

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
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**AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ESCWA AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS
AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS
2001**



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Preface

This report provides a brief review of the areas of cooperation and coordination between the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other agencies within the United Nations system, and between ESCWA and international organizations and civil society institutions.¹

With the aim of improving cooperative endeavours between ESCWA and the international organizations and agencies, this report will be distributed both within and outside the ESCWA secretariat and will be available on the ESCWA web site.

¹ For an overview of collaborative activities between ESCWA and regional organizations, see *Areas of cooperation between ESCWA and governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Arab region, 1998-2001*, E/ESCWA/2002/1.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AARP	American Association of Retired Persons
ACED	Arab Centre for Education and Development
AGFUND	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations
ALI	Association of Lebanese Industrialists
ASTF	Arab Science and Technology Foundation
ATO	Arab Towns Organization
BGR	Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany
CAMRE	Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
COMFAR	Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPC	Canadian Parliamentary Centre
CSD	Commission for Sustainable Development
CSTD	Commission on Science and Technology for Development
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECSSR	Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies Research
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMRO	Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organization
EPIC	Electronic Privacy Information Centre
ERF	Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO/RNE	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for the Near East
FDI	foreign direct investment
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
G-77	Group of 77
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GOIC	Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting
GPRG	Groundwater Protection and Restoration Group
GQ	Groundwater Quality
GUCCIAAC	General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
ICSW	International Council on Social Welfare
ICT	information and communications technology
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IDRC	International Development and Research Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization
INAT	Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie
ISS	Institute of Social Studies
IT	information technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
KFUPM	King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
LAS	League of Arab States
LDCs	least developed countries
LWRIS	Land and Water Resources Information System
MAI	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute

ABBREVIATIONS (*continued*)

MAPS	Management and Policy Studies
NAPA	Network of Arab Planning and Architecture Research and Academic Institutions
NGO	non-governmental organization
NNAGS	Network on Natural Attenuation in Groundwater and Soil
NRDC	National Rehabilitation and Development Centre
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PPIS	population policies information system
QSC	Qatar Science City
RIAR	Rehabilitation International Arab Region
SESRTCIC	Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SNA	system of national accounts
TRIPs	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UAB	Union of Arab Banks
UIC	International Union of Railways
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCICP/ODCCP	United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention/ Office for Drug Control and Crime
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/ROWA	United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia
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
UNPAN	United Nations Public Administration Network
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WSTA	Water Science and Technology Association
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

In 2001, ESCWA continued to cooperate with other agencies in the United Nations system and with a number of international organizations, striving to align the collaborative activities according to the comparative advantage of each partner. In addition, the Commission sought to broaden its collaboration with institutions of civil society and NGOs as a means of increasing the impact of its activities and in recognition of the vital role these bodies can play in the development process.

Efforts were exerted to address the needs of the countries of the region, increase the efficiency of cooperation, and comply with main themes and priorities of the United Nations Secretariat. The scope of this cooperation varied from participation and attendance of events to substantive contributions, including undertaking of studies and reports, joint-organization of meetings and joint-implementation of projects.

In 2001, ESCWA signed four formal agreements with other organizations, which testifies to its ongoing commitment to improve and further streamline collaborative activities. These agreements were as follows:

(a) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to cooperate in extending trade-related technical assistance to ESCWA members to boost their trading capacities;

(b) Two Letters of Agreement were signed with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

(i) The first, which set down the terms of cooperation in establishing the Network of Arab Planning and Architecture Research and Academic Institutions (NAPA);

(ii) The other defined the terms for undertaking the project on Modern Information and Communications Technology Based Educational Systems;

(c) A joint communiqué was signed with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) specifying cooperation in the development of a regional scheme for accreditation, market access facilitation, technology innovation, technology foresight groups and proper technology application for poverty alleviation, in addition to other areas of cooperation.

Cooperation and coordination activities are classified in five chapters, namely, United Nations Secretariat and Regional Commissions, specialized agencies within the United Nations system, international organizations, non-governmental and civil society institutions and regional and subregional organizations.

I. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

A. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

Cooperating and coordinating with the Secretariat, ESCWA:

- (a) Participated in the Fourth High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional Organizations on Peace Building (New York, 6-7 February 2001). ESCWA was represented by the Executive Secretary who also attended the Executive Secretaries Meeting of the United Nations Regional Commissions (New York, 6-14 February 2001);
- (b) Attended the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa 31 August – 7 September 2001);
- (c) Participated in the inter-agency meeting relating to the issues of the Commission for Sustainable Development – Ninth Session (CSD-9) and the preparations for CSD-10 and Rio+10, which was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) (New York, 16-27 April 2001). Additionally, ESCWA attended the First Pre-Com on Rio+10, which was organized by DESA (New York, 30 April – 2 May 2001);
- (d) Participated in the Sixth Session of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (New York, 27 February – 2 March 2001);
- (e) Attended the twenty-second session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources held at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (Geneva, 24-28 September 2001);
- (f) Participated in the International Conference on Fresh Water, which was organized by Department of Economic Commission for Africa (DESA) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in Germany and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany (Bonn, Germany, 3-7 December 2001). The aim of the Conference was to draw up recommendations on the role of water as a key to sustainable development to be submitted to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in September 2002 in Johannesburg. Moreover, the Conference served as a preparatory step on freshwater issues for the upcoming Third World Water Conference, planned for 22 March 2003 in Kyoto, Japan;
- (g) Attended the fifth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) (Geneva, 28 May – 1 June 2001) which focused on the theme of biotechnology. CSTD was established in 1992 as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- (h) Participated in the Workshop on Prospects for Fertility Decline in High Fertility Countries, which was organized by DESA (New York, 9-11 July 2001). ESCWA presented a paper on the prospects for fertility decline in the Arab region, reflecting the association between the fertility level and the status of women in the areas of education, health and labour market;
- (i) Participated in the Meeting for Global Review of the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Census: Mid-Decade Assessment and Future Prospects, which was organized by DESA/SD (New York, 7-10 August 2001). ESCWA presented a paper entitled "Population and housing census in the ESCWA region: current status and future directives". Six themes were discussed in the Meeting: (i) strategies for involving stakeholders in census activities; (ii) strategies for choosing sources of demographic and social statistics from among data collection methods: census, sample surveys, and administrative records; (iii) adapting new technologies to census operation; (iv) maintaining census-related activities during the intercensal years; (v) identifying and resolving problems of census mapping; (vi) quantifying the benefits from post enumeration surveys;
- (j) Attended a Consultative Meeting on Regional and Global Co-ordination on the Promotion of Social Integration, which was organized by DESA (New York, 1-5 October 2001). The Meeting aimed at

developing a focused and coordinated approach with regard to social integration issues including ageing, youth, disabled persons, families, intergenerational relations and conflict prevention at the national and regional levels;

(k) Organized in collaboration with DESA, the Arab Youth Forum of the United Nations (Beirut, 26-27 June 2001). As a follow-up to the Forum and in response to the urgent need to exchange information and networking among NGOs in the region that deal with youth issues, ESCWA formulated the project on Youth NGOs Directory-Network in the Arab Region. The Project was undertaken in partnership with other United Nations agencies including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention/Office for Drug Control and Crime (UNCICP/ODCCP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and World Health Organization (WHO). The aims were to strengthen capacity-building of the Arab youth and to reinforce regional integration. Additionally, ESCWA published a pamphlet entitled *ESCWA: Empowering Arab Youth*, which describes the objectives and declaration of the Forum and the new Project;

(l) Participated in the Fourth Session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, which adopted the "Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy" (Dakar, 6-10 August 2001);

(m) Undertook in cooperation with the Voluntary Fund on Disability funded by DESA, the Project on Community Based Rehabilitation, which aims at promoting self-reliance with particular emphasis on employment. The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) provided an expert to assist in the implementation of the Project. The following activities were carried out under this Project in 2001: the Workshop on How to Start Small Scale Business, which was held at the premises of the Ministry of Social Affairs in Lebanon and was financed by ESCWA (Beirut, 5-29 June 2001); the Workshop on Self-Reliance and Advocacy for Disabled Persons, which was organized by ESCWA (Beirut, 2-6 July 2001); and the Workshop on the Role of the Family for Self-Reliance and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, which was organized by ESCWA (Beirut, 7 November 2001);

(n) Received funding by DESA for the project on Enhancing Accessibility for the Disabled in the South of Lebanon, which is a follow-up activity to the Interregional Seminar and Regional Workshop on Environmental Accessibility, held in Beirut in 1999. Additionally, the United Nations Secretariat Development Account is funding the Project on Inclusive Design in Arab Cities, whose objective is the implementation of activities that are essential for the regional follow-up to Istanbul +5. Within this context, other activities include the Project on Capacity-Building and Institutional Development for Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (Aley/Lebanon), and the First International Conference: Disability, Rehabilitation and Inclusion (Beirut, 19-21 September 2001). The Conference was undertaken in partnership with the Rehabilitation International Arab Region (RIAR) and the National Rehabilitation and Development Centre (NRDC);

(o) Attended the Third Interregional Consultative Meeting of United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) (Naples, Italy, 12 March 2001). The Meeting generated a recommendation to set up an ad hoc task force within ESCWA on "Public administration reforms and e-Government";

(p) Attended the Third Global Forum on Fostering Democracy and Development Through e-Government and the preparatory training seminars associated with it (Naples, Italy, 15-17 March 2001 and 12-14 March 2001 respectively);

(q) Attended the thirty-second session of the Statistical Commission (New York, 1-14 March 2001);

(r) Participated in the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (Geneva, 15-16 October 2001). ESCWA reported about the implementation of the system of national accounts (SNA) 1993 in the region. Within this context, ESCWA and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) cooperated in organizing a workshop on the implementation of the 1993 SNA (Beirut, 22-26 October 2001), and agreed to cooperate in undertaking the project on Strengthening Statistical Capacity in the ESCWA Region during

the period 2002-2004. Moreover, ESCWA and UNSD co-organized the Seminar on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (Beirut, 19-21 June 2001) and collaborated further with the Arabic translation of the manual entitled *Links Between Business Accounting and National Accounting*;

