workshop on Railway Engineering with Emphasis on Maintenance and Repair, held at Damascus from 10 to 22 September 1988.

53. UNDP assistance to the project executed by ESCWA for the Establishment of Engineering Infrastructure Industries in Arab States (RAB/87/013) was approved in June 1988. AIDO, which shared the responsibility for project execution with ESCWA, will also contribute to financing of the project, together with AFESD, GCC and the Islamic Development Bank.

H. Maritime transport (paras. 32-34)

54. The following information refers to seven national and *six regional* projects in the fields of training, maritime safety, prevention of pollution from ships and port management and modernisation. The information includes courses undertaken by nationals of Arab League States that are members in the World Maritime University, which operates under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

1. National projects

Algeria

55. Under the **Maritime Safety project**, consultancy **services** continued to be provided for **elaboration** of a safety inspection **manual**; execution of a port **safety audit**; conduct of **specialized courses** on oil and gas tanker **operations**; and conduct of a seminar on safety afloat and ashore. **Four** fellowships have been awarded for study at the **World Maritime University**, as well as three fellowships in English for **management of ship operations**. Finally, **teaching aids** and equipment were supplied to the Institute of **Higher Maritime Studies, Bou-Ismaïl**. Further consultancy services and fellowships are planned for 1989.

56. A new project to provide specialised training of **seafaring** shore-based personnel was approved in early 1989 to implement a series of **short specialised courses** that are currently being developed by **IMC**. The objective of the project is to **ensure regular** delivery of **these** courses at the Institute through on-the-spot training of trainers.

Democratic Yemen

57. The operational phase of the **Maritime Training project** was initiated in 1988 in order to establish a **maritime training centre** at **Aden** for the lower- to mid-level maritime personnel in the **merchant/fishing fleets, ports** and **associated shore-based industries**. Activities include the **elaboration of training programmes**, training of trainers and the supply of **teaching aids** and equipment.

58. Under the **Plan of Action for the Yemen Ports Authority project**, IMO is preparing a plan of action for **technical port consultancies** and training of port personnel. This **plan of action** will support a **major capital investment project** for the **modernization** of the ports infrastructure in **Democratic Yemen**, financed by the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

59. A project is now being prepared on the implementation of IMO model courses at the Faculty of Maritime Studies, Tripoli, in order to train the **personnel** of the national shipping company in such fields as oil tanker **familiarization**, basic **fire-fighting** and **personal survival**, and also to ensure future delivery of these courses at the Faculty through **on-the-spot** training of trainers.

Morocco

60. The Assistance to the Institute of Higher **Maritime Studies** project was completed in 1988 with the preparation of a maritime directory, the completion of studies in maritime law and **maritime** ancillary industries, and the provision of equipment to the Institute.

61. Under a Government-executed project, Training of Trainers, IMO will **implement** a series of model courses at the Institute for the benefit of the national **maritime**

administration. The objective is to **ensure** future delivery of these **courses** at the Institute through **on-the-spot** training of trainers.

Saudi Arabia

62. Under the funds-in-trust Study Tour in Pollution Prevention project, a senior official of the Meteorological and Environmental **Protection** Agency undertook a study tour in **various** European countries **for** training in specialised aspects of marine pollution **combating**, control and prevention.

Somalia

63. Under the **Maritime** Training project, fellowships **are** provided for study at the World Maritime University. In **1988** and 1989, four Somali students **joined** the specialised post-graduate **courses** offered by the University.

Yemen

64. Under a second phase of the funds-in-trust project, Preparation of Technical Specifications **for** a Pilot **Boat** and **Hopper** Dredger, **IMO** provided an expert to assist the port **authorities** of Hodeidah in the preparation of tender documents and the technical assessment of tender proposals submitted **for** the construction of the two vessels.

2. Regional projects

Fellowships for Arab least developed countries at the World Maritime University

65. Under this project, six students from **four** Arab least developed countries finished their post-graduate studies **at** the **World Maritime University** in 1988, thus completing the project, which has **trained** a total of **nine** students; three from Democratic Yemen, two from Somalia, three from the Sudan and one from Yemen.

Arab Maritime Transport Academy, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

66. This project was completed operationally in 1988 with the finalisation of training **programmes** in accordance with the 1978 STCW Convention, the completion of a training **programme** to upgrade the Academy's teachers, and the procurement of teaching aids and equipment, including an engine-room simulator.

Regional training at the Arab Maritime Transport Academy, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

67. This project was approved in 1988 in order to **maximize** the regional character of the Arab Maritime Transport Academy (**AMTA**) by **ensuring** its assistance not only through its facilities at Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, but **also** directly to its member States through the provision of the Academy's expertise. This is further developed by the creation of a network of maritime training **centres** in the region, with the Academy **acting** as a regional resource centre. These co-operative arrangements include, in particular, the implementation of IMO Model Courses at

AMTA and in its member States, thus permitting teachers from the region to be trained in specialised maritime subjects.

Assistance to the Association of African Maritime Training Institutes

68. This project was approved in 1988 and provides assistance to the Association, which includes five Arab States (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Somalia, Tunisia). The aim of the project is to develop common standards for maritime training among the member institutes, upgrading of teachers through seminars and the implementation of IMO model courses, and the promotion of technical co-operation among the member institutes.

