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

Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 25 October 1985, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/5 on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS), paragraphs 4 to 10 of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen co-operation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for the purpose of implementing United Nations resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the Middle East conflict and the question of Palestine, the core of the conflict;

"5. Requests the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, further to intensify their co-operation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the follow-up action to facilitate the implementation of the proposals of a multilateral nature adopted at the Tunisia meeting in 1983, 1/ and take appropriate action regarding the multilateral proposals relating to social development adopted at the Amman meeting in 1985, 2/ 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;

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1/ A/38/299 and Corr.1, sect. V.

2/ A/40/81/Add.1.

"(c) Consultation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States regarding the convening in 1987 of the joint sectoral meeting on development of human resources in the Arab region;

"8. Calls upon the specialized 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 inform the Secretary-General, not later than 15 May 1986, of the progress of their co-operation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations and, in particular, the follow-up action taken on the multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the Tunis and Amman meetings;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General, 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;

"10. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-first session, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"..."

## II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

2. On 19 February 1986, the Secretary-General held a meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York with representatives of the Ministerial Committee of Seven (Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen) and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Chedli Klibi, at the request of the Committee. Developments in the Iran-Iraq conflict and the prospects of a United Nations role in the situation were discussed at the meeting. On 20 February 1986, the Secretary-General met with the Secretary-General of LAS, and they discussed the situation in the Middle East and the activities of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

3. During the period under review, the Permanent Observer of LAS and officials of the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs met on various occasions at United Nations Headquarters and discussed matters of common interest.

4. Meetings during the same period were also held between the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and the Permanent Observer of LAS regarding the proposed symposium on the role of information in development, and between the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and the Acting Under-Secretary-General, Department of Social and Cultural Affairs (LAS), regarding the proposed convening in 1987 of the joint sectoral meeting on development of human resources in the Arab region. Moreover, contacts took place between the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, officials of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the officials of the Office of the Permanent Observer of LAS in New York relating to the holding of a seminar on disarmament in the Arab region.

5. Consultations have also taken place between the Office for Special Political Questions and the Office of the Permanent Observer of LAS to the United Nations concerning follow-up action on proposals relating to multilateral co-operation.

### III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS

6. At the meeting of representatives of the United Nations system and the LAS system, held at Tunis from 28 June to 1 July 1983, a number of proposals were adopted for implementation through co-operation between the two systems (see A/38/299 and Corr.1, sect. V). Some of these proposals call for action by two or more bodies of the United Nations system in co-operation with LAS and its specialized organizations. Action was initiated on these multilateral proposals in consultation with the interested organizations and agencies of the United Nations and LAS systems, and the following information summarizes the progress reported subsequent to that included in last year's report (A/40/481, sect. III). It is based on the replies received from United Nations bodies in response to paragraph 8 of resolution 40/5. The paragraphs mentioned in parentheses after the short title of each recommendation refer to the paragraphs of the Secretary-General's report (A/38/299 and Corr.1).

1. Proposed seminar on disarmament in the Arab region and dissemination in the Arabic language of material on disarmament and development (para. 21 (b) and (c))

7. The Department for Disarmament Affairs has continued its consultations with interested LAS organizations with regard to the agenda, participants and financial aspects of the proposed seminar. The Government of Tunisia has offered to host the seminar at Tunis; the possibility of holding it in early 1987 is under consideration.

2. Assistance to the Department of Population (LAS) in collecting information and economic and social data relating to Arab States (para. 28)

8. The Department of Population (LAS) is co-ordinating action on this proposal. For several years, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has been providing assistance to the Population Research Centre (LAS) in demographic research and training.

9. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs has made available to the Department of Population (LAS) a computer tape of its Population Division's 1982 population estimates and projections for all countries and regions. Moreover, the Population Multilingual Thesaurus will be translated by LAS, working in close collaboration with the Cairo Demographic Centre. The Arabic language version will be one in the series issued by the Population Information Network, a project carried out by the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. The Department also provided advice on data collection and demographic analysis to delegates of LAS at the meeting of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

10. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is co-financing with LAS a project on the Arab League Documentation Centre. Further, a new project entitled the "Arab network information system" is being discussed by UNDP and LAS; this system will assist Arab countries in creating and organizing their national documentation centres. In addition, UNDP provided preparatory assistance to LAS in the administrative development of its secretariat.

3. Regional survey of water resources and the establishment of a regional water management institute and a regional centre for training in land and hydrographic surveys (paras. 33 and 41)

11. The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) organized a seminar on problems and technologies of deep ground-water exploration in the Arab world at Tunis from 9 to 12 September 1985.

12. A regional symposium on water resources and their uses in the Arab world was organized by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in Kuwait from 17 to 20 February 1986. The Tunis proposal for the creation of a water management institute was also discussed at the symposium. At the meeting, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development presented a research paper on recent technological developments in desalination.

13. UNDP is discussing with AFESD cost-sharing for the equipment component of two regional projects: planning and development of water resources in the Middle East and North African countries, and training of technicians in water resources and their use in least developed countries. A regional project on the management of water resources has been in operation since 1980; it is based on consultancies and the training of technicians at various levels in water resource management in North African countries.

14. Recent co-operation between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and ALECSO/ACSAD regarding water resources included seminars on deep water aquifers (Tunis, September 1985) and rational utilization and conservation of water resources in rural areas (Tunis, October 1985) and working groups for the preparation of the regional hydrogeological maps and water technician training courses (Damascus, November 1984 and November 1985).

15. A meeting of experts on the establishment of a regional Arab centre for surveying sciences took place at Amman in 1985; it was recommended that the Centre be situated in Jordan and that a pilot project be initiated. A follow-up committee has been formed to determine the requirements of the centre.

#### 4. Promotion of technical co-operation (para. 42)

16. In 1985, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development helped the LAS secretariat develop a comprehensive plan for its administrative development and improvement of the organizational system, manpower planning and informatics. A large-scale follow-up project for automating the LAS secretariat's administrative systems and procedures is currently under discussion.

