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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Economic co-operation among developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 32/180 of 19 December 1977 on economic co-operation among developing countries, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report at its thirty-third session on the implementation of that resolution. The present report was prepared in response to that request. 1/

2. In paragraph 2 of the resolution the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to ensure, through the appropriate machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), effective co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system in support of measures of economic co-operation among developing countries, as identified in the relevant decisions of the United Nations on the subject. Such decisions include those based on the programme of action adopted at the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, 2/ the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation (see A/31/197, annex III and IV) adopted at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, and the report of the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (see A/C.2/31/7, part one). The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General in paragraph 3 to continue to include in the medium-term plan an intersectoral presentation of the activities envisaged to implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on economic co-operation among developing countries and to secure the same kind of intersectoral presentation on a system-wide basis. Finally, in paragraph 4 of the resolution, the General Assembly urged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with their established procedures and practices, to support measures of economic co-operation among developing countries, including, as and when requested, the continued provision of the necessary secretariat support services and other suitable arrangements to facilitate the holding of meetings by the developing countries in pursuance of the objectives of economic co-operation among developing countries.

3. The present report accordingly reviews action undertaken in order to co-ordinate activities in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries within the United Nations system, as well as action by specialized agencies and other organizations of the system in support of economic co-operation among developing countries. Concerning the latter, it should be noted that ACC submitted a report (see E/AC.51/90/Add.1 (Parts I and II)) to the eighteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), giving a cross-organizational review of the response by organizations of the United Nations system, including arrangements at the interagency level, to the relevant decisions of the United Nations on the subject and to the decisions and requests of the developing countries envisaged at the Mexico City Conference on economic co-operation among developing

1/ This report was prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in consultation with the organizations and units concerned.

2/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10), annex V, annex I, resolution 1.

countries. ^{3/} The ACC report, which covers the biennium 1978-1979, provides the first guide for the purpose of determining the areas in which the different bodies of the United Nations are operating in support of economic co-operation among developing countries. Therefore, the annex to the present report, rather than providing a detailed analysis of measures adopted within the United Nations system in support of economic co-operation among developing countries, which would duplicate the ACC report, constitutes instead an up-dating of that report taking into account important developments which have taken place since it was finalized. Such developments have been grouped in the annex following the presentation of the ACC report. This presentation will ensure complementarity between the present report and the ACC report, which should be read together.

II. CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

4. In considering the various aspects related to co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries, a number of aspects must be taken into account. Firstly, the development of collective self-reliance as an integral part of the new international economic order has given new impetus to economic co-operation among developing countries. In line with new approaches and ideas which go beyond the limits of subregional and regional trade and integration arrangements, and which emphasize the need for co-operation among all developing countries, the Manila, Colombo and Mexico City programmes provide for the development of an integral global system for economic co-operation among developing countries. The system, as it has been conceived, involves a set of interrelated policies, mechanisms and institutions, which, cutting across sectors and regions, are designed to implement different forms of action within the wide framework of economic co-operation among developing countries. The intersectoral and cross-organizational nature of economic co-operation among developing countries, as well as the widening of its scope, therefore implies new approaches and programmes on the part of the United Nations system as a whole in order to support and promote such co-operation. Also, inasmuch as economic co-operation among developing countries is subject to evolving governmental decisions, a systematic appraisal of ongoing activities is needed to make them fully supportive of such efforts.

5. Secondly, it should be noted that the programmes of economic co-operation among developing countries, as adopted at the Manila, Colombo and Mexico City conferences, are broad in scope and address requests for specific action only on well defined issues or projects to particular agencies. In a number of cases, supporting action required from the various organizations of the United Nations system is defined in very broad terms and, therefore, organizations concerned must proceed first to the identification of substantive and operational activities derived from those programmes.

^{3/} As pointed out in the previous report of the Secretary-General on economic co-operation among developing countries (A/32/312 and Add.1), the report of the Mexico City Conference (A/C.2/31/7 and Add.1) may be considered the consolidated position of the Group of 77 on this subject.

6. Thirdly, the response already given to the programmes of economic co-operation among developing countries has depended to a great extent on the initiative taken by the legislative bodies of the different organizations concerned. For instance, the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has established a main intergovernmental committee of the Board entirely devoted to questions related to economic co-operation among developing countries and has adopted a specific programme of work in this field. In other cases intergovernmental decisions on specific required action have not yet been fully spelt out by the respective legislative organs.