Gulf of Aden Subregional Training and Response Centre for Combating Oil Pollution

69. Under this project, which is financed by the IMO/Norway Co-operation Programme, a subregional centre will be established in Djibouti for the benefit of the Gulf of Aden States (Democratic Yemen, Djibouti and Somalia). The objective of the project is to ensure that, through the Centre, the countries can protect the marine and coastal environment of the Gulf of Aden by undertaking joint responses to major marine pollution incidents, training and technical advice in national oil and chemical spill contingency planning, and practical measures to mitigate the environmental impact of such spills.

World Maritime University

70. UNDP provides institutional support to the World Maritime University at Malmö, Sweden. Since its inception in 1903, a total of 73 students from the Arab States have completed their post-graduate studies at the University. In 1986, 16 Arab students joined the University (graduating in 1989), and in 1989 the total was 19 (graduating in 1990).

71. UNDP assistance to the Arab Maritime Academy at Sharjah (RAB/84/028) is continuing to strengthen and expand its capacity to meet the training needs of Arab countries.

I. Child care (para. 50-61)

72. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), LAS, AGFUND, WHO and UNFPA continued their co-operation on a joint survey on Arab children in a number of Arab countries to study the situation of mothers and children. Senior representatives from UNICEF and LAS held several meetings on the subject during the reporting period. Relevant information, data and publications were exchanged and future plans of co-operation were streamlined.

73. An Arab social report is being prepared by LAS, UNICEF is assisting in its preparation by providing information and data on the situation of children in different Arab countries.

74. LAS and UNICEF continued to exchange available information and materials relating to mothers and children, as well as sharing programmes and materials for television, radio and other media prepared by each agency.
75. UNICEF prepared a comprehensive strategy paper on the Communications/Advocacy Plan for the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development. It was discussed and co-ordinated at LAS headquarters, then later approved by the Technical and Higher Steering Committee of the project. Also, UNICEF has nearly completed a book, UNICEF in the Arab World, in accordance with standing agreements with LAS.
76. LAS and UNICEF continued their close co-operation on behalf of the Arab child. The Arab Council of Health Ministers and the Arab Council of Social Affairs Ministers approved resolutions requesting member States to reduce infant mortality rates by 1990 to no more than half of their 1980 levels. Some Arab countries have already achieved that objective.
77. UNICEF and LAS worked together at the country and regional levels to formulate goals for children for the 1990s as a step towards the establishment of goals for the fourth United Nations development decade.
78. UNICEF and the General Secretariat of LAS have consulted with each other and worked closely to mobilize support from Arab member States for adaption of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which will be on the agenda of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/44/150, item 109). UNICEF produced a comprehensive briefing kit on the subject in Arabic and copies were put at the disposal of the secretariat of LAS and distributed to the competent authorities in its member countries.
79. UNICEF reinforced its co-operation with UNRWA on behalf of the Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza. It implemented a programme in Gaza of physiotherapy to rehabilitate children who have suffered injuries and broken bones. Palestinian mothers and children in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic are also benefiting from programmes being implemented by UNICEF, including immunization, oral rehydration therapy and the supply of clean drinking water.
80. UNICEF is co-operating with LAS and AGFUND on a project aimed at strengthening the role of Arab non-governmental organizations in the field of social development and enhancing their contribution to programmes benefiting women and children.
81. The General Secretariat of LAS and UNICEF discussed proposals to implement, during 1989, a series of activities aimed at raising public awareness to the problems and needs of Arab children. These activities will culminate in the celebration of the International and Arab Child Day on the first Monday in October 1989.
82. UNICEF will provide training to selected staff of the LAS General Secretariat in areas related to child survival, growth and development.

V. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON BILATERAL PROPOSALS

83. Most of the proposals adopted at the United Nations/League of Arab States meetings at Tunis in 1983 and at Geneva in 1988 called for bilateral action between the organisations and agencies of the United Nations system and the LAS system. The progress achieved in their implementation up to 1989 was outlined in the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/43/509, sect. IV). The status of these bilateral proposals is summarized in this section. The information is based on replies received from the organisations and agencies of the United Nations system in response to paragraph 7 of resolution 43/3.

A. Political matters

1. Security Council

84. The Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the Secretariat reported that there was continuing co-operation between the Security Council and LAS in response to the latter's requests to address the Council on several items under consideration, such as on the occupied Arab territories and the downing of two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft over international waters by the United States Air Force.

2. C e n t r e . . . -

85. The Special Committee against Apartheid continues to invite the League of Arab States to attend its meetings as observer. The Centre provides printed materials on the issues of apartheid to the League.

3. Outer Space Affairs

86. The Outer Space Affairs Division has co-operated with LAS, particularly in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This process was and is being accomplished through regional and international meetings, training courses and workshops organised under the auspices of the Space Applications Programme of the Outer Space Affairs Division.

87. During this period, technical advisory missions were carried out on the basis of a request of ECA and with the regional remote sensing centres in Africa. The Space Applications Programme assisted in revising the project document on Remote Sensing Information Programme for Africa, in December 1988. With the assistance of the Programme, ESCWA has prepared a draft project proposal on "Indigenous capabilities in remote sensing technology through the provision of relevant education for educators". ESCWA has circulated this draft project proposal to the Governments of its member States for their comments and suggestions.