17. The Department is continuing to assist the Arab Planning Institute (API) and is implementing planning projects in Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

18. Since 1984, UNDP has had an umbrella project for fellowships, seminars, training and consultancies to promote technical co-operation among Arab countries.

#### 5. Exchange of information on programmes relating to conventional, new and renewable sources of energy (para. 47)

19. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has exchanged information on programmes relating to conventional, new and renewable sources of energy and energy statistics with the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

20. The Energy Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs organized a United Nations Symposium on Financing of Petroleum Exploration and Development in Developing Countries at Athens in April 1985; it was attended by the following LAS members: Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

#### 6. Development of mineral resources (para. 48)

21. Since the signing of a co-operative agreement between the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources (AOMR) in 1983, there have been frequent professional contacts, participation in each other's conferences and joint seminars. In 1985, the

Department sent an adviser on computer systems to Rabat to advise AOMR on the establishment of an Arab mineral-resources data bank. A project proposal was also formulated and financing is being sought for it. The Department is also supervising the geological mapping programme for Democratic Yemen and Yemen with funding by AFESD.

7. Assistance to the Population Research and Training Unit (LAS)  
(para. 54 (a))

22. In March 1985, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) approved the second phase of its project, valued at \$439,181, to provide assistance to the LAS Population Research and Training Unit in 1985-1986. UNFPA has informed LAS that it is prepared to consider the extension of this project and UNFPA assistance beyond 1986. LAS is currently preparing a draft document providing for the extension.

8. Maritime transport (para. 56)

23. An agreement on the UNDP training project, with two sub-centres, one at Tunis and another at Sharjah, has been signed.

9. Complementary rural development projects (para. 62 (b))

24. The proposal on complementary rural development was included in the agenda of the Seventh Regional Inter-Agency Meeting on Rural Development in the Near East, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at Baghdad on 16 December 1985. FAO, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) participated in the meeting and briefly reviewed the activities related to rural development undertaken by their organizations in the region.

25. AOAD indicated the main areas for possible technical co-operation between the organizations of the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations, including (a) human resources development; (b) training, particularly training of administrators, trainers, farmers and farm leaders; (c) co-ordination of efforts in the adoption and application of new technologies; and (d) identification of farmers' needs, major constraints on the adoption of new technologies and mechanisms for promoting vertical and horizontal co-ordination among research institutes and extension services agencies. ALO emphasized the need for the training of rural workers and the examination of the problems of migratory labour, which was considered of particular interest to the Near East region.

26. At the Baghdad meeting, the importance of regular inter-agency consultations on specific subjects was stressed. It was also suggested that joint inter-agency missions could be mounted to identify and implement projects in countries of the region.



10. Health care programmes (para. 62 (c))

27. The World Health Organization (WHO) intends to convene a joint United Nations/LAS meeting in 1986-1987.

11. Integration of vulnerable and least advantaged social groups in the development process (paras. 62 (d) and 63 (c) (i) to (iv))

28. ESCWA has undertaken to act as co-ordinator for follow-up action and has initiated consultations with LAS on future action. It is provisionally planned to hold a full joint inter-agency meeting in the last quarter of 1986 at either Tunis or Baghdad.

12. Social care and integration of social categories into the development process (para. 62 (d))

29. UNESCO is co-operating in this effort through its regional project for integration of population and development through broadcasting services, which is located in the offices of the Arab States Broadcasting Union at Tunis. UNESCO plans to invite LAS as an observer to the regional working group on womens' participation in different aspects of public life in Arab States.

13. Social defence and control of delinquency (para. 62 (f))

30. In the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, collaboration has continued between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the specialized organs of LAS, particularly the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre in the implementation of United Nations policies and programmes in the Arab region (see the Secretary-General's report of 28 November 1985, E/AC.57/1986/3, para. 91).

14. Labour matters (para. 63 (b) (ii) and (iii))

31. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has reported that, on the signing of the project document, the Arab Project for Labour Administration will become operational. Moreover, efforts have been undertaken to reactivate the Arab regional project on employment, through a new approach focusing on pre-project activities and funding arrangements.

15. Promotion of equality for women in employment, training and welfare services (para. 63 (c) (v))

32. The Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs has continued its co-operation with LAS in both the preparation for and follow-up to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the

Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. With LAS funding, the Branch will prepare a study of the situation of Palestinian women living outside the occupied Arab territories.

16. Preservation of Arab and Islamic historical sites in the Arab world (para. 67 (a) (iii))

33. UNESCO has established regular contacts with ALECSO in the implementation of the following activities related to the preservation of cultural heritage:

(a) Preservation and safeguarding of the cities of San'a, Shibam, Tichitt, the Medina of Tunis and the site of Tyre;

(b) Establishment of a national museum at Tripoli and the King Faisal Centre for Islamic Studies;

(c) Preservation of the old city of Jerusalem.

17. Eradication of illiteracy and adult education (para. 67 (a) (v))

34. An Orientation Seminar for Arab States on the Development of Learning Strategies for Post-Literacy and Continuing Education was held by the UNESCO Institute for Education at Hamburg from 28 October to 8 November 1985; it was attended by representatives of UNESCO, ALECSO and ALO.

18. Programmes in hydrology, oceanography, new energy sciences and technology (para. 67 (a) (viii))

35. Co-operation between UNESCO and ALECSO in oceanography is continuing; the following are some examples:

(a) UNESCO participates in the meetings of the ALECSO Committee on the Marine Environment and those of the Programme on the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden in Jiddah;

(b) A bibliography on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden is being prepared for joint publication;

(c) Preparations are in progress to establish a network of tide gauges in the Red Sea.

36. With regard to science and technology policy, UNESCO co-operates with ALECSO in the preparation of the documentation for the Conference of Ministers of Arab States responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

19. Establishment of training and educational institutes for the handicapped (para. 67 (a) (xiii))

37. UNESCO held a joint inter-secretariat meeting in Paris on 11 and 12 September 1985; it was attended by representatives of UNESCO, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), ILO, WHO and ALECSO. The meeting explored possibilities of co-operation in training and education of the handicapped in the Arab countries. A draft project proposal was translated into Arabic and transmitted to ALECSO for comments.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON BILATERAL PROPOSALS

38. Most of the proposals adopted at the United Nations/LAS meeting at Tunis in 1983 called for bilateral action between the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the LAS system. The progress achieved in their implementation in 1984-1985 was reported in last year's report (A/40/481, sect. IV). The status of these bilateral proposals is summarized in this section. The information is based on the replies received from the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in response to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 40/5.

