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**PROGRAMME PLANNING: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME
OF WORK, 1996-1997, AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME
CHANGES FOR 1997**

(Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1996-1997

Note by the secretariat

ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (forum)
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
ESCAP/POC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
FADINAP	ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
RESAP	Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
RICAP	Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TISNET	Regional Trade Information Network
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. A report on the implementation by the secretariat of the biennial programme of work is submitted annually to the Commission for its review of the effectiveness of the utilization of allocated resources. The report also provides the Commission with a basis for consideration of the proposed programme changes for the biennium as well as for future programme planning.
2. The programme of work, 1996-1997, was endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-first session, held in Bangkok in April 1995. Since that time, the ESCAP programme budget, 1996-1997, comprising the programme of work and the corresponding budget proposals, was reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. It was approved by the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/215 of 23 December 1995 on the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, within the context of Section 16 of the budget.
3. In approving the programme budget for the biennium, the General Assembly set a budget ceiling of US\$ 2,608 million, which necessitated overall savings of US\$ 154 million. To meet that target, the Secretary-General was requested, in making proposals for savings, to ensure the fair, equitable and non-selective treatment of all budget sections. The budget for ESCAP was reduced by US\$ 3,750,000 from the appropriations of US\$ 66,379,000 initially approved by the General Assembly in December 1995. The Commission at its fifty-second session, held in April 1996, considered the programme changes proposed by the secretariat and endorsed the changes, deletions and modifications of activities resulting from the resource reductions.
4. ACPR, at its two hundred and seventh session held on 19 September 1996, reviewed the implementation of the programme of work, 1996-1997, by subprogramme and provided guidance to the secretariat on programme implementation. The suggestions of ACPR are taken into account in this report.
5. The Commission is invited to provide comments and recommendations on any aspect of the present report and on programme implementation in order to guide the secretariat in its efforts to assist members and associate members of the Commission in their economic and social development.

I. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

A. Highlights of activities during the year

6. In 1996 the secretariat undertook preparations for a comprehensive review by the Commission of its conference structure, including the thematic priorities and subsidiary structure, as requested by the Commission in resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission. The exercise was undertaken within the context of the overall reform of the United Nations. Those preparations included the establishment of a Working Group on ESCAP Reform, the

preparation of studies by several ad hoc task forces to assist the Working Group, the circulation among national governments of a questionnaire seeking assessment of the performance of the thematic programming approach, and the establishment of a special Task Force on ESCAP Reform which revised and updated the report of the Working Group. Pursuant to the mandate given by the Commission in its resolution 52/1 of 24 April 1996 on preparation for the review of the conference structure of the Commission, the secretariat held regular consultations with ACPR and provided assistance to the informal open-ended Working Group of ACPR, which carried out an independent review of the conference structure of the Commission. Both the report of the secretariat Task Force and the independent review of ACPR were considered by the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission, held in Bangkok in February 1997.

7. In compliance with Commission resolution 51/3 of 1 May 1995 on organization of annual sessions of the Commission, the fifty-second session of the Commission was organized in two segments: a senior officials segment of four days followed by a ministerial segment of three days. The duration of the session was reduced to seven working days from the previous eight working days. The two-segment structure of the session was considered effective and an improvement over the previous structure. The Commission's emphasis on social and environmental issues, the development of infrastructure, and the strengthening of regional economic cooperation was reflected in the 11 resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-second session, held in Bangkok in April 1996.

8. To implement the decision of the Commission, at its fifty-second session, on improving the effectiveness in the functioning of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group, the frequency of regular meetings of the Steering Group was reduced from biannual to annual in 1996. The duration of the meetings of the Steering Group was also reduced from four to three days.

9. The Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure was held in New Delhi in November 1996. Preparations for ministerial conferences on industry and technology, and social development have commenced. Five legislative meetings were serviced: the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group, and the Committees on Environment and Sustainable Development, Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, and Statistics. An ad hoc intergovernmental meeting on tourism development was held with the aim of reviewing major areas of tourism development in the region. In pursuance of Commission resolution 52/2 of 24 April 1996 on the Shanghai symposium to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of ESCAP, the secretariat carried out some preparatory work. The symposium, to be held in March 1997, will review development challenges and opportunities for Asia and the Pacific in the twenty-first century, as well as the role of ESCAP.

10. The secretariat continued to support national and subregional capacity-building as follow-up to the recent global conferences.³ These efforts were realized through the implementation of various regional action programmes adopted by the Commission, such as the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000; Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific. It also maintained close collaboration with NGOs in implementing grass-root activities, particularly in the social field, for example the 1996 Human Resources Development Award, and the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

11. The joint planning and implementation of regional activities was promoted through inter-agency and inter-organizational mechanisms, as well as through collaboration with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations.⁴ RICAP held its third and fourth meetings in February and August 1996. The terms of reference of RICAP were formally adopted and the terms of reference of its 12 subcommittees were standardized. RICAP and its subcommittees provided a forum for mutual exchange of information, and more importantly, reviewed the regional programme of work and priorities of respective agencies and organizations so that an integrated approach to programme implementation and cost-effective resource use could be realized by the United Nations system as a whole. These included the review of the follow-up to the global conferences at the inter-agency level and discussion of the sixth UNDP intercountry programme.