88. On an annual basis, long-range fellowships were offered by member States and international organisations within the framework of the Space Applications Programme. Furthermore, LAS member States have nominated candidates for participation in United Nations international training courses and meetings of experts. They are also providing responses that will be included in the updating of the Directory on Education, Training, Research and Fellowships Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications. A second edition of the Directory was scheduled for publication in June 1989 for circulation to LAS member States.

89. Similar programmes are planned for future years. The Outer Space Affairs Division, through its Space Applications Programme, is ready, at the request of LAS, to offer assistance on education and training, especially in the practical applications of space technology, and to continue the progress of co-operation between the Division and LAS.

B. Economic matters

1. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

90. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs continues to provide information to LAS in the various areas of its responsibilities. This includes the provision of a wide range of economic, social and demographic statistics.

91. The Department, either directly or in collaboration with ESCWA, has for several years co-operated with LAS in the area of statistics. This statistical co-operation has involved the joint hosting of various meetings, seminars and training workshops) preparations for the Arab unified system of national accounts) population and demographic studies and surveys in the field) and the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development for improving the information data base for health and socio-economic planning in the region.

92. The Department has also made available to the League internationally standardised data measuring economic activity and social conditions in most countries of the world.

2. Centre on Transnational Corporations

93. The Centre has continued to provide advisory, training and information services on behalf of specific Arab countries. These include training workshops on contract negotiations in Yemen and Oman and ongoing technical support to the Capital Market Authority in Egypt. In addition, the Centre has been engaged in the activities outlined below.

94. One activity involved the Centre's participation in a **symposium on financial markets and sources of project financing, held at Nouakchott** from 11 to 16 March 1989. The symposium was sponsored by the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, with which the Centre has worked on several occasions and has an ongoing collaborative relationship. For example, the Centre has considered co-sponsoring a regional GCC training seminar on investment negotiations. The Gulf Investment Council has also expressed an interest in being involved.

95. A second activity is a technical study on the feasibility of a Mediterranean development bank. The Bank would be sponsored by the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade of the Mediterranean Countries. Its purpose would be to make financial resources available to countries in the region to implement discrete development projects. The study is still in progress, and the results are not yet final.

3 . United Nations Development Programme

96. Co-operation between UNDP and AFESD has been reinforced by recent co-financing agreements for various projects dealing with software technology, production of barley, pastures and sheep, telecommunications developments, water resources management, skills development, and production of oil seeds, sorghum and millet.

97. UNDP provided assistance to AMF for the organisation of a seminar on the role of public and private sectors in structural adjustment, which was held in December 1988. An additional \$400,000 was also provided by UNDP to AMF for consultancy services for the preparation of manuals to be used in the promotion of Arab trade.

98. UNDP provided assistance under RAB/87/012 for an evaluation study of the performance of Arab investments in the Arab countries for execution by the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation. The corporation also contributed to the financing of the study, which has been completed, and the final reports discussed in a workshop held at Amman from 23 to 24 May 1989.

C. Trade and development

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

99. Three member States of the League of Arab States 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 the settlement of trade disputes arising between countries. LAS member States that are at present GATT contracting parties are Kuwait, Mauritania and Morocco. Tunisia, which acceded to the GATT on a provisional basis, is currently completing the procedures for accession to the General Agreement on a definitive basis. In addition, five LAS member States, namely Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates apply GATT principles and rules in their commercial policy on a de facto basis.

Another LAS member, Saudi Arabia, has observer status at meetings of the GATT Council.

100. Since 1986, GATT activities have mainly focused 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 in the General Agreement are participating in these negotiations. Algeria, which formally informed the GATT secretariat of its intention to accede to the GATT, is also participating in those negotiations.

101. 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 developing country delegations at Geneva on a continuing basis, briefing of delegates including those visiting from capitals, and organization of training workshops and seminars to be held in capitals on a national or regional basis so as to facilitate 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, the Sudan and Tunisia. Several members of LAS also participated in seminars organized on a regional basis in Africa and Asia.

102. At the request of the GCC, a seminar on GATT and the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations was organised at Riyadh in February 1989.

103. In the area of training activities, GATT organises commercial policy training courses twice a year for officials from developing countries. Officials from LAS, both contracting parties and others, have participated on a regular basis in these courses

D. Development financing

World Bank

104. The World Bank continues to support LAS development objectives through financial assistance to, and policy dialogue with, individual member countries. In 1988, the Bank committed more than \$1.2 billion for development assistance to LAS member States. Much of this assistance (\$340 million) was in the form of fast-disbursing loans in support of economic adjustment, policy reform and rehabilitation programmes aimed at improving efficiency in key productive sectors. The remaining resource supported investment projects in a variety of sectors, including energy, agriculture, transportation, education and water supply. As in the past, the Bank continues to co-finance development projects with financial institutions such as the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and AFESD.

105. In the area of technical assistance, the Bank's Economic Development Institute has made gradual progress towards a sustained training programme for Arab countries, with the support of UNDP for a number of individual seminars. The institute works closely with a wide variety of subregional and national institutions of LAS, including the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait, the Arab

Organisation for Agricultural Development in the Sudan, the Royal Scientific Society in Jordan, and the Development Finance Institute in Tunisia, and offers a range of training activities adapted to the diverse needs of the recipient countries. Such activities cover policy issues in most major sectors, as well as national economic and public sector management.