A. Replies pertaining to political matters

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

39. During the period under review, LAS continued to take part, as an observer, in the meetings of the Committee and to participate in all its activities, such as the annual commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, United Nations seminars and international meetings of non-governmental organizations and regional symposia on the question of Palestine.

40. The Committee has continued to follow the work of the League and the resolutions and decisions adopted by the League that are relevant to its mandate.

Department of Political and Security Council Affairs

Security Council

41. As in the past, letters from LAS transmitting statements and resolutions adopted and communiqués issued by it and requests for urgent meetings of the Security Council were issued as Council documents. The Council extended a number of invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to the Permanent Observer and the Secretary-General of LAS during its discussions of the situation in the Middle East, the situation in the Gulf area, the situation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, the complaint by Tunisia against Israel, the interception of a Libyan airliner by Israel and the situation in Namibia.

Apartheid

42. The Special Committee against Apartheid continues to invite LAS, as an observer, to all its conferences, seminars and symposia. Moreover, the Special Committee and the Centre against Apartheid have held consultations with LAS on issues of common interest.

Outer space affairs

43. A number of LAS member States participated in regional and international meetings, training courses and workshops organized under the auspices of the United Nations Space Applications Programme. The member States of LAS have also been invited to nominate candidates for participation in fellowship programmes offered by various countries. A Directory on Education, Training, Research and Fellowship Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications has been published in which material furnished by some member States was included.

B. Replies pertaining to economic, financial and technical co-operation for development

1. Trade and development

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Manufactures

44. A request from Iraq and Kuwait for the organization of regional seminars on the generalized system of preferences is under consideration.

Trade with socialist countries

45. A seminar for ESCWA member countries, in which ESCWA, LAS, and the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries co-operated closely, was scheduled to take place at Sofia from 16 to 20 June 1986. The seminar was expected to identify trade opportunities and the best ways and means of promoting trade and economic co-operation between the Arab countries and Bulgaria. Moreover, there are plans to assist the secretariats of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and LAS in establishing contacts for the expansion of trade between Arab countries and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

Economic co-operation among developing countries

46. Seventeen out of twenty-two members of LAS have notified the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) of their intention to participate in the negotiations for the establishment of the Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries (GSTP); LAS has also applied to participate in these negotiations as an intergovernmental regional grouping. The Division for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, through its Trade Information System, has assisted the LAS member countries in computerizing their trade-control measures at the tariff-line level to make them comparable with those of other participating

countries and in computerizing and consolidating their lists of products of export interest, which show the actual trade flows of these products to other participating countries. In 1985 the GSTP project organized a seminar for the Maghreb members of LAS (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), and another seminar is planned for the countries of North Africa and the Gulf.

47. In 1985, consultations were held with the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), and the AMF actively participated in and contributed to the success of the session of the Co-ordination Committee on Multilateral Payments and Clearing Arrangements of Developing Countries. In view of the need to improve the report on financial flows among developing countries, consultations were held with Arab Gulf countries to co-ordinate the reporting of the data on their financial flows to other developing countries. Contacts were established with the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation with a view to organizing a meeting of Arab investment enterprises in conjunction with the Arab Chambers of Commerce. Preliminary consultations were held in Geneva with the Arab Associations of Chambers of Commerce in preparation for the enterprise-to-enterprise symposium for the Arab region planned for 1987. At the request of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), a computerized data base for recording aid to African countries was established.

48. A proposal for a regional technical co-operation project to promote economic diversification of the Arab economies through strengthening co-operation among enterprises was submitted to UNDP in the framework of the fourth programming cycle.

#### Trade facilitation

49. Technical assistance was provided to Morocco, the Sudan and Djibouti for the facilitation of port procedures, export procedures, and import-export licensing procedures and exchange-control systems, respectively.

#### General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

50. In addition to activities included in last year's report (A/40/481, para. 66), the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) organized in 1985, at the request of the Co-operation Council of Arab States of the Gulf, a trade policy seminar for its member States. A GATT official participated in a seminar for Maghreb countries organized at Tunis by the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre.

## 2. Development financing

### World Bank

51. Lending by the World Bank, although directed to individual countries, has provided many opportunities for co-operation with member countries and specialized organizations of the Arab League. In fiscal year 1985, loans totalling \$US 1,137.8 million were made to 12 member States of the Arab League in the sectors of agricultural and rural development, development finance, education, energy, industry, population, health and nutrition, telecommunications, transportation, water supply and sewerage and urban development.

52. In addition, the Bank maintains productive relations with AFESD and BADEA. The focus of this co-operation is the co-financing of development projects in Arab and African countries. An important aspect of this co-operation is technical assistance, including staff secondment, to these organizations.

53. The Bank's Economic Development Institute (EDI) is co-operating with several specialized organizations of LAS in the joint sponsorship of regional training activities. EDI is currently associated with API in the joint sponsorship of regional seminars for trainers; with the Jordan National Water Authority in the joint sponsorship of regional seminars on urban water supply and sanitation and water resource management; and with the Ministry of Planning of Morocco in the conception and design of a teacher-training programme to upgrade project-analysis skills throughout the public service.

#### International Monetary Fund

54. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) co-operated actively with members of LAS in 1985-1986 through consultation missions from headquarters, technical assistance and, where appropriate, financial assistance. In addition, IMF has maintained close relations with several organizations in the Arab world, particularly AMF. A senior official of IMF is currently serving as a special adviser to the President of AMF, and plans are being developed to undertake joint training programmes. Moreover, in 1985, IMF provided technical assistance to the countries of the Co-operation Council of Arab States of the Gulf, specifically in the area of harmonization of budgetary policies on both the revenue and expenditure sides.

#### Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

55. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development is currently studying the feasibility of translating and publishing the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation's comprehensive investment guidelines for Arab countries.