12. In addition to the regular budget allocations under Section 16, 12 regional advisers were made available to ESCAP from the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (Section 20 of the programme budget, 1996-1997) for the provision of advisory services and training in the areas of economic development and planning; macroeconomic management and economic reforms; trade policy, negotiations and trade promotion; trade facilitation; environmental management; energy; mineral policy and mineral economics; water resources; social development; poverty alleviation and social integration; ports and harbour development; and national accounts. A total of 92 advisory services and eight seminars and workshops were provided in 33 countries, with special attention to the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and the disadvantaged economies in transition.

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³ The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, the United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands States, held in Barbados in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in 1996.

⁴ See Document on "Strengthening inter-organizational cooperation in promoting economic and social development in the region" (E/ESCAP/1070).

13. Technical assistance to the Pacific island developing countries was carried out by the eight advisory staff of ESCAP/POC: Head of the Centre, three regional advisers, two United Nations volunteers and two experts on non-reimbursable loan from France and the Republic of Korea. The General Assembly approved the establishment of a P-4 post for follow-up activities emanating from the 1994 Barbados Conference. However, subsequent budget reductions for the biennium, which included a freeze on recruitment, compelled the secretariat to keep the post vacant for 1996. Following the lifting of the recruitment ban for the post, the necessary process to fill the post was recommenced in February 1997. Furthermore, efforts were initiated for the automation and reorganization of the ESCAP/POC library and computer facilities to strengthen its role as an information depository.

B. Delivery of outputs and resources used

14. The activities and outputs in the programme of work, 1996-1997 are designed to contribute to the achievement of the ESCAP programme objectives in the second revision to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, utilizing regular and extrabudgetary funds.

15. Table 1 provides a quantitative summary of the status of implementation of the programme of work from January to December 1996. The Commission is requested to note that delivery rates are calculated on the basis of the actual number of quantified outputs in 1996 against that of the quantified programmed outputs for the whole biennium, including additions and deletions endorsed by the Commission as well as those postponed from the previous bienniums. Operational activities such as group training and advisory services, which were not quantified in the programme of work, are excluded from calculation of the delivery rates. Columns 2 and 3 of the table indicate that, by endorsement of the Commission, a total of 11 quantified outputs were added and 96 others deleted from the programme of work approved by the General Assembly. At the beginning of the current biennium, the total number of committed outputs to be delivered was 617. This number includes committed outputs postponed from previous bienniums. The overall percentage of committed outputs delivered by the end of 1996 was 40.7 per cent.

16. In 1996, operational activities such as advisory services, workshops and seminars, or collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, were carried out for subprogramme 6 on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. Most quantified outputs (publications and reports) are programmed for delivery in 1997 when the relevant outcomes of operational activities are finalized in the form of publications and when the reports of the respective legislative bodies scheduled to meet in 1997 are finalized.

17. The table below indicates the outputs completed under different categories in 1996.

18. Annex table 2 shows the resources actually utilized for the implementation of the programme of work under each subprogramme during the first half of the biennium. The regular budget staff work-months actually utilized for work programme implementation account for 71.3 per cent of the total authorized work-months for the year. The unavailable work-months were due to vacancies (18.5 per cent), leave (annual and sick) (8.7 per cent) or other reasons (1.5 per cent).

19. The most common problems cited by programme managers were the lack of regular budget staff resources. Budget reductions obliged the secretariat to maintain 362 work-month vacancies out of the 2,904 Professional work-months allocated for the implementation of the programme of work during the biennium. The major areas affected by the freeze were economic research and analysis; environment; industrial and technological development; trade and investment; population; women in development; statistics; transport and communications; and least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. A total of 270 work-months were relinquished when programme changes were approved by the Commission at its fifty-second session. Of those 270 work-months, the redeployment of 30 work-months was authorized by the Commission for the implementation of existing and new priority activities. The secretariat has therefore been required to implement the programme of work within available resources through efficiency gains to cover the actual shortfall of 122 work-months during the biennium. The availability of extrabudgetary resources and experts on non-reimbursable loan in some areas such as environment; trade and investment; and transport and communications, contributed to easing the reductions in regular budget staff resources.

20. A large number of regular budget work-months were utilized for the secretariat's preparatory exercise to facilitate the comprehensive review by the Commission of its conference structure, including the thematic priorities and subsidiary structure. In addition, the interdivisional working group arrangements which continued from the previous biennium required a significant level of staff resources, particularly for the three thematic subprogrammes: regional economic cooperation; environment and sustainable development; and poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. In some areas, such as rural poverty alleviation and statistics, the lack of, or a decrease in, extrabudgetary resources was cited as major cause for the delay in implementing technical assistance activities and issuing publications.

21. The impact of extrabudgetary resources on the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work is drawn to the attention of the members and associate members of the Commission. The document entitled "Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions" (E/ESCAP/1069) provides details of the funds provided by various donors which enabled the secretariat to implement the programme of work. The extrabudgetary staff resources accounted for 18.3 per cent of all staff resources utilized in the production of the substantive and operational activities implemented in 1996.

22. The assessment of the impact of the resource reductions on the secretariat's programme of work has, so far, been purely quantitative. The secretariat acknowledges the need for qualitative assessment

for the benefit of the Commission and for future programme planning.

II. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION BY SUBPROGRAMMES

Subprogramme 1: Regional economic cooperation

(Rate of implementation: 41.9 per cent)

23. There were significant departures from the approved work programme. Sixteen activities were terminated or modified to reduce their scope. This was done in view of the reduction of 86 Professional work-months during the biennium 1996-1997, to comply with the need for budget reductions. While the secretariat has exerted every effort to enhance efficiency gains, the reduction of resources has affected the delivery of the approved work programme.

24. The Commission at its fifty-second session adopted resolution 52/10 of 24 April 1996 on the Revised Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment. The Programme focuses on the growth of intraregional trade; the expansion of intraregional investment flows; the development of small and medium-sized enterprises; emerging trade and investment-related concerns, including the implications of the Uruguay Round agreements and trade efficiency; disadvantaged economies in transition and inter-subregional cooperation. The Commission also adopted resolution 52/11 on strengthening of subregional economic cooperation among the south-western member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the member countries of ECO.

25. The Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation held its fifth session in Bangkok in April 1996, while the Steering Group of the Committee held its eighth meeting in Seoul in March 1996. The meetings addressed a wide range of issues dealing with economic cooperation, with a specific focus on North-East Asia. They deliberated on the proposals for the establishment of a North-East Asian business forum and enhanced cooperation through TCDC, including tripartite cooperation. At the eighth meeting of the Steering Group, a panel discussion facilitated the exchange of views among a cross-section of representatives of government, academia and the private sector on the development of the export-oriented small-scale sector in the Republic of Korea. The Steering Group also endorsed the revision to the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific.

26. In pursuance of its role as the coordinating agency on inter-subregional economic cooperation, ESCAP continued consultations with subregional organizations in four areas: trade and investment, transport and communications, human resources development and energy, and exchange of information relating to subregional experience in poverty alleviation. The next meeting, which will be hosted by ECO and the secretariat, will focus on new proposals for cooperation in the identified areas.

27. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1996* and two issues of *Asia-Pacific Development Journals* were published, providing a review of macroeconomic performance and policies, the state of international trade and balances-of-payment performance, and the short-term prospects of

the economies of the ESCAP region. The *Survey 1996* also analysed the role of the private sector in economic development and institutional mechanisms for incorporating private sector concerns in policy-making, as well as the role of public expenditure in the provision of social services. Among other periodicals issued were those relating to trade information services, the *TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin* and *Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin*. Other publications were issued on foreign investment guidelines, seafood exports, and customs tariffs in the Pacific. A series of studies on prospects for the textile and clothing sector of the ESCAP region in the post-Uruguay Round context, trade and investment complementarities in North-East Asia, trade and investment potential in Myanmar, promoting exports of fish and fishery products in selected island developing countries of the ESCAP region, and Asian and Pacific developing economies and the first WTO Ministerial Conference were completed. With regard to industrial and technological development, publications were issued on the study tour-cum-investment forums for foreign direct investment in the least developed countries, the Pacific island economies, and the economies in transition of Asia and the Pacific and industrial complementarities and relocation in Asia and the Pacific region: trends, prospects and challenges. A directory of biotechnology institutions in Asia and the Pacific was also issued.

28. In the area of development issues and policies, the secretariat provided technical assistance through advisory services, regional seminars, and training activities focusing on the role of the wage system in economic planning, mobilizing private sector financial resources for infrastructure development in Indo-China, promoting regional economic cooperation in foreign direct investment policies in the region, macroeconomic modelling, economic reform policies, and techniques for project identification, preparation and appraisal in the economies in transition.

29. In the area of industrial and technological development, activities focused on a policy dialogue between governments, the private sector and professional experts in promoting industrial development in the region; private sector development and privatization, especially in the least developed countries and the economies in transition; foreign direct investment in promoting and sustaining industrial competitiveness, developing small and medium-sized enterprises; technology flow and the associated technological capability-building and review of national policies for the promotion of technology transfer; poverty alleviation through technological capability-building; industrial utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants; and mutually supportive policies on the environment and technology.

30. In the area of international trade, technical assistance was provided on issues relating to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, including assistance in the preparation for the WTO Ministerial Conference; comprehensive development of Indo-China; promoting exports of fish and fishery products of selected island developing countries; export marketing; international market research; implications of the single European market for Asian and Pacific economies; enhancing trade and environment linkages in environmentally vulnerable export-oriented sectors of ESCAP economies; trade facilitation and efficiency; accession to the Bangkok Agreement; establishing a network of trade-related research institutions, trade promotion activities; and organization of the Sixth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT'96), held in Manila in November 1996. Priority attention continued to be given to the development of information systems in the region, in particular the development of a computerized trade information system; the Microcomputer-based Commodity Analysis and Information System; the Regional Investment Information and Promotion Service; and the Bangkok mirror site of the Trade Facilitation Information Exchange.

31. To promote women's participation in economic development in Indo-China, a regional meeting and three national workshops were organized in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. A plan of action for promoting women's equal participation in economic development was adopted at the regional level and a national plan of action was adopted for each country.

32. The least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and the economies in transition participated in various activities, a number of which addressed their needs and concerns specifically.