International Monetary Fund

106. The Fund continues to be actively involved with the formulation and implementation of economic and financial policies in common member countries, In 1988 alone, there were 24 staff visits to discuss adjustment policies in support of financial assistance from the Fund, The Fund's technical and financial assistance to common members and other regional organisations has continued to be high. The outstanding use of Fund resources by common members covered by the Middle Eastern Department has increased gradually over the last seven years and stood at about \$1.2 billion in 1988. Technical assistance from the Fund, which has covered a broad range of activities including banking, financial reforms, budgetary policy and management, external sector and statistics, amounted to 12 man-years in 1988 alone.

107. In order to strengthen the economic management capacity of member countries, the Fund has been conducting regular training programmes in Arabic since 1985 under the auspices of the IMF Institute. On average, 60 officials per year from member countries of LAS have participated in training courses. The Fund is also collaborating with AMF to expand the latter's programmes aimed at training officials in economic policy formation and implementation. In addition, by actively participating in the meetings of regional organisations and affiliates such as the Islamic Development Bank and the Governore of Arab Central Banks, the Fund has furthered co-operation among members of the League and with the Fund,

108. The Fund also carries out research on issues of interest to the members of LAS, in particular on the Islamic economic system, which has led to the publication of a study on Islamic banking. At present, a study is being prepared on fiscal policy under the Islamic system.

109. Although LAS is not, strictly speaking, an institution of the type targeted by the technical assistance programme of the IMF Institute, the Institute's Admissions Committee has decided that, on an exceptional basis, candidates from such institutions as LAS may be accepted. To date, such exceptions have been made for four officials of the League,

110. The Fund sends regularly to several League-related entities located at C iro, Geneva, Tunis and New York, copies of some of its publications including Annual Report, Direction of Trade Statistics (DOTS), International Financial Statistics (IFS), and its Quarterly Financial Statements.

E. Co-operation with the regional commissions

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Statistics

111, Co-operation **continued** in publishing the second issue of the **Unified Arab Statistical Abstract** in April 1989, and in preparation for the **Second Arab Conference on National Accounts**, planned to be held in **Kuwait** in October 1989.

112, ESCWA continued **its** participation in annual meetings of the **Arab Standing Committee on Statistics**.

113, A compendium on social statistics of the Arab countries was published jointly with LAS.

Transport and communications

114, Projects of interest to LAS were **included in the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Western Asia**. All items on transport mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/509/Add.1) were included in the **Decade and maintained in the agreement**.

Natural resources, science and technology

115. Co-operation with the **Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC)** resulted in a series of **expert** group meetings for promotion of **regional** co-operation in scientific research. **Through** these meetings, nine project documents have been formulated, in relation to integrated **desertification control**, control of mobile sand, improved wheat **productivity in stressful environments** and fish farming. Also, two project proposals were **prepared to establish Arab centres**, one for the transfer of technology and **another for training, research and technology** in the water sector.

Other activities

116, A study was prepared jointly with the Arab Federation for Technical Education (AFTE), entitled **Comparative study on technical education, teachers and trainees in the Arab World**.

117. In collaboration with the **Arab Literacy Organization (ARLO)**, ESCWA is executing a project to produce a television education programme for literacy follow-up for women (see also paras. 15 to 18).

Economic Commission for Africa

118. In the information and documentation sector, the **Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS)** is co-operating with the Arab Regional Information System (ARIS), a project of the **secretariat** of the League of Arab States. Since the objectives and activities of the two **systems** are complementary, the north

African member States decided that **PADIS** should be located within the Arab League Documentation Centre *for* a transitional period of three years. Accordingly, the two have **drawn up** a joint work plan that takes into account the activities indicated in the Pan-African **project** document designed **for strengthening** the information infrastructure of the north African countries (**RAB/82/005**) **as well as** the Centre's work plan for implementing the **ARIS** project in the North African subregion. Co-operation will encompass the development of national **focal** points and networks, provision of training to **staff** of documentation centres, statistical data processing units, development **of** standards and **guidelines** for information processing, and assistance in the development **of** national data **bases** for on-line access **as well as for** the production of bibliographies and directories,

119, **On environmental matters**, which are related mainly to co-operation between **UNEP** and the General Secretariat **of** LAS, **E.A.**, as the organisation responsible **for** Africa, and **one** which shares certain environmental problems with Arab States, wishes to promote co-operation in drought and desertification control and in the **creation of environmental awareness** and training **of** environmental manpower through exchange **of** educational materials produced locally in each region.

120. ECA also wishes to promote co-operation on drought and desertification control through **seminars and study tours**. In the field **of** science and technology, **ECA** has during *the last year* reactivated the North African Subregional **Working Group on Science and Technology for Development**.

121, **A** meeting reviewed activities in science and technology in the subregion, *following* recommendations of the first meeting **of** the working group at Cairo in June 1988, and considered project proposals in the higher priority fields of **(a)** development **of** science **and** technology, **(b)** basic needs, and **(c)** industry, energy, **transport** and communication. Three projects were **scrutinized and** approved, namely?