7. Fourthly, by its nature and scope, economic co-operation among developing countries constitutes a new and important over-all approach to problems of development inasmuch as it touches virtually all related issues. As a result, the translation of the concept of economic co-operation among developing countries into operational terms entails, first, additional activities directed specifically to new measures required to implement economic co-operation among developing countries and, secondly, a new orientation given to continuing activities. Co-ordination efforts must consequently take into account the global dimension of the issues as well as their regional and subregional aspects, on one hand, and the relationship among substantive issues at the intersectoral level, on the other hand.

8. Finally, the definition of economic co-operation among developing countries in operational terms depends essentially on decisions adopted by the developing countries themselves as to priority areas and projects, the type of supporting action required from the international community in general and the United Nations system in particular, their own negotiations and the establishment of the institutional framework required for the implementation and follow-up of the programmes of economic co-operation among developing countries.

9. From the above considerations it is apparent that the scope, complexity and innovative character of many of the issues involved in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries make it imperative to strengthen organizational arrangements and co-ordinative mechanisms within the United Nations system so as to adjust them to the policy, substantive and operational requirements of economic co-operation among developing countries. However, it should be borne in mind that the methods of work of the system require great flexibility so as to develop, through a pragmatic and selective process, meaningful operational arrangements and mechanisms in support of economic co-operation among developing countries.

A. Intersecretariat co-ordination arrangements

10. The report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination referred to in paragraph 3 above, outlines the decisions taken by ACC in 1977 regarding interagency arrangements in support of economic co-operation among developing countries, 4/ and

4/ The discussions in ACC on the matter were prompted, inter alia, by a request addressed by the Trade and Development Board to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to make recommendations regarding a Sub-Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, or such other mechanisms as may be appropriate within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/31/15), vol. II, annex I, decision 142 (XVI), para. 9.

describes the functions to be carried out in this connexion at the intersecretariat level, including: (a) regular exchange of information on activities undertaken and envisaged in support of economic co-operation among developing countries; (b) identification of areas requiring co-operation by two or more organizations, with a view to ensuring mutual support and complementarity of efforts; and (c) continuous review of the response of the system to directives set by policy-making bodies in respect of economic co-operation among developing countries. The report further states that the performance of these functions would be entrusted to a new interagency group on economic co-operation among developing countries.

11. As a result of the decisions adopted by ACC at its October 1978 session 5/ on the restructuring of the subsidiary machinery, substantive functions hitherto performed by different subcommittees and interagency groups have been assumed by a new Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions organized into two distinct components dealing respectively with programme and related matters and operational matters. In addition, the programme of work of the ACC subsidiary machinery will provide for subject-oriented meetings, at the required level of substantive authority, to deal with issues requiring separate consideration at the intersecretariat level, either on a periodic or ad hoc basis, particularly issues having programme as well as operational implications. ACC agreed that this device would be particularly suited for the carrying out of intersecretariat work in support of economic co-operation among developing countries. Also, specific reference to activities of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries will be contained in the terms of reference of the component of the Committee on Substantive Questions dealing with operational matters.

B. System-wide review by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination of activities in support of economic co-operation among developing countries

12. At their 1977 joint meetings CPC and ACC agreed that there should be in-depth reviews of the activities of the system in selected areas, and that one of the areas to be reviewed by CPC in 1978 would be activities of the system in support of economic co-operation among developing countries. ACC submitted a report to CPC (see para. 3 above) providing a cross-organizational review of action by the United Nations system in support of economic co-operation among developing countries. This report, prepared on the basis of an UNCTAD secretariat draft, was first considered at two meetings of the Inter-Agency Group. 6/

5/ A separate progress report by ACC on the restructuring of the ACC subsidiary machinery will be submitted to the current session of the General Assembly.