33. Close cooperation has been maintained with the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, and the United Nations Secretariat in the implementation of the activities under the subprogramme. Collaboration has also been developed with intergovernmental organizations such as ADB, the Asia EDIFACT Board, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/ Development Assistance Committee, and WTO.

Subprogramme 2: Environment and Sustainable Development

(Rate of implementation: 29.9 per cent)

34. The third session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development was held in Bangkok in October 1996. The Committee reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in 1997 in line with its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995 on the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21. The Committee recognized that significant progress was made at both the national and regional levels in the implementation of Agenda 21. However, lack of financial resources and slow

progress in the transfer of environmentally sound technology and in capacity-building were identified as major constraints.

35. The focus in 1996 was on the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in November 1995, as endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-second session. Strategies to implement the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, and the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific were developed. Amendments to the 1995 report on the state of the environment were incorporated in the revised edition, to be published in 1997.

36. Meetings were held to develop strategies for implementing the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia attached to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification. A framework of action was adopted to strengthen environmental cooperation in North-East Asia. Regional cooperation for technical cooperation and information exchange regarding climate change was undertaken. Six country studies are in preparation on trade and the environment. A demonstration-cum-workshop on clean coal-fired power plant technology was organized in collaboration with the Government of China. Industrial waste minimization was addressed at a meeting where a draft training manual was reviewed. Public awareness through cooperation with NGOs and the media has resulted in community-level environmental reports in selected countries of the region.

37. In the second half of 1996, the implementation of a project on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes was begun, involving interdivisional cooperation and the use of multidisciplinary skills such as statistical analysis, scientific knowledge, and management skills.

38. A regional seminar on population and environment dynamics, poverty and the quality of life in Asia and the Pacific was held. The reduction in UNFPA funds, however, required adjustment of programmed activities related to this area.

39. Among activities concerning sustainable agricultural development, country studies on Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and a regional overview study were undertaken. The principal activities relating to the regional database on pesticides and the environment were concluded. The implementation of the FADINAP project continued to focus on environmentally friendly crop protection and the promotion of the balanced use of fertilizers. A number of regional and national workshops were conducted in the areas of plant nutrient management, environmentally friendly fertilization, fertilizer policies, and fertilizer sector development. FADINAP co-sponsored a marketing management training seminar in Sri Lanka.

40. The Regional Information Support Service and the *Calendar of Meetings on Agro-Chemicals* were deleted from the work programme owing to the lack of extrabudgetary assistance. With the discontinuation of the Belgian funds for FAO in 1995 and the financial constraint faced by UNIDO

since September 1996, there has been no commitment from FAO to FADINAP on the post of Team Leader or Associate Expert. These factors have seriously impeded the work of FADINAP.

41. A publication entitled *Guidelines on Participatory Approaches to Urban Environmental Management* was issued. Support was given to the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) in the organization of a policy seminar on participatory urban management, held in Shanghai in November 1996, as well as to the International Union of Local Authorities, Asia-Pacific Chapter on issues of urban environment.

42. In industrial and technological development, studies were prepared promote the transfer of environmentally sound technology in the region; and cooperation and capacity-building with regard to such technology. Mutually supportive policies on the environment and technology were also promoted. In conjunction with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, preparatory work was begun on the implementation of Commission resolution 52/7 of 24 April 1996 on the transfer of environmentally sound technology.

43. In the energy resources sector, a regional survey was undertaken for the recurrent publication, *Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1993-1994*. Activities under technical cooperation included training workshops and seminars in energy conservation and fuel-switching potential; demand-side management in integrated resource planning of the power sector; energy efficiency standards; energy efficiency and institution-building, particularly in Asian economies in transition; productivity and energy efficiency in the refinery sectors of Central Asia and the Russian Federation; energy conservation in industrial establishments in Mongolia, Myanmar and Viet Nam; and sustainable energy consumption through improved consumer awareness. In the area of new and renewable sources of energy, a regional workshop on geothermal energy development and utilization was organized in China. Advisory services on energy conservation and efficiency were provided to Myanmar and Viet Nam, in addition to the training of officials from Kazakstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Uzbekistan.

44. Activities in the field of water resources focused on the sustainable development of water resources, water pricing and investment promotion in the water sector. A series of workshops and seminars on these subjects culminated in the production of guidelines, the first of their kind in the region. Activities to promote women's participation in water and sanitation are under way. TCDC arrangements for training were facilitated between water departments of some member countries.

45. In the field of natural disaster reduction, the project on land-use planning and practices in watershed conservation and disaster reduction was under implementation. ESCAP continued to provide substantive support to the Typhoon Committee, the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Mekong River Commission.

46. In the mineral sector, activities continued to focus on the evaluation of geological prospects and mineral resource potential in the Asian least developed countries, in selected member countries of ECO, and in North-East Asia. The compilation of a volume on the mineral potential and development policy of Kyrgyzstan continued, and collection of data for a volume on Mongolia was begun. Preparation of a study on the mineral and hydrocarbon resource potential in coastal and offshore areas of North-East Asia progressed. A publication on legal and technical aspects of the removal and disposal of obsolete offshore oil and gas production platforms in the region was disseminated. A forum on urban geology in Asia and a project review meeting on environmental and urban geology of fast-growing cities was held in April 1996.