(a) Subregional **Network on** Prevention **of** Post-harvest Losses with special emphasis on training and **transfer of technology;**

(b) Workshop on **Research Management Training for** Agricultural Research Institute **Directors;**

(c) Subregional Development on Water Conservation **for** Crops Production,

122. Another important **issue** is the establishment in North Africa **of** a preferential trade **area**, which would have an impact on trade relations with other **partners** in the Arab world **as well as** all African **countries**. A project document to finance activities in this framework is now available and activities are to be carried out in 1989.

F. Human settlements

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

123. In pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNCHS and the League of Arab States signed in August 1989, the following activities were undertaken during the past 12 months,

124. LAS is regularly invited to participate in the sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements and to other appropriate meetings. UNCHS participated in the LAS Minister of Social Affairs meeting held at Khartoum from 10 to 12 December 1988.

125. The Centre's publications on different aspects of human settlements were sent regularly to the LAS General Secretariat from UNCHS headquarters and from its regional information office at Amman. These included the Centre's major publication, entitled Global Report on Human Settlements.

126. In the area of human settlements training, UNCHS is continuing with follow-up work on previous activities, which included a study on human settlements training institutions and training needs in selected Arab States, developing training materials, undertaking a pilot training activity, using innovative training processes and methods and preparation of a multi-year training programme for funding by donor agencies. UNCHS implemented a senior policy seminar on training in urban finance and management for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in January 1989. The seminar, jointly sponsored by UNCHS, the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), identified priority training actions for strengthening local government finance and management. A subregional three-year pilot training programme in support of sustainable national action has been prepared and submitted to the Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes of UNDP for co-financing.

127. Collaboration with the Regional Arab Human Settlements Training Centre will be sought in order to compile, edit and disseminate the experiences gained in the work on training so far, and to adopt training material in Arabic for the benefit of LAS.

128. As regards technical co-operation, during 1988 UNCHS implemented a total of 30 projects with a total budget (rounded) of \$8,605,000 in the following member States of the League: Bahrain (3), Democratic Yemen (1), Djibouti (2), Iraq (1), Jordan (1), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (1), Oman (2), Qatar (1), Somalia (3), Sudan (1), Tunisia (8), United Arab Emirates (3) and Yemen (3). In addition, there was one Arab States regional project with a budget of \$309,000.

129. Six technical co-operation projects with a total budget of \$3,981,000 have been prepared in consultation with the Governments concerned for implementation as soon as funds become available. These projects are for the following countries: Jordan (1), Morocco (1), Somalia (1), United Arab Emirates (2), and Yemen (1). There is also one Arab States regional project with a budget of \$156,000.

G. Environment

United Nations Environment Programme

130. Co-operation between UNEP and the secretariats and specialised organisations of LAS has grown during 1988. Following the establishment of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment in September 1987 as a permanent institution for environment within the LAS structure, the Executive Bureau of the Council met at Tunis in June 1988. Upon a request made to the Executive Director, the UNEP Regional Office for Western Asia assisted in preparation for the meeting of the Executive Bureau. Three project proposals were drafted to provide a framework for national and regional Arab action towards some of the points of the Arab Declaration on the Environment. The three proposals were: (a) combating desertification and extending of the green area in the Arab world; (b) control of the industrial pollution in the Arab world; and (c) promotion of environmental education and environmental public awareness. The proposals were discussed in the meeting of the Executive Bureau and were endorsed at the Council's meeting at Tunis in October 1988.

131. In pursuance of paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 43/3 on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, UNEP has suggested to LAS that representatives from UNEP and the various Arab specialised organisations meet to discuss multilateral co-operation in the fields of combating desertification, control of industrial pollution and environmental awareness, education and training. Meetings were expected to start in June 1989 at Tunis.

132. ACSAD would also collaborate with UNEP in implementation of the Environmentally Sound Management of the Damman Aquifer project, which is to be part of the UNEP Environmentally Sound Management of Inland Waters programme when all Governments concerned agree to participate in the project.

133. UNEP, represented by its regional office for Western Asia and ALO, is now co-operating with ALECSO to convene a seminar to be held at Damascus in September 1989 on environmental education and training at tertiary level in the Arab world.

134. The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme was reformulated, and the regional office for Western Asia of UNEP supported the Programme to mount a preparatory mission in Jordan and two other Red Sea States.

135. The Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union (IAPU) adopted, at its eighteenth session (Tunis, 25 to 27 January 1988), a decision to consider 1989 a year of nature protection and pollution prevention in the Arab world. UNEP supported this decision and, through its regional office furnished a proposal to IAPU for activities to be undertaken in 1989 as the Arab Environment Year. The UNEP regional office also prepared a paper on unified environmental legislations in the Arab world, to be presented at a meeting of IAPU scheduled for late 1989.

136. UNEP, through its regional office and **ALO**, has taken a leading part in preparations for the **convening**, in collaboration with LAS, of a round-table meeting on the role of **women in the** protection of the environment. The meeting is to be held at Tunis in November **1989**.

137. The **UNEP** regional office and **ALO** have been also co-operating with the LAS Department of Social Affairs to organise a meeting for Arab environmental non-governmental organisations in October 1989 to discuss their **activities** in environmental protection.