6/ The draft was based on contributions made by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the regional commissions, i.e. the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA),

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13. This report was considered at the 13th of the series of joint meetings of CPC and ACC held at Geneva on 3 and 4 July 1978. In the consideration of the report, the joint meeting concluded that the report was very useful in that it provided for the first time detailed information on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of economic co-operation among developing countries. However, it was considered that the report did not provide an analysis based on an operational definition of economic co-operation among developing countries, which remained to be developed, permitting an evaluation of the relevance of the various activities. It was pointed out that methodological short-comings encountered were due to the fact that more precise guidelines for the preparation of the report were required. The joint meeting also covered other aspects, including the concept of economic co-operation among developing countries and the difference between economic and technical co-operation, the operational significance of the concept in terms of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries, the nature of the information that should be provided in the future and the possibilities of improving future reports. Finally, it was proposed that the subject be discussed further by CPC at the second part of its eighteenth session in August 1978. 7/

14. At the second part of the eighteenth session of CPC the question was raised of improving the methodology for dealing with cross-sectoral analysis in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries. It was noted that a more specific focus was difficult if the intention was to reflect faithfully the activities of the whole system and reconcile these with the policies of the various intergovernmental bodies concerned. Criteria to narrow the focus would have to be developed and this would imply more careful elucidation of priorities by the developing countries and by the respective intergovernmental bodies. It was pointed out that classifying the objectives of economic co-operation among developing countries would help to circumscribe the field and therefore

(continued)

the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). It was also based on contributions from the following organizations: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the World Bank (IBRD), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

7/ See Report of the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1978/93), 17 July 1978, paras. 30-59.

assist in resolving the methodological issues. Finally, CPC found that the concept of economic co-operation among developing countries was not sufficiently defined in operational terms to permit, as yet, the most effective co-ordination, and it hoped that the forthcoming meetings of the UNCTAD Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, as well as the results of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, would assist agencies in defining the activities of economic co-operation among developing countries of the United Nations system. The Committee further recommended that the ACC continue its efforts to arrive at better operational concepts.

15. At its second session held at Geneva from 2 to 11 October 1978, the UNCTAD Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries considered the item of review and facilitation of the co-ordination of measures of support, including technical assistance, of the United Nations system to the efforts of economic co-operation among developing countries and took note of the conclusions and recommendations of CPC. The Committee's report will be before the Trade and Development Board at its next session.

ANNEX

ACTIVITIES BY ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. This annex updates the second part of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on economic co-operation among developing countries (E/AC.51/90/Add.1 (Part II)) which identifies and describes activities being carried out throughout the United Nations system in support of economic co-operation among developing countries during the biennium 1978-1979. It should therefore be read as a complement to the ACC report which, as mentioned earlier, is being circulated with the present report. The presentation of the ACC report is followed covering support for subregional, regional and interregional economic co-operation and integration, as well as specific programmes of co-operation. Under the latter section two additional items have been included: co-operation in postal services and co-operation in meteorology, so as to examine action undertaken in support of economic co-operation among developing countries in these fields. If an organization with competence in a specific field of co-operation is not mentioned, that implies that its activities were adequately covered in the report of ACC.

I. SUPPORT FOR SUBREGIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION

A. United Nations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

2. Pursuant to resolution 1 (I) of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and to decision 155 (XVII) of the Trade and Development Board, a Working Party on Trade Expansion and Regional Economic Integration among Developing Countries was convened in April 1978 by the UNCTAD secretariat. In accordance with the invitation issued by the Group of 77 at the Mexico City conference on economic co-operation among developing countries to the existing secretariats of subregional and regional grouping, the Working Party considered in particular guidelines for: (a) measures of support of concomitant action at the interregional level to be implemented by the developing countries as a whole; (b) establishment of links among such groupings; (c) facilitation of participation in co-operation and integration schemes of countries that are at present outside such schemes; and (d) consideration of a possible mechanism or consultative body, whichever is appropriate, to co-ordinate and promote their activities with regard to the above-mentioned areas.

3. In its guidelines regarding (a) above, the Working Party recommended, inter alia, the establishment by the Group of 77 of subsidiary intergovernmental bodies to deal with the various aspects of the implementation of the Mexico City Programme. It further recommended that these organs be assisted by the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system. a/ As for (b) above, the Working Party

a/ See "Report of the Working Party on Trade Expansion and Regional Economic Integration among Developing Countries" (TD/B/702).

made suggestions aimed at reinforcing the links among regional and subregional economic groupings in a number of fields. Regarding (c), the UNCTAD secretariat was requested, in consultation and co-ordination with relevant organizations, to propose, at the request of interested countries, action to facilitate participation in co-operation and integration schemes of countries that are at present outside such schemes.