47. Regional cooperative networking in space technology applications was strengthened through the organization of meetings of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on RESAP and of four technical working groups in major space technology applications sectors. A policy study on the harmonization of regional space cooperation initiatives was undertaken. Operational activities were organized to assist in national capacity-building, including four seminars/workshops, while a multi-year multidisciplinary project for research and studies on advanced satellite data applications was launched. Nine long-term fellowships in remote sensing and geographic information systems were provided by China and India, through RESAP, to member countries. In addition, 16 specialists from 14 member countries were trained through the medium-term programme organized by RESAP in cooperation with Indonesia.

48. Close cooperation was maintained with various agencies in the implementation of many activities of the subprogramme, including the following: United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office for Outer Space Affairs, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNESCO, FAO, UNCHS, IAEA, ILO, WHO, WMO, IMO, World Bank, ADB and European Union. Collaboration with subregional and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, such as ASEAN, SAARC, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation, Mekong River Commission, Committee on earth observation satellites, ASEAN Association of Remote Sensing and International Union for Conservation of Nature and natural resources was strengthened. ESCAP continued to coordinate regional activities under the subprogramme through the RICAP subcommittees on environment and sustainable development, water, and space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Subprogramme 3: Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

(Rate of implementation: 38.4 per cent)

49. Activities were undertaken in the following areas of concern in poverty alleviation: growth strategies and structural reforms; human resources development; social development; population issues; rural development; human settlements; women in development; industry and technology and RNAM.

50. The freeze on vacancies and the reductions in UNFPA funds constrained the implementation of the programmed activities in the areas of women in development and population. Further, the shortage of extrabudgetary resources to implement rural poverty alleviation activities has been a major obstacle.

51. The secretariat prepared the study on the theme topic for the fifty-second session of the Commission, "Rural poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific". As a result, the Commission decided that governments needed to adopt multi-pronged strategies to alleviate rural poverty.

52. The Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development held its third session at Bangkok, in October 1996, to consider various aspects of the poverty situation in the region and critical issues, including rural-urban migration and urbanization. It stressed the need to adopt a holistic approach which addressed issues of migration, urbanization and poverty alleviation and to follow an integrated planning approach, involving all of the relevant actors including government, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, with the role of government being that of a facilitator rather than a provider.

53. **Growth strategies and structural reforms.** Assistance was rendered to the countries in the SAARC subregion in the establishment of forums and networks at the grass-roots level for improving coordination between agents and beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes. The forums which had been created in five districts nominated by the governments of five SAARC countries operated effectively and had already made a strong impact on achieving the objective of enhancing benefits to the poor. Six country studies and a regional synthesis paper were prepared to address the problems and constraints faced by the informal service sector and examine policies and programmes for enhancing the productivity and earnings of the sector. A regional seminar on the role of the informal service sector in poverty alleviation was held, which adopted the policy recommendations on general economic policies, education and training and credit-related issues.

54. **Human resources development.** The major focus of the secretariat's work in this regard was on capacity-building of the public and NGO sectors to deliver human resources development services to the poor and other marginalized social groups, including youth and women. Subregional projects to promote literacy for women were implemented. A number of national workshops for youth work personnel to promote human resources development for youth in Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Viet Nam were conducted in 1996. A project on networking national centres of excellence for human resources development research and training was also initiated. A regional study on human resources development-oriented youth policies and programmes was prepared as an input for

the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, convened by the secretariat at Beijing from 22 to 26 October 1996, with inter-agency support from UNFPA, the United Nations Secretariat, UNESCO and WHO. The administration of the 1996 ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, the theme of which is "people's participation in community development", was under way. The recurrent *ESCAP HRD Newsletter*, Nos. 6 and 7 and four non-recurrent publications on human resources development issues were published.

55. **Social development.** The activities were focused on strengthening capacities and programmes in pursuance of the mandates of the General Assembly and the Commission.⁵ A series of activities were implemented to support national initiatives, including advisory services, policy-oriented research, seminars and TCDC activities. Action was initiated in preparations for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, to be held at Manila, from 5 to 11 November 1997.

56. The secretariat organized regional and subregional training workshops on various critical social issues. The Meeting of Senior Officials on a Policy Framework for Lifelong Preparation for Old Age was convened at Bangkok in May 1996 and preparations were initiated for the convening in January 1997 of the NGO Workshop on Government-NGO Cooperation for Older Persons. In support of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, work continued in the provision of technical assistance to three cities (Bangkok, Beijing and New Delhi) towards the development of pilot projects to implement the guidelines on the promotion of non-handicapping environments for disabled persons. The secretariat arranged for the participation of technical personnel from the above-mentioned countries in a regional workshop on access promotion held in Japan. Through the technical cooperation trust fund for Decade activities, support was given to the training and information activities of people with disabilities in the region's developing countries. A Pacific subregional workshop held in Suva focused on strengthening the management of organizations of people with disabilities. The first national workshop on promotion of self-help initiatives of people with disabilities was held in Viet Nam.

57. The following recurrent publications were issued: *Social Development Newsletter* issue Nos. 34 and 35 and *Asia-Pacific Fact Sheet on Drug Abuse Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention*, No 6. In addition, six non-recurrent publications were issued to provide policy guidelines, information and research results on social development issues.