### 3. Transnational corporations

#### United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

56. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) has had many bilateral contacts with members of LAS in the course of its regular co-operation activities. Since 1984, UNCTC has organized a series of workshops and seminars in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Tunisia. UNCTC is prepared to co-operate with LAS in (a) training projects under the UNCTC technical assistance programme; (b) information development and sharing under the UNCTC information services programme; (c) contribution to and exchange of research studies under the policy analysis and research programme; and (d) identification of technical experts with experience relevant to LAS to be included in the UNCTC roster of experts.

4. Co-operation between the League of Arab States  
and regional commissions

Economic Commission for Africa

57. Since the institutionalization of co-operation between LAS and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the activities of ECA in respect of Afro-Arab co-operation have become better rationalized though its participation in the deliberations of the organs created for Afro-Arab co-operation by LAS, ECA and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Even though many of the organs were unable to meet during the past year, ECA was fully represented at two important meetings:

(a) ECA participated in the United Nations/LAS meeting on social development held from 16 to 25 August 1985 at Amman and, inter alia, submitted the following proposals with a view to promoting co-operation in social development within the framework of Afro-Arab co-operation:

- (i) The activities of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, of which some North African Arab States are members, should be extended to cover all the countries of LAS and thus become the first multilateral Afro-Arab project;
- (ii) ECA, because of its role in preparing the annual surveys of economic and social conditions in Africa and the world social situation, both of which cover North African Arab States, should be associated with the preparatory work for a report on the Arab social situation;
- (iii) In view of its experience in this field, ECA could provide assistance to LAS in its preparations for the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;
- (iv) ECA and the proposed Arab Centre for Research and Training in Social Development should co-operate in the provision of humanitarian assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of displaced populations and victims of man-made and natural disasters;

(b) A representative from the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centre at Tangier attended the eighth ordinary session of the Standing Commission of OAU and LAS on Afro-Arab co-operation, held on 15 and 16 January 1986 at Damascus. Among the important decisions taken at this meeting was the establishment of a joint co-ordinating committee consisting of the African Development Bank, BADEA and ECA, as previously proposed by the Afro-Arab Standing Commission of 24 Ministers. This joint committee will work in collaboration with the general secretariats of LAS and OAU:

- (i) To co-ordinate the activities of their institutions relating to the implementation of the programmes of Afro-Arab co-operation and the financing of related projects;
- (ii) To co-ordinate the participation of their institutions in the meetings of the working groups on Afro-Arab co-operation.

58. Within ECA itself, the Inter-Divisional Committee on Afro-Arab Co-operation continues to function as the focal point for the co-ordination, monitoring and initiation of all Afro-Arab co-operation activities undertaken by ECA. In addition, the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centre at Tanqier has continued to promote Afro-Arab co-operation through the implementation of its work programme relating to the promotion of trade between its member States and other African countries.

59. Little progress has been made in the wide-ranging projects that ECA had submitted through the OAU sub-committee on Afro-Arab co-operation for funding by BADEA and other Arab institutions. These projects are still under review. The same applies to projects, valued at a total of over \$1 million, that ECA submitted directly to BADEA for financing.

60. The institutionalized relationship between ECA and ESCWA constitutes another dimension of Afro-Arab co-operation. It has enabled the two institutions to co-ordinate their activities concerning North African Arab and other Arab States. ECA and ESCWA continued their co-operation through their joint participation in all meetings concerning Afro-Arab co-operation. Progress was made towards the implementation of project proposals identified during the meetings of Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, held in February and July 1985 at the ECA secretariat and at Geneva respectively, on the promotion of interregional economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, which will also involve co-operation between ESCWA and ECA within the framework of Afro-Arab co-operation. These project proposals relate to specific co-operation between ECA and ESCWA in the employment of youth and women in rural areas, the Arabization of informatics, matters concerning Islam and family planning, and Afro-Arab trade promotion and to co-operation between ECA and ESCWA and the other regional commissions in the fields of trade, trade information, transport and communications, agriculture, industry, natural resources, technology, human resources development, human settlements and social development.

61. The establishment of the joint ECA/OAU co-ordination committee has enabled the better handling by these two institutions of all issues relating to Afro-Arab co-operation, which in turn has led to improvement in ECA/OAU working relations in that field.

#### Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

62. The status of co-ordination and co-operation between ESCWA and LAS as well as other Arab regional organizations is reflected in the following programmes undertaken during the period under review:

(a) Food and agriculture

An export group meeting on critical factors in wheat production and distribution was organized in co-operation with AOAD, API, the Arab Federation of Food Industries (AFFI) and the Iraq Development Fund.



(b) Industrial development

- (i) ESCWA serviced a solidarity meeting jointly with the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the context of industrial programming of least developed countries.
- (ii) In the context of identification of regional projects in capital goods and other engineering industries:
- a. An agreement was concluded with AIDO, AFESD and the Arab Industrial Investment Corporation on a joint project to prepare a feasibility study and related studies for high-speed diesel engines;
  - b. Preparation of a feasibility study on pressure vessels heat exchange, furnace and reactors was undertaken in co-operation with the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, AIPO and AFESD;
  - c. In co-operation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and AFESD, a workshop was organized in Kuwait on computer processing of the Arabic language;
  - d. In co-operation with AIDO, ESCWA prepared two master plans relating to the petrochemicals and capital goods industries.

(c) Population

ESCWA and API co-sponsored an expert group meeting on employment and migration policies. Moreover, as an ad hoc activity with the Arab Employment Institute of ALO, a study was undertaken of technical and vocational education institutions on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The statistical data base of the Arab countries was completed with the addition of manpower and employment statistics for the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).

(d) Statistics

Improvements were made in the statistical capabilities of ESCWA in co-operation with the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), AMF, LAS and AOAD.

5. Industrial development

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

63. The following projects, jointly prepared by UNIDO and AIDO, are being carried out: preparation of a feasibility study on the establishment of heavy manufacturing and boiler industry in the Arab countries; and a training seminar on the computer model for feasibility analysis and reporting to improve the capability of Arab management staff to prepare pre-investment studies.