4. Finally, as regards (d) above, the Working Party advocated the desirability of establishing a central co-ordination arrangement among the secretariats of regional and subregional economic groupings to assist and promote co-operation among the secretariats themselves; to contribute to the harmonization of their positions in regard to global negotiations; to develop a system of exchange of information; to make proposals at the request of the Group of 77 for ad hoc action to be taken at the interregional level in pursuance of the Mexico City programme on economic co-operation among developing countries and to identify other opportunities for co-operation at the interregional level. In connexion with this recommendation, the Working Party established, on a provisional and informal basis, an Inter-Secretariat Consultative Group, composed of the secretariats of such groupings, which could meet at least once a year to consider proposals and review the implementation of the various co-operative programmes of the secretariats in specific sectors. The Group could also act as an advisory body to the Group of 77 and assume responsibility together with UNCTAD and other appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, for the preparation of studies and for providing servicing facilities to the Group of 77 on economic co-operation among developing countries. The Group could also perform as an advisory body to the various organizations of the United Nations system, if required to do so. In the view of the Working Party, this body could be organized and serviced by UNCTAD, which should also be requested to act as a centre of information related to programmes and activities of economic co-operation among developing countries.

United Nations (Headquarters) b/

5. The United Nations (Headquarters) will continue to provide assistance to co-operation schemes of developing countries. Activities in this field will include assistance in the formulation of the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation among non-aligned countries, to the Council of Arab Economic Unity, to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat, to the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River, to the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). Activities will also include interregional exchange of experience and training in grassroots community development and appropriate technology.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

6. UNIDO will continue to provide advice and assistance to the subregional and regional economic groupings of developing countries in support of their concerted

b/ Including, for the purpose of the present paper, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

efforts to develop viable industries. Such assistance will continue to deal primarily with the identification of industrial opportunities for regional co-operation, techno-economic studies of specific industrial projects and formulation of long-range strategy and methodology for regional industrial planning and development. Focal points at the regional and subregional levels, such as the Latin American Economic System, the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizer Producers and the Association for the Development of the Fertilizer Industry in Latin America are being supported in order to facilitate the exchange of current operating experience and the design and implementation of programmes for co-operation.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

7. Assistance will continue to be provided to the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong River Basin, the Southeast Asian Tin Research and Development Centre, the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre (RMRDC), the two Co-ordinating Committees for Joint Prospecting in Asian and South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCDP and CCDP/SDPAC), the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones. In co-operation with UNDP and UNCTAD, ESCAP will convene a regional meeting of secretariats of economic co-operation and integration schemes in 1978. An interagency task force on water for Asia and the Pacific was set up in 1978 with a view to strengthening co-operation and joint action among participating agencies in their programmes to assist countries in the investigation, development, use and management of water resources for all purposes.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

8. A major activity of ECA in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries has been the establishment at the subregional level of Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOC) in the five subregions of Africa centred on Lusaka, Gisenyi, Yaoundé, Niamey and Tangiers. A number of projects of a multinational, multisectoral and interdisciplinary nature, particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry and communications, are now being implemented by the MULPOCs. At the regional level the Office is co-ordinating a number of activities, most of which relate to the creation of various intergovernmental centres aimed at fostering economic and technical co-operation among African countries. At the interregional level ECA, in conjunction with ECLA, is preparing common projects in priority areas such as economic integration, interregional trade, transport and communications and the development and adaptation of science and technology.