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⁵ General Assembly resolution 50/141 of 21 December 1995 on International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages and 50/161 of 22 December 1995 on implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. Commission resolutions 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 and 51/4 of 1 May 1995 on Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

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58. **Population.** A variety of population and development activities were undertaken in line with the recommendations of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. An ad hoc expert group meeting on the role of gender in family planning management was held in order to discuss the existing situation and bring out policy issues and recommendations to improve reproductive health.

59. Six regional projects were implemented with the financial assistance of UNFPA in the areas of reproductive health, female migration, family and the elderly, dissemination of population data and information, technology for population information and coordination of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network. Advisory services were rendered to assist the Governments of Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam on issues related to the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the Bali Declaration. Several training courses, seminars and workshops were organized on various population issues, including information technology for population information professionals, women in development, Internet for population information dissemination and the family and the elderly.

60. The annual *1996 ESCAP Population Data Sheet*, four issues of the quarterly *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*, and six issues of the bi-monthly *Population Headliners* were published. In addition, five non-recurrent publications under the Asia Population Studies Series (Nos. 139-143) were also published.

61. **Rural development.** Activities were aimed at the alleviation of rural poverty, increasing market-generated employment, and making agricultural development sustainable. For rural poverty alleviation, national studies on the strengthening of rural credit institutions and capability-building to alleviate rural poverty under economic adjustments were being undertaken. Preparatory work for the organization of the expert group meeting on rural poverty alleviation under changing economic conditions, to be held at Beijing in March 1997, was commenced. Training seminars on success-case-replication methodology were held in Bhutan and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. A national evaluation and dissemination seminar was conducted in Viet Nam in November 1996 and the Government of Viet Nam requested the expansion of this approach in four new provinces.

62. The publication of the inter-agency newsletter *Poverty Alleviation Initiatives* was issued quarterly during 1996. Other publications on rural poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific and economic liberalization and rural poverty were issued.

63. **Human settlements.** A publication on *Living in Asian Cities* was prepared to serve as one of the region's inputs to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) conference, held at Istanbul, Turkey in June 1996. Preparatory activities for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization, to be held at Bangkok in 1998, have been initiated. A regional workshop on women in urban local governments in South Asia was organized at Alahabad, India.

64. **Women in development.** The focus was on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. These activities

included strengthening national mechanisms for the advancement of women in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, promotion of women's rights as human rights, and the publication of the *WINAP Newsletter*, Nos. 18 and 19.

65. **Industry and technology.** A seminar on poverty alleviation through technology capability-building and the Forum '96 on Technology Cooperation for Rural Small and Medium-Scale Industries were held at Beijing and Nanjing, respectively. The Seminar formulated recommendations at the national and regional levels aimed at promoting poverty alleviation through the introduction of technology for the development of small and medium-scale industries development, while the Forum shared their experience in developing rural small and medium-scale industries and discussed possible contracts for technology transfer with local entrepreneurs.

66. **Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery.** Assistance was continued to the countries participating in the network, as well as least developed countries in the region, on sharing among themselves the technical information and hardware developed for agricultural mechanization. The project conducted two regional workshops, one in the Republic of Korea for operation, repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery and the other in India for training of trainers on entrepreneurship for rural women to enable them to run small businesses. In addition, four courses were conducted on blacksmithing in Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Samoa under a joint UNIDO/ESCAP project for least developed countries to upgrade the skills of blacksmiths in these countries and to enable them to carry out simple repairs on agricultural machines. Prototypes of seven agricultural machines were transferred to two island developing countries, i.e., Solomon Islands and Samoa for replication, demonstration and eventual local production. Advisory services were provided on appropriate policies and strategies for agricultural mechanization. Two issues of the *RNAM Newsletter* and a catalogue of post harvest and food processing technologies being used by rural women of selected Asian countries were published.

67. The secretariat collaborated effectively with a wide variety of United Nations bodies and agencies as well as with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region in implementing the subprogramme on poverty alleviation. It served as the secretariat for various subcommittees of RICAP, namely the subcommittees on poverty alleviation, population and development, HIV/AIDS, disability-related concerns, and the advancement of women. Among the United Nations bodies and agencies with which close collaboration was particularly effective were UNESCO, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNCHS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNDP. Among the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with which ESCAP collaborated closely were ADB, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, ASEAN, International Organization for Migration, SAARC, International Council for Social Welfare, Disabled People International, Swedish Organization of Handicapped International Aid Foundation, World Federation of the Deaf, International Federation of Ageing, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Shanghai Institute of Human Resources Development, Family Health International and the Population Council.

Subprogramme 4: Transport and Communications

(Rate of implementation: 53.8 per cent)

68. The Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure held in New Delhi in October 1996. It was preceded by a Meeting of Senior Officials. In pursuance of a decision of the Commission at its fifty-second session, the World Infrastructure Forum - Asia, 1996 was held concurrently with the Ministerial Conference and provided a forum whereby the public and private sectors and multilateral agencies explored ways and means to reduce impediments to, and accelerate investment in, infrastructure development.