64. Other projects carried out in collaboration with AIDO include the translation into Arabic of the manual for the preparation of industrial feasibility studies, the preparation of an industrial survey of Jordan and the establishment of an integrated Arab information network. At a meeting held at UNIDO headquarters in April 1986, the Directors-General of UNIDO and AIDO agreed to strengthen further the existing ties between the two organizations and to implement, subject to the availability of funds, the following projects and programmes: (a) assistance in the development of the engineering infrastructure industry in the Arab region; (b) on-the-job group training programmes in the maintenance of boilers and textile machinery; (c) establishment of two plastics development centres, one in the eastern part of the Arab region and one in the western part; (d) a study of the handling, transport and storage of fertilizers in Arab countries; (e) in co-operation with LAS and ESCWA, organization of an expert group meeting on capital goods in the framework of the system of consultations; and (f) contributions by UNIDO to the preparation of the Seventh Industrial Development Conference for Arab States, scheduled to take place at Tunis in 1989.

65. A high-level delegation from AOMR visited UNIDO headquarters in April 1986. The objective of the visit was to reactivate co-operation between the two organizations and prepare a joint work programme. The following projects and activities were agreed upon for joint implementation in 1986 and 1987: (a) "Seminar on salt in the Arab region" (Jordan, May 1986); (b) "Pre-feasibility study on extraction of gold metal from its ores"; (c) "Expert on industrial information"; (d) "Training programme on metallic minerals"; (e) "Seminar on building materials and industrial rocks" (Tripoli, November 1986); (f) "Seminar on the use of computers in the mineral industry"; (g) "Feasibility study on copper smelting in the Arab region"; (h) "Seminar on the preparation of feasibility studies"; and (i) "Study of the mineral-processing industry in the Arab region" (envisaged for 1987).

66. UNIDO has provided assistance to the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizer Producers for the development of an information system and network for the fertilizer industry in the Arab region. It also participated in the second International Arab Aluminium Conference at Dubai, the objective of which was to encourage the establishment and/or expansion of the aluminium industry in the Arab world and to promote intra-Arab co-operation in the exchange of technology and experience.

## 6. Human settlements

### United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

67. A draft agreement on co-operation between LAS and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements is currently under discussion. The Centre, in co-operation with the Government of the United Arab Emirates, organized the first consultative meeting on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, which was held at Dubai in April 1986 and was attended by representatives of LAS and several Arab States. Moreover, the Executive Director of the Centre is in the process of finalizing the establishment of a specialized regional training centre for human

settlement activities at Amman and the preparation of a comprehensive programme of training courses to be given at the proposed centre in the following two years in co-operation with the host Government.

## 7. Environment

### United Nations Environment Programme

68. LAS asked the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) for technical assistance for the development of the organs concerned with environmental questions in LAS and its organizations, with a view to drawing up an Arab programme for the improvement of the environment. An international expert seconded from UNEP prepared a comprehensive report on this subject. With the assistance of the UNEP office at Tunis, arrangements are being made for the First Arab Ministerial Conference on Environmental Considerations in Development, scheduled to take place in October 1986.

### International Maritime Organization

69. In the context of the implementation of the Programme on the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, the International Maritime Organization co-operates directly with ALECSO in the assessment of the state of oil pollution and the prevention and control of such pollution in the area covered by the Programme.

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

70. UNESCO continues to co-operate with ALECSO in the field of ecological studies and has provided support to the ALECSO Transnational Greenbelt Project of North Africa and to the ACSAD seminars on arid and semi-arid land development and management.

## 8. Civil aviation

### International Civil Aviation Organization

71. The Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC) has been invited to attend, as an observer, the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), to be held in September and October 1986. ACAC will also be invited to attend a seminar on aviation security to be held in Saudi Arabia in November 1986. ICAO continues to work closely with ACAC with regard to air-navigation facilities and services that ACAC member States are to provide under relevant regional air-navigation plans. As part of the ICAO Technical Assistance Programme, ICAO is executing technical assistance projects in the following States members of ACAC and ICAO: Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen.

## 9. Postal services

### Universal Postal Union

72. The Universal Postal Union attaches great importance to strengthening co-operation with LAS and the Arab Postal Union. In view of the role that the latter could play in co-ordinating technical assistance in postal development in the region, the Universal Postal Union recently proposed the conclusion of a co-operation agreement, which, it is hoped, will be signed before the end of 1986.

### C. Replies pertaining to food and agriculture

#### World Food Programme

73. The nature and the objectives of the assistance provided by WFP to the Arab countries was described in last year's report (A/40/481, sect. IV, C). As at 31 March 1986, a total of 53 development projects were in operation in 14 Arab countries, at a total cost to WFP of \$679.6 million. These countries are Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

74. WFP assistance to the Arab world from the Programme's inception to 31 March 1986 totalled nearly \$2,282 million, 25.2 per cent of the total aid supplied by WFP to all regions of the world.

#### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

##### (a) Regional studies

75. FAO co-operated with CAEU in the preparation of technical documentation for a workshop on social indicators for the Arab world, scheduled for September/October 1986.

##### (b) Regional seminars, workshops and technical meetings

76. FAO and AOAD co-sponsored a technical consultation of Arab AGRIS (International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology) and CARIS (Current Agricultural Research Information System) Centres at Khartoum in February 1985. Two regional workshops on project analysis were held in Kuwait in March 1985 and March and April 1986; the former was co-sponsored by FAO and API, and the latter by FAO, API and AFESD. The FAO Regional Project on Animal Production and Health (MINEADEP) and AOAD jointly held a symposium on the methodology and organization of animal disease surveillance and control at Baghdad in October 1985. MINEADEP and AOAD also jointly held a symposium on the planning and management of artificial insemination projects at Rabat in November 1985. FAO and API co-sponsored a regional workshop on agricultural planning, held in Kuwait in November/December 1985. FAO co-operated with AOAD and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) in conducting a national demonstration meeting on agricultural production statistics at Khartoum in December 1985.