(s) Participated in the thirty-fifth session of the ACC Sub-committee on Statistical Activities (Vienna, 18-20 September 2001);

(t) Organized, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTIC) and UNSD, the Workshop on Development Indicators (Beirut, 12-14 November 2001). The Workshop aimed to establish the basis for national and regional measurement of progress towards achieving the goals of various United Nations conferences and summits, and to enhance the commitment of member countries in that regard;

(u) Attended a number of meetings in the field of social issues, including the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Sustainable Development (New York, 13-16 February 2001), whose theme was on Enhancing Social Protection and Reducing Vulnerability in a Globalizing World; the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 6-16 March 2001); and the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development (New York, 2-6 April 2001), whose main theme was on Population, Environment and Development.

B. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Cooperating and coordinating with the Commissions, ESCWA:

(a) Attended the Conference on Accelerating Global Trade Through Effective E-Business, which was organized by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) (Geneva, 26-27 March 2001). Additionally, ESCWA participated in the UN/CEFACT Plenary Session (Geneva, 28-29 March 2001);

(b) Is participating in the Mediterranean Initiative Projects that are being developed and coordinated with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). An informal meeting was held to further elaborate and develop the joint proposal, identify potential partners and define the respective roles of each Regional Commission (Beirut from 10-11 April 2001);

(c) Presented a paper to the Regional Meeting on Needs Assessment for the Project on Capacity-Building of National Machineries in Selected African Countries, which was organized by ECA in collaboration with DESA (DAW/DPEPA) (Addis Ababa, 16-18 April 2001). A project proposal was formulated to enhance the capacity-building of national machineries in the Arab countries for the advancement of women, and was submitted to the development account of DESA for funding.

II. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND OTHER BODIES

A. JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

ESCWA attended the Regional Meeting of UNAIDS Cosponsors and Other Key Partners on HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa (Cairo, 14-15 November 2001). The Meeting, which was co-organized by UNDP, UNFPA, United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank, aimed to share information among United Nations agencies and other partners on the current HIV/AIDS situation; to identify priority areas and actions in support of HIV/AIDS responses in member countries; and to define mechanisms for reinforcing coordination in the region.

B. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (UNCHS)

ESCWA participated in the special session of the General Assembly on Istanbul+ 5 and parallel activities, which were organized by UNCHS (New York, 4-8 June, 2001). Follow-up was made with UNCHS on planned joint activities related to the Urban Indicators Programme and to the Global Campaigns on Security of Tenure and Good Urban Governance (Nairobi, 14-21 May 2001). Additionally, follow-up was made with Habitat, DESA, Arab Towns Organization (ATO) and national delegations from Arab countries on joint activities in the implementation of Istanbul+ 5 agenda at the regional level.

C. UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Cooperating and coordinating with UNICEF, ESCWA:

(a) Co-organized with UNICEF, and with the cooperation of LAS, the Regional Symposium on Children (Beirut, 24-27 April 2001). ESCWA assisted earlier in selecting those consultants who prepared the case studies for the Symposium;

(b) Participated in an expert consultation on the subject of birth registration with Innocenti Research Centre/UNICEF (Paris and Florence, 25 and 29 April 2001);

(c) Is implementing the database on Palestinian camps in Lebanon with the cooperation of UNICEF and the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) and the Syrian Arab Republic. The aims of the project are as follows: to develop the work of the Palestinian Central Office for Statistics and Natural Resources by planning surveys that cover refugee camps; to provide statistical data on population categories and social and economic activities for use in development programmes; and to strengthen the skills of existing staff through the provision of training to keep them updated with the last developments in technology and scientific knowledge. The project began in 1998 and is ongoing.

D. COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Cooperating and coordinating with the Committee, ESCWA:

(a) Participated in the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Vienna, 20-21 February 2001). The Executive Secretary of ESCWA delivered a statement at the Seminar;

(b) Attended the United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine: The Road to Israeli-Palestinian Peace (Madrid, 17-18 July 2001). ESCWA presented its annual report on the "Economic and social repercussions of Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan". In addition, ESCWA held a number of meetings with various participants to promote cooperation in the preparation of this annual report;

(c) Attended the NGO Meeting on Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Madrid, 19 July 2001). A plan of action was adopted that included initiating public awareness campaigns, establishing an International Civil Society corps, convening a joint United Nations-NGO International Meeting on the Protection of the Palestinian People and an International NGO Solidarity Forum.

E. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

Cooperating and coordinating with UNCTAD, ESCWA:

(a) Participated in the Inter-Session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which was organized by UNCTAD (New York, 26-30 March 2001). This formed the beginning of the official negotiations on the consolidated Programme of Action between the Group of 77 (G-77) representatives. ESCWA subsequently attended the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which was organized by UNCTAD (Brussels, 14-20 May 2001). An agreement was reached with UNCTAD on activities to be implemented jointly for the LDCs in the ESCWA region with regard to foreign direct investment (FDI). By the end of 2001, ESCWA and UNCTAD had finalized details of the operational steps for the joint implementation of the extrabudgetary project on FDI;

(b) Participated in the First Meeting Task Force to exchange views on the preparation of Arab Countries for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, which was organized by UNCTAD (Geneva, 3 August 2001). This was followed by the Arab Ministerial Meeting in Preparation for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference (Beirut, 29-30 October 2001). The Meeting, which was a joint initiative by ESCWA, UNCTAD and the League of Arab States (LAS), aimed to sensitize decision makers to the implications of the WTO agreements for Arab countries and to formulate initiatives. The Meeting dealt with a number of issues, including: the implementation of the Uruguay Round results, particularly in the areas of agriculture and textiles; the accession of Arab countries to the WTO; trade related to intellectual property rights; and anti-dumping and support measures. A number of other organizations participated in the Meeting, namely, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Friedrich Newman Institute, Union of Arab Chambers of Trade, Agriculture and Production and the Ministry of Finance and Economics of Qatar;

(c) Participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Electronic Commerce and International Transport Services: Best Practices for Enhancing the Competitiveness of Developing Countries, which was organized by UNCTAD (Geneva, 26-28 September 2001). ESCWA presented a study on the "Role of ESCWA in promoting the facilitation of international transport services including ICT application in the ESCWA region";

(d) Attended the Meeting on Debt Management, which was organized by UNCTAD (Geneva, 3-5 December 2001). Discussion revolved around the establishment of a virtual centre for capacity-building in debt management in ESCWA with the support of UNCTAD. Efforts are under way to further cooperate in capacity-building activities and debt management.

F. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

ESCWA participated in the Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP5) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (Geneva, 1-12 October 2001). A large number of ESCWA member countries took part in the general sessions and specialist committees of the Conference. ESCWA members stand to benefit greatly from the Convention and the global and regional initiatives it supports, especially since progress has been made through the Global Mechanism, which is a tool, devised by COP, to raise resources and coordinate action on a number of fronts.

G. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Cooperating and coordinating with UNDP, ESCWA:

(a) Initiated with UNDP in 1998 the *Flagship Project*, a mechanism for integrated regional follow-up by the Arab States to the United Nations global conferences is being implemented by ESCWA in cooperation with UNDP and UNICEF since 1998. The Project aims, *inter alia*, to enhance the capacity of Arab States to implement the recommendations of the conferences by assisting them in producing various follow-up tools and indicators. Within this context, ESCWA organized the Regional Meeting of National Coordination Committees to Follow-up on Global Conferences, which was convened in collaboration with UNDP and the Ministry of Planning in Jordan (Amman, 3-5 September 2001). The Meeting aimed at promoting coordination between Arab countries in the follow-up and implementation of recommendations and plans of action adopted by the United Nations Global Conferences;

(b) Published three booklets, namely, *Women and Men in Lebanon*, *Women and Men in the Syrian Arab Republic* and *Women and Men in Tunisia*. These statistical studies were issued under the umbrella of the regional project, *Development of National Gender Statistics Programme in the Arab Countries*, which is being funded by UNDP, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), UNESCO and UNICEF. The project aims to strengthen the national capacity by producing, using and disseminating gender statistics at both the national and regional levels thereby making policies and programmes more gender-balanced. The project, which began in 1996 was expanded to cover a number of Arab countries, is still ongoing. Moreover, an agreement was reached with officials in Bahrain to initiate the project in Bahrain in 2002-2003 (Manama, 24-26 December 2001);

(c) Is cooperating with UNDP/Iraq to improve the quality of the National Human Development Report, which will be used for recommending policies and strategies to the Government of Iraq. The project began in October 2001 and is ongoing.

H. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME/REGIONAL OFFICE OF WEST ASIA (UNEP/ROWA)

ESCWA signed an agreement in May 2001 with UNEP/ROWA and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE) to facilitate collaboration between the three organizations in activities related to the preparatory process for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. ESCWA, UNEP/ROWA and CAMRE formed a joint secretariat for that purpose. Among the meetings convened under this joint secretariat were the following: the Regional Industry Forum (Manama, 22 September 2001), which aimed to discuss and assess industry and sustainable development issues relevant to the region; and the Stakeholders Round Table Meeting (Manama, 23-25 September 2001), which discussed mainly the views of the regional stakeholders with respect to the implementation of Agenda 21; and the West Asia Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Cairo, 21-24 October 2001). A number of technical and ministerial meetings took place prior to the Preparatory Conference in order to develop the Assessment Report for the Arab Region, the Arab Declaration and the Arab Address.

I. UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Cooperating and coordinating with UNFPA, ESCWA:

(a) Presented a paper on "The current population situation of the Arab region and its future directives, within the context of sustainable development" at the First Workshop of Arab Parliamentarians, which was organized by UNFPA/Jordan (Amman, 20-22 January 2001). In addition, ESCWA participated in a meeting, which was convened by UNFPA/Syria, to discuss and assess the natural rate of the population growth and assist in reviewing and formulating assumptions regarding population projections for the period 2002-2005 for the Syrian Arab Republic (Damascus, 10-13 February 2001);

(b) Participated in the Meeting on Population Ageing and Development, which was organized by UNFPA, the United Nations Programme on Ageing, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

and Help Age International (Valetta, 29-31 October 2001). ESCWA presented a paper entitled "Overview of population ageing in the ESCWA region". The Meeting explored ways to alleviate poverty, especially among older women in developing countries, and exchanged the different policies and interventions that promote the role of older persons in the development process. Moreover, the participants discussed the draft text of the International Strategy for Action on Ageing 2002, to be presented at the Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 8-10 April 2002);

(c) Organized the Regional Workshop on Population Policies Information System (Beirut, 7-9 November 2001). The Workshop was part of the UNFPA project, Population Policies in the Arab Region, which seeks to apply the population policy information system (PPIS) that is to be used for monitoring purposes and as a source of information on the region, and to integrate population and gender concerns into development policies and programmes at the regional and national levels. The project began in 2000 and will continue into 2002;

(d) Attended the National Population Conference, which was organized by UNFPA/Syria and the State Planning Office in the Syrian Arab Republic (Damascus, 10-12 November 2001). ESCWA chaired and co-chaired two sessions, namely, on Family Planning in the Syrian Arab Republic and on Food Security respectively. Prior to the Conference, ESCWA was nominated member of a scientific committee whose task was to evaluate and select the papers for discussion. Furthermore, the Commission participated in the drafting of the final recommendations;

(e) Further developed and maintained the Population Information Network (POPIN) homepage. POPIN, which was launched with the collaboration of UNFPA in 2001, aims at promoting the dissemination of population and development information for the Arab countries. Another project, which was financed by UNFPA and implemented by ESCWA, aims at providing technical support services to the Government of Jordan in the field of population.

J. UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (UNRISD)

ESCWA attended the UNRISD Board Meeting (Geneva, 24-26 June 2001). An agreement was reached to coordinate ESCWA and UNRISD activities in the area of social policies. Additionally, a proposal was made whereby ESCWA would translate the first volume of the social policies study prepared by UNRISD, should the Institute secure funds for that purpose, and that the Commission would publish the UNRISD report entitled *Visible Hands* in Arabic (Geneva, 1-3 November 2001).

III. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

ESCWA participated in the Regional Workshop on Land Resources Information Systems in the Near East, which was organized by FAO/Regional Office for the Near East (RNE) (Cairo, 3-6 September 2001). The objective of the Workshop was to promote the land and water resources information system (LWRIS) methodology, in particular the FAO new global network known as 'Gateway'.

B. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Cooperating and coordinating with UNESCO, ESCWA:

(a) Participated in the Meeting on Consumer Price Index, which was organized by ILO (Geneva, 26-31 October 2001). The Meeting aimed to pool the views of the draft resolution of the Consumer Price Indices, which was proposed by the ILO secretariat and is to be adopted by the seventeenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) scheduled to be held in Geneva in 2003. Additionally, ESCWA participated in the Global Employment Forum on Creating Decent Work in the Twenty-first Century, which was organized by ILO (Geneva, 1-3 November 2001);

(b) Presented a paper entitled "A reading on technological innovation and improving the performance of enterprises in the food industry" to the Workshop on Improving the Performance of Agro-Food Enterprises in the Arab Countries (Turin, Italy, 5-9 November 2001). The Workshop was co-organized by ESCWA and ILO. Discussions revolved around future cooperation, especially in the area of "pro-poor technologies".

C. UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

Cooperating and coordinating with UNESCO, ESCWA:

(a) Cooperated with UNESCO in the fields of architecture, AIDS and water and energy. ESCWA attended the International Conference on More Than Two Thousand Years in the History of Architecture: Safeguarding the Structures of Architectural Heritage, which was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Paris, 10-12 September 2001). The Conference highlighted the need for sound urban management policies to help ensure the preservation of the architectural heritage and the traditional characteristics of cities;

(b) Presented a project proposal on "Sustainable utilization, management and protection of internationally shared groundwater resources in the Mediterranean region: highlights of the proposed ESCWA-ECA and ECE project" at the International Conference on Hydrological Challenges in Transboundary Water Resources Management (Koblenz, Germany, 25-27 September 2001). The Conference was organized by the National Committee of the Federal Republic of Germany for the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO, Operational Hydrology Programme of WMO, the European Union (EU), ECE and other European agencies;

(c) Organized with the cooperation of UNESCO the Expert Group Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development in ESCWA Member States: Efficient Use of Energy and Greenhouse Gas Abatement (Beirut, 8-11 October 2001);

(d) Participated in the Regional Seminar on the Institutionalisation of HIV/Aids within the School System (Broumana, Lebanon, 1-5 October 2001).

D. UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (UNIDO)

Cooperating and coordinating with UNIDO, ESCWA:

(a) Participated in the Workshop on Project Development for Photovoltaic (PV) Technologies, which was organized by UNIDO (Trieste, Italy, 26-30 June 2001). ESCWA submitted a report entitled "The status of photovoltaic applications in the ESCWA region", and presented a paper on "PV, an option for sustainable development of rural and remote areas in ESCWA countries";

(b) Participated in the Expert Training Workshop on Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting (COMFAR III), which was organized by UNIDO (Vienna, 7-11 May 2001). COMFAR III is the third generation software developed by UNIDO to facilitate the financial and economic appraisal of investment projects;

(c) Attended UNIDO's General Conference and Industrial Forum, during which the two organizations discussed joint activities and future cooperation in a number of areas (Vienna, 2-7 December 2001);

(d) Presented a paper on "The importance of developing and coordinating support services for small and medium-sized enterprises" at the Seminar on Financing and Support Services to Small and Medium-Sized Industries (Manama, 4 November 2001). The Seminar was organized by UNIDO in cooperation with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Bahrain and the Bahrain Development Bank.

E. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Cooperating and coordinating with WHO, ESCWA:

(a) Participated in the tenth session of the Inter-Agencies Task Force of Land and Water Resources, which was organized by WHO/Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) (Cairo, 5 September 2001). Discussions revolved around, *inter alia*, the possibility of ESCWA joining the Regional Network on Reuse of Treated Wastewater and the Regional Network on Drought Mitigation;

(b) Attended the First Regional Conference on Water Demand Management, Conservation and Pollution Control, which was co-organized by WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Amman, 7-10 October 2001). ESCWA presented a paper entitled "An analytical framework for assessment of the institutional capacities in the water sector". The Conference was attended by a number of ESCWA members, namely, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates;

(c) Participated in the discussions on the development of a Domestic Wastewater Reuse Network, which were initiated by WHO/EMRO and FAO/RNE and which led to the adoption of a Network framework, the identification of this framework, and the formulation of a project profile on priority subjects to be undertaken in the future (Amman, 12-14 November 2001).

IV. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ESCWA, represented by the Executive Secretary, attended the First Regional Meeting of High-Level Women in Finance and Economics, which was organized by the African Development Bank. The Executive Secretary delivered a statement on the role of women in economic activities, and attended the Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank (Valencia, Spain, 26-28 May 2001).

B. CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA)

ESCWA held talks with CIDA, IDRC and the Canadian Parliamentary Centre (CPC) on a project idea relating to social policies, and on ESCWA activities in the area of democracy and good governance. CIDA together with CPC, UNDP, Conrad Adinaur and the Institute of National Planning in Egypt collaborated with ESCWA in organizing the Expert Group Meeting on Governance, Socio-economic Development and Poverty Alleviation (Cairo, 11-13 November 2001). In addition to addressing governance as a tool for development and poverty alleviation, the Meeting discussed modes of governance in the Arab world at the political, economic and social levels.

C. EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)

ESCWA attended the Seventh Forum of EIB on Cooperation Across the Mediterranean (Sorrento, Italy, 25-26 October 2001).

D. FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF GEOSCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF GERMANY (BGR)

BGR has been financing the ESCWA Project on Advisory Services in the field of water resources for the past five years. The aim of the Project is to improve the management, exploitation and protection of water resources in the ESCWA region by providing experts to undertake regional studies and to carry out training with the collaboration of ESCWA. Within the framework of the sub-activity on the Enhancement of Coordination Mechanisms on Shared Water Resource in Selected ESCWA Countries, missions were undertaken in five States, namely, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates. The main aims were to discuss and promote inter-country cooperation on shared groundwater aquifers and to coordinate mechanisms in chosen pilot areas, including the Palegran Aquifer between the United Arab Emirates and Oman, and the Basalt Aquifer between the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan.

E. FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG (FES)

Cooperating and coordinating with FES, ESCWA:

(a) Organized, in cooperation with FES, the Economic Research Forum of the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey (ERF) and the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, the Expert Group Meeting on Review of Industrial Policies Aimed at Increased Productivity and Competitiveness within the Global Context (Amman, 14-17 January 2001);

(b) Organized the Regional Seminar on FDI: National Strategies and Policies in the ESCWA Region, which was co-sponsored by FES (Beirut, 12-13 June 2001);

(c) Cooperated with FES in the field surveys for the case studies that were included in two ESCWA publications, namely, *Comparative Study of National Strategies and Policies with Respect to Foreign Direct Investment* and *Directory of Support Services for Small and Medium Enterprises in Lebanon*. The Association of Lebanese Industrialists (ALI) co-sponsored the latter publication.

F. GARTNER GROUP

ESCWA attended the Gartner Group ITxpo Symposium, ITxpo Training and Conference Sessions in the domain of E-business and New Information and Telecommunication Technology (ICT) (Cannes, France, 4-8 November 2001).

G. INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES (ISS)

Cooperating and coordinating with ISS, ESCWA organized the Meeting on Governance, Socio-Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation (Cairo, 11-13 November 2001).

H. INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ESCWA presented a paper on the "Financial aspects of e-business in transport" at the Annual Meeting for Telecommunication Development, which was organized by ITU (Damascus, 27-30 October 2001).

I. INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYS (UIC)

ESCWA attended the Management and Policy Studies Seminar (MAPS 2001) on the Role of Governments in the Development of International Freight Corridors, which was organized by UIC in co-operation with Iran Air (Tehran, 29 January – 2 February 2001).

J. ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Cooperating and coordinating with OECD, ESCWA:

(a) Attended the Conference on the Public Voice in Emerging Market Economies, which was organized by OECD and the Electronic Privacy Information Centre (EPIC) (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 15 January 2001). The Conference aimed to promote a number of ICT-related activities;

(b) Attended the Emerging Market Economy Forum on Electronic Commerce, which was organized by OECD in collaboration with Dubai Internet City and with the sponsorship of large enterprises from the private sector (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 16-17 January 2001);

(c) Participated in the Global Forum on Exploiting the Digital Opportunities for Poverty Reduction, which was organized by OECD, UNDP, the United Nations Secretariat and the World Bank (Paris, 5-6 March 2001). The Commission held discussions with other participants to help consolidate future approaches in ICT capacity-building.

K. WORLD BANK

Cooperating and coordinating with the World Bank, ESCWA:

(a) Is cooperating with the World Bank on the implementation of Phase III of the Med Policies Initiative on Trade and Environment. Phases I and II of the Project have been implemented by the Harvard Institute for International Development/Harvard University and financed by the World Bank;

(b) Reached an agreement with the World Bank to strengthen the capacity of ESCWA member countries to effectively analyse strategies and options in the areas of agricultural trade and WTO negotiations. Within the context of this agreement, ESCWA and the World Bank co-organized the Workshop on Agriculture and the New Trade Agenda: Capturing the Benefits for the Middle East (Beirut, 2-5 July 2001). Additionally, ESCWA issued a report in December 2001 on "Agricultural trade and the new trade agenda: options and strategies to capture the benefits for the Middle-East" in response to requests for assistance made by several developing countries in preparation for the next WTO round.

L. WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

ESCWA contributed substantively to the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference (Doha, 9-13 November 2001). The Commission provided Arab delegates with brochures on various WTO-related issues. Additionally, WTO agreed to provide training courses for ESCWA staff members on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

V. CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS

A. AL HARIRI FOUNDATION

ESCWA organized with the cooperation of Al Hariri Foundation and the Beirut Arab University the Conference on South Lebanon: Urban Challenges in the Era of Liberation (Beirut, 3-6 April 2001).

B. ARAB SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION

ESCWA participated in the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 15-17 October 2001). Discussions revolved, inter alia, on organizing the Second Symposium on Research and Development in the Arab World, to be hosted by ASTF in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 24-27 March 2002.

C. BRAZILIAN INFORMATION SOCIETY

ESCWA participated in the Inter-governmental Meeting on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for Development: The View of Developing Countries, which was organized by the Brazilian Information Society in collaboration with the Ministry for Science and Technology in Brazil, the Federal Government of Brazil, UNDP and the Markle Foundation (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 18-19 June, 2001), ESCWA delivered a keynote address dedicated to ICT in the Middle East and Africa.

D. EMIRATES CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES RESEARCH

Cooperating and coordinating with ECSSR, ESCWA:

(a) Delivered a lecture on "Technology and Society" at ECSSR (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 17 October 2001);

(b) Delivered a lecture in the framework of the Scientific Research Diploma Programme at ECSSR (Abu-Dhabi, 29-30 March 2001).

E. EUROMED CIVIL FORUM

ESCWA attended the Euromed Civil Forum, which was organized by the Euromed Steering Committee and Resource Committee (Brussels, 19-20 October 2001).

F. GULF ORGANIZATION FOR INDUSTRIAL CONSULTING

Cooperating and coordinating with GOIC, ESCWA:

(a) Conducted a course for young entrepreneurs on How to Start a Small Business (Masqat, Oman, 19-25 April 2001). The event was organized by GOIC in cooperation with the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Oman;

(b) Presented a paper on FDI and technology transfer at the Eighth Meeting of GOIC (Riyadh, 2 - 3 October 2001). The paper outlined the experiences of the ESCWA countries in that area and proposed more effective technology strategies;

(c) Held discussions with GOIC and tentatively agreed to coordinate activities in the field of technological capacity-building in Qatar (Doha, March 2001).

G. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE

ESCWA gave a lecture on social capital entitled "From inclusion to exclusion: social capital and its limits" at the International Conference on Social Capital - Development, New Forms of Organization and

Democracy, which was organized by the Council on Social Welfare in Denmark in cooperation with ICSW (Copenhagen, 28-29 May 2001). ESCWA established contacts with ICSW for possible future cooperation in the field of social policy and development.

H. KING FAHD UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS

ESCWA participated in the Fourth Workshop on Water Conservation for Desalination: Present and Future Perspectives, which was organised by KFUPM and the Water Research Institute (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, 23-25 April 2001). ESCWA presented a paper on the "Desalination role in meeting water supply demand in selected ESCWA member States".

I. LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BAALBEK, LEBANON

ESCWA participated in the Workshop on Sustainable Human Development, which was organized by local organisations in Baalbek, the Municipal Council of Baalbek, Members of Parliament from Baalbek and the Ministry of Social Affairs in Lebanon (Baalbek, Lebanon, 13 July 2001). The aims of the Workshop were to draw a preliminary future vision to help the youth develop their capacities by providing training and rehabilitation, and by ensuring funding for small and medium-sized projects; and to adopt means to develop the production, promotion and conservation of artifacts. ESCWA presented a paper entitled "ESCWA programmes in the field of training women and the importance of small projects in economic development".