69. The Conference adopted the New Delhi Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, thereby launching the New Delhi Action Plan and endorsing a list of operational activities/projects for phase I (1997-2001) of the regional action programme, including the identification of high priority areas. Recognizing the important role that the private sector could play in infrastructure development, the Conference also launched the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance.

70. The Intergovernmental Meeting on Tourism Development was held in Bangkok in December 1996 in pursuance of a decision of the Commission at its fifty-first session. The Meeting reviewed a number of important agenda items including infrastructure development and investment for the tourism sector; facilitation of travel for expansion of intraregional travel; and promotion of tourism along the Asian Highway. A number of recommendations were made with a view to strengthening ESCAP activities in the following areas: economic impact of tourism; environmental management of tourism development; human resources development in the tourism sector; and regional and subregional promotion of tourism. The Meeting supported the establishment of a regional training network on training institutions and organizations to share the experiences and facilities available within the region for purposes of human resources development and further research, and stressed the need for strengthening cooperation with government, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and agencies.

71. The secretariat continued its efforts to implement the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific. In order to incorporate the emerging needs and changing priorities of the developing member countries, some elements of the regional action programme were given a sharper focus on sustainable human development. Two pilot projects were initiated on (i) participatory planning of rural infrastructure in the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and (ii) integration of non-motorized transport in the overall urban transport system of Dhaka. A number of "best practice" studies also commenced to document cases where interventions in the transport and communications sectors have acted as entry points or catalytic factors in the poverty alleviation process. Through the Decade coordination and monitoring system, the status of implementation of the regional action programme was updated regularly and one issue of the newsletter *Decade News* was issued. In addition to the annual meeting of the RICAP subcommittee, a number of informal inter-agency meetings were convened to review and discuss the implementation of the regional action programme. A preliminary impact assessment of phase II (1992-1996) of the

regional action programme was also undertaken.

72. The Commission, at its fifty-second session, adopted resolution 52/9 of 24 April 1996 on Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges, in pursuance of which, the secretariat intensified its efforts in the implementation of the integrated project on Asian land transport infrastructure development comprising the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and facilitation of land transport, including the implementation of resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures.

73. The following recurrent and non-recurrent publications were issued in 1996: *Decade News* No. 8, *ESCAP Tourism Review* No. 16 and 17, *Highway Network Development in the Asian Republics, Feasibility Study on Connecting Rail Networks of China, Kazakstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula, Trans-Asian Railway Route Requirements* (3 publications), *Revised Asian Highway Route Map, Guidelines on Integrated Tourism Planning in Pacific Island Countries, Study on the Economic Impact of Tourism in the Asian Region, and Study on Regional Cooperation in Human Resources Development in the Tourism Sector*.

74. A total of 26 group training activities including regional/subregional seminars and country-level workshops were organized and directed, *inter alia*, at promoting multimodal transport, freight forwarding, facilitation of maritime transport, environment and safety in transport, development of rural infrastructure, commercialization and private sector participation in transport, financial and economic evaluation of transport infrastructure development, transport development, management and maintenance and tourism development. A number of advisory missions were undertaken to assist Governments in the areas of commercialization and private sector participation in transport, port management and operations, multimodal transport, freight forwarding and logistics, and strengthening national capabilities in the expansion of tourism.

75. During 1996, the regular budget staff resources of the subprogramme decreased. The Professional vacancy rate of about 28 per cent increased to 33 per cent in the last quarter.

76. Through the RICAP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development and implementation of specific projects, the secretariat collaborated effectively with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and regional and subregional organizations concerned with transport, communications and tourism. In addition, cooperation and exchange of data and information on the developments in these sectors were maintained with other organizations, including the APEC forum, Pacific Asia Travel Association, European Union, Organization for Railways Cooperation, Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail, International Road Federation, International Road Transport Union, Global Infrastructure Fund, World Development Council, International Union of Railways and the International Railway Congress Association. In the private sector, the secretariat collaborated closely and effectively with the Development Forum Administrators Private Limited, for the promotion of private sector participation in infrastructure development.

Subprogramme 5: Statistics

(Rate of implementation: 69.4 per cent)

77. The tenth session of Committee on Statistics was held in Bangkok in November 1996. The main recommendation of the Committee was to forward new terms of reference for consideration by the Commission. The Committee strengthened its institutional structure by agreeing on terms of reference for its bureau, and also sought to promote interaction with the United Nations Statistical Commission. It reviewed statistical activities carried out by the countries, the international organizations and the secretariat over the last two years, and discussed issues relating to the development of gender statistics, poverty estimation, problems in economic statistics, science and technology indicators, and environment statistics. It identified a number of high priority areas in the work programme, 1998-1999, including implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts, work on the statistical implications of the global summit conferences, and statistics on services. The Working Group of Statistical Experts, an ad hoc body established by the Committee on Statistics, held its ninth session which had been postponed from late 1995 owing to the Organization's financial crisis. The sessions of the Committee and the Working Group afforded opportunities for the region's leading statisticians to exchange views on the latest developments in statistical activities, as well as to provide guidance on the direction of the secretariat's work.