77. FAO attended, on a reciprocal basis, the 1985 meetings of the governing bodies of AOAD, CAEU, AITRS and ACSAD. FAO participated in the Arab symposium on natural resources and socio-economic development in arid regions, organized by ACSAD in co-operation with AFESD at Damascus in February 1985. FAO presented technical papers at the following meetings: (a) the ACSAD International Conference on Animal Production in Arid Zones, held at Damascus in September 1985; (b) an international seminar on problems and technologies of deep ground-water exploration in the Arab world, organized by ALECSO at Tunis in September 1985; (c) a workshop on adoption of the technology of the vegetable-oil industry in the Arab world, organized by AOAD and AFFI at Khartoum in November 1985; and (d) a regional symposium on water resources and their uses in the Arab world, organized by AFESD, ACSAD and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in Kuwait in February 1986. FAO also participated in a symposium on the application of biotechnology to development in the Arab world, organized by ALECSO and the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils at Rabat in May 1986. FAO will participate in the First Arab Conference on Meat Production and Industry to be held by AFFI in October 1986.

78. AOAD and ACSAD participated in the First Conference on Applied Agricultural Research, organized by the Iraq State Board for Applied Agricultural Research in collaboration with FAO, at Baghdad in November 1984. AOAD and ACSAD also participated in the FAO-sponsored First General Conference of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa, the International Service for National Agricultural Research and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, held at Damascus in July 1985. AOAD and ACSAD participated in and presented technical papers at the FAO expert consultation on range-land rehabilitation and development in the Near East, held in Rome in October 1985. AOAD also participated in and presented a technical paper at the expert consultation on improved wheat management organized by FAO at Nicosia in October/November 1985. AOAD and ACSAD are expected to participate in an FAO technical consultation on the regional small-ruminants research-and-development network to be held in Rome in October 1986.

(c) Technical co-operation

79. At the request of the Regional Bureau of the Arab Federation of Paper Industries, an FAO mission visited Tunisia to advise on the organization of a consultation on the development of cellulose-fibre resources in Arab countries. FAO co-operated with ACSAD in initiating field activities for the demonstration of sound range management.

80. With the co-operation of the Arab Union of Fish Producers, FAO is establishing a Fish Marketing Information, Promotion and Advisory Service for the Arab Countries.

81. FAO has agreed to provide the Arab Population and Documentation Centre at Tunis, in August 1986, with its Computerized System for Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance and Training for some Arab countries.

(d) Training

82. A regional training course on improved irrigation methods, co-sponsored by FAO and ACSAD, was given at Damascus and Dayr az-Zawr, Syrian Arab Republic, in December 1985.

(e) Exchange of information

83. FAO, AOAD, CAEU and the Statistics Office of IAS exchanged agricultural statistical information about the countries of the region.

84. The Executive Director of the ALECSO-sponsored Transnational Greenbelt Project of North Africa took part in the FAO expert consultation on the role of forestry in combating desertification, held at Saltillo, Mexico, in June 1985. Exchange of information between FAO and this Project continues through the provision of technical papers and audio-visual materials.

(f) Investment

85. There has been a marked increase in the activities of the Investment Centre of FAO in respect of Arab funds. In Mauritania, FAO prepared two projects for possible financing by AFESD: one on oasis development and the other on gum arabic development. FAO also prepared for AFESD a regional project for fishnet production in Morocco and Tunisia. FAO participated in an AFESD mission to the Syrian Arab Republic to review the feasibility study of the Khabour irrigation project.

(g) Other activities

86. Dr. Mohamed Al-Khash, Director-General of ACSAD, visited FAO headquarters in January 1986 to discuss ways and means of strengthening co-operation between the two organizations.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

87. Co-operation by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the Arab region in pursuit of its mandate to increase food production, reduce malnutrition and alleviate rural poverty was detailed in last year's report (A/40/481, sect. IV, C). As of 15 June 1986, IFAD had provided financial assistance to 34 development projects in 11 Arab countries with a total commitment of \$350 million.

88. In 1985, the Fund sponsored a workshop at Riyadh to deal with the severe shortage of trained manpower for the timely implementation of projects. This workshop was attended by project managers and senior staff from 23 projects, representing 10 countries in the Near East and North Africa.

D. Replies pertaining to social development, labour matters,  
human resources and cultural affairs

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

89. LAS is regularly supplied with all periodical publications of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs related to aging. Further, representatives of LAS have been invited to participate in meetings and seminars organized by the Centre's Aging Unit.

United Nations Children's Fund

90. Co-operation between LAS and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to focus on the welfare of children as follows:

(a) Joint committee. LAS and UNICEF established a joint committee to strengthen co-operation between the two organizations; it will meet twice a year alternately at Tunis and Amman;

(b) Arab social report. UNICEF will assist LAS in the preparation of the report by drafting a chapter on the Arab child and by providing basic information and statistics on children in specific Arab countries;

(c) Information and communication. LAS and UNICEF agreed to co-ordinate and exchange information on television and radio programmes and other media materials;

(d) LAS children's department. UNICEF will co-operate in the development of a five-year programme for the newly established Children's Department of LAS;

(e) Studies. LAS and UNICEF are considering co-operation in conducting a number of studies of social development in Arab countries;

(f) Meetings. UNICEF attended meetings of Arab ministers of social affairs and health in December 1985 and March 1986. LAS has been invited to attend the sessions of the Executive Board of UNICEF. Invitations to attend other meetings held in the region were also exchanged;

(g) Co-operation with the Council of Arab Ministers of Health. At its eleventh session at Casablanca (11-14 March 1986), the Council endorsed the goal of providing universal child immunizations by 1990 and decided to award the annual LAS prize for 1986 to the organization that produced the best research on child immunization.

World Health Organization

Essential drugs and vaccines

91. Collaboration continues between WHO and the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health.

Information and health education

92. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is providing assistance in organizing a workshop on the development of training modules for health education. Moreover, several national workshops on health education were held in 1985, and others are planned for 1986 and 1987 in Kuwait, Oman and Somalia.

### Health legislation

93. A representative of WHO participated in the second meeting of the LAS expert committee on health legislation held at Geneva in May 1985 and the third meeting held in Kuwait in January 1986.