138. The UNEP regional **office** is assisting the Arab Union for Youth and Environment in convening its third **meeting**. It is helping to arrange for the designation of the **venue** for this meeting, and will sponsor **some** of the youth participants who are to present papers related to the Arab environment,

H. Labour

International Labour Organisation

General

139. Since the Tunis, Amman and **Geneva** meetings, ILO has made a special effort to consolidate and expand co-operation with LAS and its specialised organisations. The following is a **summary** of the relevant activities.

140. In Tunisia, the *review* of the national vocational training and qualification **system** was prepared. A programme for the **reorganisation** and rationalisation of the **system** was prepared and submitted to the **Government**.

141. In Algeria, two training seminars were held, during which a project **document** was prepared and submitted to UNDP for approval, and the diagnostic study of the national **vocational system** was carried out. Several project ideas were also identified and submitted to the **Government**.

142. In Democratic Yemen, the Chief Technical **Adviser** for the Technical **Assistance** and **Fellowship** Training Programme project 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.

143. In Egypt, under the **Development** of Modern Training Material project, 15 **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.

144. In the Libyan Arab **Jamahiriyah**, the Chief Technical Adviser for the Development of Vocational Training in the Zawia Region project was appointed. A list of equipment, to cost \$1.8 million, was prepared and the sub-contractor who will be **responsible** for providing training instructors was **selected** and started work in December 1988.

145, ILO also collaborates with ALO in the implementation of multi-country projects on population education and family welfare.

Employment promotion and manpower planning projects and activities

146, In Jordan, the Employment Promotion and Manpower Policy project (JOR/86/005) was operational.

147, In Bahrain, the Strengthening of the Institutional Capability in Labour Market Information and Analysis project (BAH/85/004) proceeded,

Exchange of information and documentation and co-operation in the field of translation

148. Among the conclusions of the third meeting between LAS, ALO and ILO, held at Baghdad in January 1988, the following areas have been identified as priorities for co-operation between ALO and other specialized agencies of LAS and ILO:

(a) Access of ALO to ILO data bases in the labour field and exchange of information and experts between the two Organizations;

(b) Collaboration on the production of publications and training materials, mainly in Arabic, and on the co-ordination of Arabic labor terminology)

(c) Publication of more documents and periodicals in Arabic and regular consultations to identify subjects of special importance to the Arab region;

(d) Two training publications have been published in Arabic, under licence by ILO, in the last few years.

149. In view of the importance of the Regional Arab Centre for Labour Administration and the successes achieved since its establishment in January 1987, it was agreed to make intensive efforts with the concerned parties for extension of the project for another three years, as from June 1989,

150. It was also agreed to continue consultation with regard to matters related to employment and the creation of job opportunities in the Arab region.

I. **Education, science and culture**

151. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and LAS are fully satisfied with the co-operation that has been pursued for many years in their common field of competence,

152. During the current biennium, UNESCO has also maintained close co-operation with the specialized agencies of LAS, particularly the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), ACSAD, the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), the Arab Regional Centre for Research and Documentation in Social Sciences (ARCSS), AFTE and the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC). With LAS and those regional intergovernmental organizations, UNESCO is

carrying out important projects, **studies** and activities, **e.g.** the preparation of **standard** specifications for domestic water heating **systems** using solar energy, the **Arab Regional Information System Network**, a seminar concerning violence against *women in Arab States* and the elaboration of an Arabic **lexicon** of social *sciences*.

153. Furthermore, **UNESCO** works closely with the **specialized** agencies of LAS listed below.

154. For the past **four years**, **UNESCO** has been actively co-operating with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (**ALECSO**) in the field of education of **disabled** persons, within the **framework** of the Arab Committee for the Co-ordination of Support to **Personnel Training Programmes** for Special Education and Rehabilitation in the Arab States, **UNESCO** has also provided technical and financial support to one of the activities of the Committee in the United Arab Emirates,

155. Owing to the similarity of fields of scientific specialisation of the two **organizations**, it is foreseen that many joint activities in science will take place in the future.

156. **UNESCO** is **co-operating** with the Statistical Unit of **ALECSO** in exchanging data relating to education, **science** and culture. At present, **UNESCO** is working with **ALECSO** on the implementation of resolution 16.2 adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-fourth session, regarding data collection on the Palestinian people, and both organizations will collaborate on preparing a report on data available on the Palestinians in the Arab African countries. Under its Participation Programme for 1988-1989, **UNESCO** has allocated \$27,500 to **ALECSO** for the purchase of equipment for the **Farabi data bank** (\$25,000) and for a **fellowship** in data bank and automatization of bibliographic and documentary **services** (two weeks, \$2,500).

157. **UNESCO** co-operates with **ALECSO** in the implementation of activities related to the preservation of cultural heritage and the follow-up of international campaigns on the safeguarding of cultural heritage, for example those at **Sana'a** and at Shibam, Democratic Yemen,

158. The representatives of **ALECSO** participated actively in the International Meeting on Human Rights, organised by **UNESCO** in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and held in Paris in December 1988.

159. Co-operation with the Arab Centre for the **Studies** of Arid Zone and Dry Lands and with the Regional Office for Science and Technology for the Arab States is of particular significance owing to the **scope** and the importance of joint activities, whether ongoing or foreseen. The **activities** outlined below are being implemented during this biennium.