78. Compared with the previous year, 1996 represented a period of consolidation for operational activities. Achievements included the organization of an expert group meeting and regional seminar on environmental and resource accounting, and the third regional workshop for core members of national working groups on gender statistics. Close liaison and consultation were maintained with the advisers under the UNFPA Country Support Teams stationed at Bangkok, Suva and Kathmandu, providing advisory services in the area of demographic statistics in the region. Work continued on preparing technical publications on environment statistics and gender statistics, and a number of country profiles on statistics on women and men were published. The secretariat provided technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, including the participation in the first and second sessions of its Governing Board during the year, to strengthen the Institute's training capability.

79. Improved availability of data on the region and its constituent countries continued to be pursued through the production of the four regular statistical publications, as well as some further development on the ESCAP Statistical Information System. Towards the end of the year, however, work on ESIS stalled owing to the unavailability of a skilled statistical database administrator.

80. The Professional vacancy rate increased to 23 per cent and caused strains in the delivery of outputs. Extrabudgetary staff also decreased, with non-reimbursable loan experts on price statistics and government information systems departing during the year.

81. There was continued emphasis in 1996 on coordination with regional and international statistical agencies, mainly through the Administrative Committee on Coordination machinery and the ESCAP Committee on Statistics. In that connection, a second experimental integrated presentation of statistical work programmes in the region was presented to the Committee. In terms of coordination, particular efforts were made to collaborate with UNFPA on population statistics, FAO on agriculture statistics, and ADB on environment statistics. Cooperation was also extended to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the organization of a seminar on the Special Data Dissemination Standard.

Subprogramme 6: Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries

(Rate of implementation: 0.0 per cent)

82. In addition to the activities undertaken exclusively under this subprogramme, it should be noted that least developed, landlocked and island developing countries also benefited from many of the activities implemented under the other five subprogrammes.

83. The analysis of the macroeconomic performance of the least developed and Pacific island countries was prepared and incorporated in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1997*. Preparations were also made for the fourth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the third session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, both of which are scheduled to be convened in April 1997. Draft agendas for the two special bodies were formulated in the light of the outcome and suggestions of the previous sessions and were circulated to the governments of the respective group of countries for comments. For the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, the issues of major concern are institutional constraints in the implementation of macroeconomic policy in least developed countries, and the special problems of landlocked countries. For the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, the issues of major concern are trade and investment, and coordination of development policy management.

84. Activities were initiated as a follow-up to the recommendations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. One activity aims to identify institutional constraints of selected ESCAP least developed countries in implementing macroeconomic policies and

lessons from East and South-East Asian countries. Studies on Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Korea, Samoa and Thailand have been completed and an overview and synthesis paper has been prepared. An expert group meeting under this activity was held during the period under review and a consultative meeting involving 12 least developed countries is scheduled to be held from 2 to 4 April 1997.

85. The issue of enhancing efficiency in external aid utilization in the least developed countries is under examination. This will involve reviews of trends in aid flows, identification of constraints and problems in their effective utilization, and proposal for actions to improve efficiency in utilization. Consultations with OECD, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and UNCTAD have been held, and national studies for Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Vanuatu are under preparation.

86. To improve the access of women to formal credit and financial institutions in selected least developed countries, national workshops on this issue were held in Nepal and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

87. Under the initiative to create a pool of skilled professionals to prepare industrial investment projects, a regional training workshop on the preparation and management of industrial projects was organized in Nepal. Several national-level seminars were organized to promote the mobilization external resources for industrial development. The development of human and entrepreneurial capacities in the post-harvest and food sector in least developed and landlocked countries of the region was addressed through the ESCAP/APEC project which aims to extend the network of leading institutions in post-harvest and food technology.

88. To promote the development of freight-forwarding and multimodal transport in the landlocked countries, a country-level workshop on training for senior officials on transport insurance was held in Vientiane.

89. For Pacific island countries, the activities focused on enhancing cooperation in trade and investment between Pacific island countries and the economies of East and South-East Asia. Five issue papers covering trade, investment, the role of the private sector in development, sustainable development of natural resources in the Pacific with regard to fish and timber, and the adequacy of economic and financial policies and institutions and infrastructure in Pacific island countries were prepared. These papers, as well as five product studies on the development of the export potential of *bêche-de-mer*, squash, fresh fruit, fruit puree and black pearls and the possibilities of penetrating East and South-East Asian markets, were considered by an expert group meeting held in Port Vila in July 1996. This meeting, which was attended by 16 Pacific island countries and Maldives, as well as representatives from the Singapore Trade and Development Board and the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, formulated a set of recommendations covering policies to be addressed by Pacific island countries, among the governments and with regional agencies, to enhance trade and

investment cooperation among themselves and with East and South-East Asian economies.

90. Inputs were also provided to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the report to the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in the Asian and Pacific region.

91. A fact-finding mission to study the current situation of shipping in the South Pacific subregion and to enumerate options to replace ageing ships was undertaken in September 1996.

92. The reductions in regular budget staff resources under the subprogramme had serious adverse affects on the implementation of high priority activities and the planning of resources for the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, including the provision of advisory services on sustainable development issues.

93. There has been ongoing cooperation with UNCTAD on least developed, landlocked and Pacific island issues, in terms of sharing publications and work programmes. Collaboration with the Forum Secretariat and the secretariat of the South Pacific Commission has been maintained both by ESCAP/POC and the ESCAP secretariat in Bangkok.