### Support for programmes in the Arab region

94. (a) The Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme, co-ordinated by WHO, is concentrating on the establishment of operational centres of excellence and on technology transfer for vaccine production, in order to make the region self-reliant in laboratory and training services.

(b) The Human and Canine Rabies Control Programme in Maghreb Countries is progressing well, with emphasis on the country-wide programme in Tunisia, the border programme in Algeria and the feasibility study for vaccine technology and field-programmes implementation in Morocco.

(c) A workshop on the epidemiology and control of schistosomiasis, held in the Sudan from 12 to 24 October 1985, was attended by officers responsible for schistosomiasis control in 11 Arab States. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean supported consultants for schistosomiasis control programmes in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. All WHO documentation on schistosomiasis control has been translated into Arabic.

(d) The UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, from its inception in 1975 to 31 December 1985, provided \$1,721,096 in support of 46 projects carried out by scientists and institutions in seven member States of LAS. In addition, some members of LAS participated in the activities of the Joint Co-ordinating Board of the Programme, its senior administrative body. The Governments of six members of the League have been granted observer status at sessions of the Board: Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

(e) The Diarrhoeal Diseases Control programme is currently collaborating with 15 members of LAS in their implementation of national diarrhoeal-disease programmes as an essential component of primary health care. In addition, since 1980 it has provided \$219,894 in support of 13 research projects in seven member States.

(f) The WHO Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, from its inception in 1972 to the end of 1985, provided \$864,000 for research projects and improvement of research capability in four member States of LAS.

(g) WHO collaborates with members of LAS in the area of oral health; in most of these States, situation analyses have been performed and measurable goals for the prevention of oral diseases have been defined. The WHO Collaborating Centre for Research, Training and Demonstration on Oral Health in the Syrian Arab Republic serves as a focal point for the oral-health programme in the Eastern Mediterranean region. WHO is in regular contact with the Arab Dental Foundation.



(h) With regard to improvement in the level of services in the supply of drinking water in the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (see A/38/299 and Corr.1, para. 65 (j)), WHO, in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany, discussed co-ordination of development assistance programmes between Arab national and regional development financing institutions, members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and regional and subregional development banks. Discussions took place at the headquarters of the Arab development financing institutions and at regional external support consultations for Asia (Asian Development Bank, Manila, 21-25 October 1985) and Africa (African Development Bank, Abidjan, 25-29 November 1985). General agreements were reached between external support agencies to improve the level of services and to make the assistance more effective through increased emphasis on human-resources development, community participation, health and hygiene education, institution-building and low-cost technology.

#### International Atomic Energy Agency

95. In 1986, the Agency is carrying out 116 technical co-operation projects in Arab States, most of them relating to agriculture, water and mineral resources, and health-care programmes. Since the establishment of the Agency in 1958, technical assistance valued at \$27.7 million has been provided to Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

#### World Intellectual Property Organization

##### 96. Copyright

(a) A regional experts meeting was held by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and UNESCO at Doha, Qatar, in October 1984 to consider the text of the model provisions for national laws to protect expressions of folklore from illicit exploitation and other prejudicial actions.

(b) WIPO held a high-level seminar at Cairo in October 1985 to discuss certain aspects of copyright and neighbouring rights in the context of the development of developing countries, including Arab countries.

##### 97. Patents

(a) With UNDP funding, WIPO is carrying out two regional projects in the Arab countries: establishment of a patent information and documentation unit in the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, and upgrading of industrial property systems in the Arab countries. As part of the latter project, WIPO organized a high-level workshop at Geneva in May 1985. Under the programme of action adopted at the workshop, WIPO is currently assisting some Arab countries in revising and updating their industrial-property legislation.

(b) WIPO provided assistance to the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils in the translation of volume 9 of the International Patent Classification, which has been distributed to all Arab countries.

(c) WIPO is updating its 1978 publication entitled Situation of Industrial Property in the Arab States.

E. Replies pertaining to refugees, disaster prevention and emergency relief, and human rights

1. Refugees

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

98. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues its policy of co-operating closely with LAS by maintaining regular contact with the Permanent Observer of LAS at Geneva and sending missions to LAS headquarters at Tunis.

99. UNHCR and ALECSO are discussing the possibilities of co-operation in the field of education.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

100. UNRWA maintains regular contact with LAS through its headquarters at Tunis and its offices at Vienna and in New York.

101. In January 1986, at the invitation of LAS, UNRWA officials attended a meeting of the LAS Committee of Supervisors of Refugee Affairs at Tunis. The formal meetings were followed by two days of informal discussion. In March 1986, the new Commissioner-General of UNRWA met with the Secretary-General of LAS at Tunis. These meetings were most useful and provided valuable opportunities to exchange views on ways of enhancing co-operation between LAS and UNRWA to assist UNRWA in fulfilling its responsibilities in respect of Palestine refugees.

102. UNRWA continues to maintain close contact with member States of LAS, in particular with the Arab host countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic) and with donor member States, which have contributed about \$2.3 million in 1986.

103. The Agency has continued to provide informational material in Arabic, English and French to the League Secretariat and to its member States. It has also provided radio and television programmes, photographs and photographic exhibits drawing attention to the situation of Palestine refugees and to UNRWA activities on their behalf. These activities are co-ordinated with LAS and its member States through regular visits by representatives of the Public Information Division of UNRWA.

## 2. Disaster prevention and emergency relief

### Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

104. Agreement was reached between the LAS General Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) to hold a joint symposium on disaster preparedness and prevention in Arab countries at Tunis in December 1986 with the participation of Arab governmental and non-governmental bodies concerned with disaster prevention. However, the funds earmarked for this purpose - \$20,000 by LAS, \$10,000 by UNDRO and \$4,000 by UNESCO - were insufficient. Efforts are being made by all parties concerned to obtain additional financing. The symposium will be convened as soon as the necessary funds are available.