Selected social security activities in the Arab League countries

Yemen Arab Republic

160. A project was started in mid-July 1968 (YEM/88/010) to assist the social insurance institution in Yemen in implementing the social insurance law passed in 1987. Its goals were to (a) create the appropriate structures in the National Organisation for Social Insurance; (b) design the necessary technical, administrative and financial procedures and forms; and (c) assure training in the organisation.

Tunisia

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

Kuwait

162. Under a funds-in-trust project, the third actuarial valuation of the Public Institution for Social Security has been undertaken and is in its final stages.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

163. Under a funds-in-trust project, a report concerning investments of the Social Security Fund was issued.

United Nations University

164. The AQFUWD-sponsored project referred to in the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/509, para. 132) will be completed by the end of 1989 or early 1990, and the United Nations University intends to pursue other possibilities for greater co-operation with Arab universities and other scientific and technological institutions and organisations.

J. Health

World Health Organization

165. Most member States of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region are members of LAS, and co-operation between WHO and the Council of Arab Ministers of Health/LAS is very active. Under an agreement between the Council of Arab Ministers of Health and the Regional Director, co-operation with WHO includes many activities: such as essential drugs and vaccines, information and health education, health legislation, support to the Regional Arabic Programme, drug addiction and the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development.

166. A milestone in relations with LAS was reached with the resolution adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Health at its twelfth session in 1977 at **Khartoum**, providing for medical education in **Arabic** in the Arab countries. The Arab Medical Union has also adopted a resolution requesting the **Eastern** Mediterranean Region Office to convene a meeting of all deans of medical faculties in the region to discuss and recommend practical steps to provide for medical education in Arabic in the Arab countries. A meeting **involving** ministers of health and deans of medical schools was organised **jointly** at **Damascus** in **December 1988**.

167. The first group of Arab students graduated from **Ein Shams** University in November 1987, after completing a **course** on epidemiology in Arabic jointly supported by the Council of **Arab Ministers of Health** and WHO. The Council of Arab Ministers of Health, at its 1988 **meeting**, decided to continue offering **this course**.

168. The **WHO** Centre for Environmental **Health** Activities established contacts with the Arab League Documentation Centre for providing information tools in Arabic.

169. Recent additional areas of collaboration comprise rehabilitation and care of the disabled, WHO also **provides** technical support to the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development with the participation of **AGFUND**, the League itself and the Secretariat-General of Health for Arab countries of the **Gulf areas**. The objective of this project is to enable the ministries of health and child welfare councils as well as research centres in the Arab countries to obtain reliable information for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their maternal and child care, health and development programmes. The Eastern Mediterranean Region Office participated actively in the work on the design and management of maternal health surveys recently undertaken, which involved a number of United Nations and LAS agencies.

K. Refugees

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

170. In October 1988, during his mission to Tunisia, the High Commissioner met with the Deputy Secretary of the League, at Tunis, in the absence of the Secretary-General of LAS. The draft agreement of co-operation between UNRWA and the League was discussed. The issue of problems facing Palestinian **refugees** falling outside the area of competence of UNRWA were also dealt with.

171. A seminar on asylum and the rights of refugees took place at Tunis from 15 to 18 **May** 1969 under the joint sponsorship of LAS and **UNHCR**. The event brought together over **40** lawyers and senior civil servants from the Arab world dealing with asylum policy,

Emergency relief

. Consultations and contacts have continued at all levels between the Secretariat of LAS and UNRWA. The Deputy Commissioner-General visited Tunis on 23 and 24 January 1989 and met with senior officials of the League secretariat. The Commissioner-General and his **staff** maintained regular contact with the Permanent Observer of LAS at Vienna, while **similar** contacts were maintained with

the Permanent Observer of LAS at the United Nations in New York through the UNRWA Liaison Office.

173. The League of Arab States also continued to urge its member States to support UNRWA financially. Arab States have made generous contributions in support of the Agency's special programmes in the occupied territory,

134, UNRWA maintains close contact with LAS member States, especially with the Arab host Governments, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. These Governments are also members of the Advisory Commission. UNRWA has also enhanced its contacts with other Arab Governments, in particular with Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

L. Natural disasters

United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (paras. 70 and 71)

175. UNDRO renewed contact with LAS and the Arab Interior Ministers Council regarding the holding of the joint seminar on disaster preparedness and prevention in the Arab countries. Consequently, UNDRO was informed officially by LAS that the Arab side agreed that the seminar should take place during 1990. UNDRO's main partner will be the Arab Interior Ministers Council, with the participation of LAS.

176. UNDRO continued to keep LAS informed about relief provided to its member States as well as technical assistance in the field of disaster preparedness and prevention, which includes assistance in drawing up their national plans. The following Arab countries benefited from assistance during the period under review* Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Djibouti, Lebanon, Mauritania, Somalia, and Sudan,

177. UNDRO extended invitations to the Geneva missions of LAS and Arab countries to participate in its information meetings about countries affected by natural disaster and other emergency situations, especially when the meetings concerned an LAS member State,

M. Women

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

175, On 12 September 1988, INSTRAW forwarded to the LAG Under-Secretary-General in charge of Social Affairs a set of proposals for future co-operation between them. The proposals relate to: (a) statistics and indicators on women; (b) women and development planning; (c) guidelines and checklists for the participation of women in rural development; (d) training of women, water and sanitation; and (e) training on women's issues and new and renewable sources of energy,

179. It was also suggested to LAS that if the project Proposals are approved, a person from LAS could benefit from an INSTRAW fellowship in connection with the project implementation.