J. MARRIAGE FUND

ESCWA attended the Seminar on The Impact of Working Women on Their Families, which was organized by the Marriage Fund (Abu Dhabi, 13-16 January 2001).

K. MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE

ESCWA attended the Workshop on Water Saving and Increasing Water Productivity: Challenges and Options, which was organized by MAI and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) in cooperation with the Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie (INAT) (Amman, 10-23 March 2001).

L. SHARJAH UNIVERSITY

Cooperating and coordinating with Sharjah University, ESCWA:

(a) Participated in the Solar Energy Conference, which was organized by Sharjah University (Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 19-22 February 2001). ESCWA presented a paper entitled "Photovoltaic applications in rural areas in the ESCWA region: actual status and constraints";

(b) Presented a paper on "Basic strategies for attaining sustainable urban development" at the Fourth Symposium on Urban Planning (Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 8-10 April 2001). The Symposium was co-organized by Sharjah University, the Universities of London and South Bank and the Directorate of Planning and Survey in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

M. THE SOUTH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

ESCWA chaired the Tenth Session of the Conference on Arab Children: Situation and Prospects, which was organized by the South Valley University in collaboration with the Arab Centre for Education and Development (ACED) (Ghardaka, Egypt, 29-31 October 2001).

N. UNION OF ARAB BANKS

Cooperating and coordinating with UAB, ESCWA:

(a) Prepared the study on "Financial services in selected Arab countries" with the collaboration of UAB. The study discussed the liberalisation of trade in services in four countries, namely, Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia. In addition, the study examined the importance of financial services in WTO and clarified the proposals presented by some WTO members with regard to the ongoing negotiations on trade in services;

(b) Organized with the cooperation of UAB the Workshop on the Liberalisation of Services in the Arab World (Beirut, 31 October – 1 November 2001);

(c) Participated in the Conference on Banking Tomorrow, which was organized by UAB (Damascus, 29–30 April 2001). ESCWA was represented by the Executive Secretary who delivered a statement at the Conference. In addition, the Executive Secretary chaired the first panel on the Arab world and WTO in the Annual Meeting of the International Arab Banking Conference, which was organized by UAB (Frankfurt, 18–20 June 2001), and negotiated with bank representatives possible financing and contribution to the extra-budgetary activities of the Commission.

O. UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

ESCWA participated in the Conference on Globalisation and the Gulf which was organized by the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter (Exeter, 2-4 July 2001). The Commission presented a paper on "Globalisation and the labour Markets in the ESCWA region".

P. UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

ESCWA sent a resource person to an advanced course on Water Saving and Increasing Water Productivity: Challenges and Options, which was organized by the University of Jordan in collaboration with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) (Amman, 10-23 March 2001).

Q. UNIVERSITY OF LECCE

ESCWA participated in the Workshop on Advanced Methodologies in Design and Process, which was organized by the University of Lecce in cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in Italy (Italy, 7-9 February 2001).

R. UNIVERSITY OF QATAR

Cooperating and coordinating with the University of Qatar, ESCWA:

(a) Co-sponsored and participated in the Fifth Gulf Water Conference, which was organized by the University of Qatar, the Water Science and Technology Association (WSTA) in collaboration with UNEP/ROWA and UNESCO/Cairo Office (23-28 March 2001). ESCWA presented two papers: "International water law and the use of shared water resources" and "The role of water policy in the integrated water resources management of the ESCWA region";

(b) Held discussions with the steering committee within the University of Qatar that is in charge of establishing a national science park in Qatar (Doha, March 2001). The talks focused primarily on the possibility of providing assistance to promote cooperation with institutions concerned with technological capacity-building in Qatar; the role that the Qatar Science City (QSC) could play in drafting a national science and technology policy; and the possibilities for setting up incubation schemes in cooperation with other institutions in Qatar.

S. UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

ESCWA attended the International Conference on Groundwater Quality (GQ) 2001, which was organized by the University of Sheffield in coordination with the Groundwater Protection and Restoration

Group (GPRG), UNESCO and the Network on Natural Attenuation in Groundwater and Soil (NNAGS) (Sheffield, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 18-21 June 2001). The objectives of the Conference were to update the participants with regard to the latest developments in groundwater rehabilitation technologies, to highlight future trends in the field, and to provide a forum for exchanging views and experiences.

T. VALUE PARK

ESCWA attended the Workshop on Eco-efficient Management of Industrial Parks, which was organized by the Value Park (Leipzig, Germany, 14-15 February 2001).

U. WATER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

ESCWA co-sponsored and participated in the Fifth Gulf Water Conference, which was organized by WSTA and the University of Qatar in collaboration with UNEP/ROWA and UNESCO/Cairo Office (23-28 March 2001). ESCWA presented two papers: "International water law and the use of shared water resources" and "The role of water policy in the integrated water resources management of the ESCWA region".