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

105. Generally, UNESCO co-operates with ALECSO in activities relating to earthquake-risk reduction in the Arab region.

## 3. Human rights

### United Nations Centre for Human Rights

106. An observer of LAS participated in the forty-second session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and an observer from the United Nations Centre for Human Rights attended the sixth session of the Permanent Arab Regional Commission on Human Rights, held at Tunis on 6 and 7 January 1986. In a letter to the Arab Commission, the Centre reaffirmed its desire for close co-operation in the future. In addition, relevant documents of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations human rights bodies were made available to LAS; some documentation from the sixth session of the Arab Commission was made available to the Centre. Representatives of the Centre and LAS held informal discussions on matters of mutual interest, and LAS was again invited to the annual informal consultation meetings of the secretariats of human rights organizations.

## F. Replies pertaining to information and communication

### United Nations Department of Public Information

107. The United Nations Department of Public Information co-operates with LAS in various activities. News releases issued by LAS for use by correspondents accredited to the United Nations were displayed in the press area. Activities of LAS in the United Nations were covered in publications such as the UN Chronicle and the weekly United Nations News Digest. Events of special concern to LAS were covered in radio and television programmes and photographic displays. Preliminary contact was established with the Arab States Broadcasting Union, and arrangements were made for the transmission by satellite of the United Nations Arabic television magazine programme to the region. LAS was asked to co-operate with fact-finding missions dispatched by the Department to Middle East countries on the question of

Palestine, and efforts were usually made to include meetings with senior LAS officials in the itinerary of those missions. United Nations Information Centres at Brussels, Mexico City, Nairobi, New Delhi and Tunis co-operated with LAS in observances of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November).

#### International Telecommunication Union

108. The International Telecommunication Union, in its role as executive agency for UNDP telecommunications projects, is co-operating closely with the regional organizations concerned in all phases of the MEDARABTEL project, aimed at strengthening the regional telecommunications network that directly links the Arab countries among themselves and with neighbouring countries. This co-operation is maintained by a High-Level Co-ordination Committee, in which the following Arab organizations participate: the Arab Telecommunication Union, the Arab States Broadcasting Union, the Arab Satellite Communications Organization (ARABSAT), Gulfvision Corporation, the Gulf Co-operation Council and AFESD.

109. The same procedure is being used in the implementation of the Translation and Arabization Project, which involves the translation of a glossary of 28,500 telecommunication terms to facilitate the transfer of technology, the Arabization and standardization of training material and the use of Arabic as an official language of the International Telecommunication Union and in the day-to-day work of the telecommunications administrations of Arab States. Moreover, through this Project, joint seminars are organized and arrangements are made in order to provide assistance to Arab regional organizations and thus to strengthen their secretariats. Upon completion of this Project, activities will be progressively transferred to these organizations.

#### V. FOLLOW-UP ON PROPOSALS RELATING TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

110. The United Nations LAS inter-agency meeting on social development, held at Amman in August 1985, adopted a number of proposals (see A/40/481/Add.1, sect. III). Progress made on these proposals is summarized below.

##### A. Agenda items

##### 1. United Nations assistance in the issuance of the joint Arab social report and similar sectoral reports

111. At the Amman meeting, it was agreed that the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs would provide assistance to LAS in the preparation of its joint Arab social report. To this end, the Department has offered the services of a senior staff member, on a short-term basis, to advise LAS on the design of the report. LAS has proposed that the staff member should be made available for one month in mid-1986.

112. IFAD has also expressed its willingness to co-operate in the preparation of the report. The Director of the Planning and Economic Analysis Division of the LAS General Secretariat has been entrusted with the task of following up issues relating to the report, and a technical specialist will be seconded to the headquarters of the General Secretariat to determine the nature of IFAD participation.

2. Arab projects relating to population, education, development and the communication media

113. The UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab States is carrying out a regional project entitled "Implementation of the Middle East and Mediterranean telecommunications network (phase III)" in co-operation with the Governments of Arab and Mediterranean countries.

3. Establishment of an Arab Centre for Research and Training in Social Development, in co-operation with the United Nations

114. At the Amman meeting, the representative of UNDP announced the support of his organization for the proposed centre, in the light of the relevant recommendations adopted at the meeting. In April 1986, the Department of Social and Cultural Affairs of LAS submitted a preparatory-assistance document for consideration and approval by UNDP. The total preparatory assistance is valued at \$390,000, of which \$220,000 is to be provided by LAS and \$170,000 by UNDP. The proposal will be implemented by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the LAS Department of Social and Cultural Affairs. A project document is to be prepared which will, inter alia, clearly define the objectives, priorities and requirements for human resources and equipment, taking into account the assessed needs and the potential capacity of LAS. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs also held consultations with the LAS Secretariat in this regard and has offered assistance in the areas of its competence.

115. A preparatory-assistance document assessing the feasibility of using the Princess Rahma Centre for Social Development at Amman to address social issues in the region has been prepared with the assistance of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. An expert in social research is to identify the additional requirements for making this Centre a viable training institution for social development.

B. Additional recommendations

1. Health

116. In late 1985, the LAS General Secretariat and WHO discussed the convening of a joint meeting to define areas and modes of co-operation on health matters. The meeting was, however, postponed at the request of the General Secretariat for operational reasons.

117. In March 1986, the Council of Arab Ministers of Health and its Executive Bureau stressed the importance of promoting closer co-operation with WHO.

## 2. Children

118. In accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations/LAS sectoral meeting on social development at Amman, the LAS General Secretariat prepared a survey project to ascertain the economic and social determinants of infant and child mortality in the least developed Arab countries. The LAS General Secretariat sought the co-operation of UNICEF, UNFPA and the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations in the implementation of this proposed three-year project. Positive replies have been received from the three institutions.

## VI. PROPOSED JOINT SECTORAL MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE ARAB REGION

119. Pursuant to paragraph 7 (c) of General Assembly resolution 40/5, LAS intends to convene a joint meeting with the United Nations on the development of human resources, with the participation of all the Arab and international organizations concerned. Funds have been earmarked to cover LAS commitments in this regard in its proposed budget for 1987, which is scheduled for consideration by the Council of LAS in September 1986. LAS will initiate contacts with the parties concerned as soon as its budget for 1987 is approved.

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