N. Civil aviation

International Civil Aviation Organization

180. ICAO participated in the second **general meeting** between the **organizations of** the United **Nations** system and those of LAS held in July 1988, and provided information on **civil aviation projects** being executed by ICAO in States members of LAS and **on the long-standing co-operation** between ICAO and the Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC), the subsidiary body of the League concerned with civil aviation. This **co-operation** was confirmed in an **exchange of letters** between ICAO and ACAC in early 1987, in order to further the mutual **objective of the two organizations of ensuring the safe and orderly development** of international civil aviation.

181. ACAC has been invited as an observer to attend the twenty-seventh session of the Assembly of JCAO, to be held in September and October 1989, and is also invited to various relevant air transport workshops and other meetings. ACAC is also kept up to date on such air transport matters as fares and rates, computerised reservation systems, and the study of air passenger and freight development for the Middle East, which is to be published by ICAO.

182. Within its Technical Assistance Programme, ICAO is executing technical assistance projects within the following members of LAS: Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The regional project for provision of training fellowships for students from the least developed Arab countries at the Gulf Civil Aviation College has been approved.

O. Postal services

Universal Postal Union

Contacts and exchange of information

183. In the realm of postal services, UPU maintains permanent co-operation with both LAS and its specialized agency, the Arab Postal Union (APU).

184. There is continuing exchange of information and contacts between the two unions and LAS as, for example, at meetings of their respective organs (the Executive Councils of UPU and APU and the UPU Consultative Council for Postal Studies).

185. Under an agreement on co-operation concluded between UPU and APU in January 1987, a seminar for chairmen and directors-general of posts was held in Dubai in December 1987, which made recommendations with a view to the modernization of postal services. These recommendations relate to the following areas:

(a) Completely overhauling the way in which Arab postal administrations and development projects are organized, with the aim of improving management and meeting modern business requirements;

(b) Improving human resources;

(c) Improving service quality, and creating and developing new products such as electronic mail service;

(d) Collaborating with the international community, notably UNDP and UPU, in the attainment of these objectives.

186. Following the Dubai seminar, APU conducted a survey of Arab countries to identify priority areas and sectors of activity needing external support. Those priorities have been defined and will serve as a basis for technical co-operation programmes and projects for Arab countries in the early part of the 1990s.

Specific co-operation activities

187. UPU attaches great importance to strengthening co-operation with LAS and APU, and does its utmost, working with APU in a spirit of co-operation and collaboration, to carry out not only assistance activities covered by the normal UPU programme but also other activities under the UNDP regional project.

188. In providing technical assistance for Arab countries, UPU and APU have agreed to conduct annual postal staff training and to grant scholarships to those attending various courses and programmes of study.

189. Under a regional project for postal development and training of specialists, funded jointly by UNDP, UPU and APU, the Arab faculty of postal services at Damascus has been provided with teaching equipment.

P. Public information

Deoartmeat of Public Information

190. During the past year the Department has continued to provide extensive radio, television, press and photography coverage of United Nations activities such as meetings, seminars and special events having to do with the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine. It also reported regularly on League activities in the United Nations, such as statements made by the Permanent Observer of LAS before the Security Council and General Assembly and press briefings given by the League.

191. In the field, the United Nations information centres have extended all possible co-operation to LAS offices and representatives in the countries where they serve. Where there is no representation, the information centres have co-operated with diplomatic missions of the States members of the League or with the representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organiaation. Co-operation often involves providing United Nations information material in the form of press releases, publications, posters, videotapes and films. LAS offices are included in the **specialized** mailing list of the information centres for dissemination of newsletters, documents and information brochures relating to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine. Many joint activities have involved

co-operating in the observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. LAS representatives are invited to seminars and symposia on the question of Palestine organized by the Anti-Apartheid, Namibia and Palostfne Programmes Section and also to journalists' encounters on the question of Palestine organized by the Department,

192. To cite briefly the kinds of joint activities carried out, the Information Centre in Tokyo joined the League to observe 29 November 1988 as the Day of Solidarity. It also regularly organizes programmes in co-operation with the League and Japanese organizations. At Rabat, five organizations affiliated with LAS regularly participate in the Department's information programmes. In January 1989, a colloquium was jointly organized at Casablanca by the Rabat Information Centre and ALECSO. In October 1988, the Information Centre at New Delhi and LAS jointly organized a public meeting on the question of Palestine, which was addressed by a Government minister, the Ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Chief Representative of the League.

193. As in previous years, the Department once again organized activities to acquaint media representatives with the facts and developments relating to the question of Palestine. A team of 13 high-level journalists participated in a news mission to the Middle East (7-23 May 1989) organized by the Department. They visited Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and Egypt, meeting high-level government officials and officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization, including Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Department organized a regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine in Asia in January and February 1989 and another was planned for Latin America in July 1989. A series of national journalists' encounters were also organized in Europe and Asia in January and February.

194. The Department; has continued its annual programme for training journalists and broadcasters from developing countries. During 1988, it provided training to 16 journalists and broadcasters from around the world. Two of the participants were from the Middle East, one a writer from Algeria and the other a broadcaster from Jordan.