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

9. Following a resolution of its member countries, ECLA is finalizing a series of technical studies to be submitted to a seminar on Latin American Economic Co-operation and Integration to be held during the fourth quarter of 1978. This seminar will consider the present situation and evaluate the experience of existing co-operation movements in Latin America with a view to examining ways and means of strengthening the process of economic integration and co-operation in the region

through a set of practical measures. These would include measures to increase interregional trade, to compensate unfavourable effects derived from the international economic situation and to increase exports of manufactured goods produced by the industrially less advanced countries.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

10. UNDP has pledged assistance to the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific in formulating a medium-term programme of regional co-operation. Arrangements for a region-wide survey of selected aspects of mutual economic co-operation, as well as for a meeting of existing economic groupings of the developing countries in the region, are under negotiation.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

11. The work programme of UNEP emphasizes the need for subregional, regional, interregional and global co-operation in the field of environment. The International Referral System for Sources of Environmental Information is based on this approach. In the field of environment and development, UNEP, in collaboration with the regional commissions, is preparing regional seminars on alternative patterns of development. The establishment of a network of eco-development projects in different regions will also stimulate and create the conditions for a useful exchange of information and experience. The environmental aspects of industrial redeployment also include regional economic and technical co-operation. Following decisions of its Governing Council, UNEP is establishing an institutional network for pilot projects for the dissemination of appropriate technologies. In this connexion, two networks for the development of human settlements technologies have been developed in collaboration with ECA, ECWA and ECLA. Programmes of UNEP on oceans and desertification also cover co-operation on environmental aspects among developing countries.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

12. UNITAR will organize in 1979 a conference on development scenarios for South-East Asia. This conference will explore attitudes in governmental and public opinion regarding development strategies including regional co-operation and collective self-reliance. It will also examine development policies regarding industrialization, agriculture and their interrelationships, as well as the impact of development strategies on social, political and cultural structures. Special technical studies are also being undertaken by UNITAR in Africa on industrial potential of selected raw materials and on conditions for self-reliant development in food production under different circumstances.

B. Specialized agencies and other international organizations

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

13. The African Intellectual Property Organization is receiving assistance from WIPO and UNDP for the establishment of a patent documentation and information centre.

Emphasis is being given to close working relationships with the African Regional Centre for Technology. The Council of the Industrial Property Organization for English-speaking Africa decided at its first session held in May 1978 that the regional office would be situated in Nairobi and that its Director should take office in 1980. The Council invited ECA and WIPO to continue to act as interim secretariat and to prepare a project for the establishment of a patent documentation and information centre in the framework of the regional office with a working relationship with the African Regional Centre for Technology. In September 1978 WIPO published a survey entitled "Situation of Industrial Property in the Arab States". The Latin American Data Service on Industrial Property and Transfer of Technology established with the assistance of WIPO, started its operations in 1978 with the participation of 10 countries. Its first bulletin will appear in October 1978.

World Bank

14. The World Bank will continue to support economic co-operation efforts among developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. A number of investments financed by the Bank have an impact on the process of economic integration even though loans may be made to one country only. In many instances loans support national projects which are in fact an integral part of a regional network. In some cases, the Bank supports regional co-operation through financing regional projects as well as by providing technical assistance to regional planning efforts and supplying technical advisers to regional organizations. The Bank also supports intercountry co-operation by its participation, along with that of other multilateral and bilateral donors, in undertakings of regional concern. Thus, the following organizations have benefited from the Bank's financial support and/or technical assistance: the Indus Basin Fund; the East African Community; the East African Development Bank, the Fund for Co-operation, Compensation and Development of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); the West African Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI); the Caribbean Development Bank (CARIBANK) and the Mekong Committee.

15. In Africa, the Bank has financed a joint Ivory Coast-Upper Volta railway project, a railway in Senegal which will also be used by Mali and Nigeria, and a highway in the United Republic of Cameroon which will also benefit Chad. The Bank has also participated in a joint action plan for control of river blindness in the Volta River basin, in a regional transportation study for the Sahel, and in development planning for the Senegal River basin and the Lake Chad region. The Bank has also undertaken a regional migration study for the West African region.

16. In 1978 the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development was organized by the World Bank. Its main objective is to start a process through which external donors can increase, in a co-ordinated way, their financial and technical assistance to the Caribbean area in support of long-term economic programmes. In June 1978, 30 Governments and 15 international agencies met at the Bank's headquarters and a new Caribbean facility was set up to co-ordinate development assistance to the Caribbean countries.

17. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) also promotes economic co-operation among developing countries. In particular, IFC is supporting several financial institutions in Africa and Latin America in order to finance manufactured exports, and in promoting and financing investments in which a relatively more industrialized country offers technology and expertise to a relatively less developed one. Such investments account for a growing portion of IFC's investments.

II. SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES OF CO-OPERATION

A. Trade co-operation

1. United Nations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

18. Since the adoption by the Committee on economic co-operation among developing countries of its resolution 1 (I), the UNCTAD secretariat has launched an intensive study programme on the establishment of a global scheme of trade preferences among developing countries. The first stage of studies presently under way will lead towards the elaboration of a preliminary set of proposals regarding the main features of a global system of trade preferences. It will include statistical and other information concerning foreign trade and trade barriers encountered by developing countries. So far, the major emphasis has been upon a number of policy studies which respond to the orientation given by the Mexico City programme and the above-mentioned resolution 1 (I). The main aims of the studies are to ensure that the largest possible number of developing countries becomes interested in participating in a global system of trade preferences, that to the largest extent possible the effects of preferences are balanced among the developing countries and that the system would be harmoniously linked with existing integration and preference schemes at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. The studies are being prepared in consultation with relevant international organizations of the developing countries, as well as with concerned bodies of the United Nations system.

19. Co-operation among State-trading organizations is also referred to in resolution 1 (I) of the Committee on economic co-operation among developing countries as one of the priority areas. A number of studies is being carried out on the following subjects: (a) development of joint import procurement policies; (b) establishment of a trade information and joint market research system among developing countries, and (c) co-operation among State-trading organizations in such fields as imports of products of common interest, joint export promotion activities, and the promotion of mutual trade through such direct measures as long-term purchase and supply commitments. Where appropriate, the long-term objective of this programme is to utilize trade channels directly or indirectly controlled by the public sector in order to expand trade among developing countries and improve the general position of developing countries in world trade.

20. The Committee on economic co-operation among developing countries requested the UNCTAD secretariat to take into account the possible modalities of establishing

multinational marketing enterprises among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. Preparatory activities have already been initiated and include research and operational activities in support of export and import co-operation through the establishment and reinforcement of multinational marketing enterprises, taking into account the progress already made by developing countries in this field. The research activities include a survey of institutional and legal aspects, as well as an economic analysis of opportunities to promote the establishment of such enterprises.

United Nations Development Programme

21. In addition to UNDP support for the promotion of intra-African trade, the development of the Asian Trade Expansion Programme and the promotion of intra-regional trade in the Council of Arab Economic Unity, an important part of UNDP projects goes to regional institutions in Latin America in charge of promoting trade within the different subregions. In addition, efforts to strengthen the external trade position of groups of countries exporting particular commodities, such as the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UBEC) and the Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries, are being supported by UNDP.

22. The main forms of UNDP support for efforts to promote co-operation among developing countries in the area of international trade is being financed from the interregional programme. Among such activities, most of which are executed through UNCTAD, are the following: advisory services for multilateral trade negotiations; assistance to enable developing countries to expand their exports by making use of the Generalized System of Preferences; assistance for a number of technical studies concerning arrangements for commodities under the Integrated Programme for Commodities; assistance to improve the planning and development of the external trade sector in least developed and land-locked developing countries; preliminary investigation of the possibilities of bulk import procurement of food commodities; and assistance to the International Tea Promotion Association.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

23. In November 1977, an Expert Group on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific was convened to establish principles and guidelines for trade co-operation in the region and the expansion of intra-regional trade. Specific proposals were submitted at the Conference, held in New Delhi 21-23 August 1978, of the Ministers for Trade of the countries of the region. The Conference decided on a programme of regional trade expansion and co-operation. The Commission will continue to undertake technical assistance to various commodity communities, including in the field of trade promotion.

Economic Commission for Africa

24. Within the context of an African project on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, ECA services the African delegations at meetings of the co-ordinating committee of the Group of 77 on the multilateral trade negotiations. It also issues a newsletter addressed to all African countries on progress of the multilateral trade negotiations.

ECA has carried out two studies, one on joint import procurement between Africa and Latin America, and the other on existing and potential trade between Africa and Latin American countries. These studies have been carried out in close collaboration with ECLA. Contacts have also been established with ESCAP and they have resulted in an agreement on a joint study to be undertaken in 1978 on the expansion of trade between developing African and Asian countries. ECA is also analysing the structures and operations of State-trading organizations in the African region with a view to identifying organizations which could co-operate with similar institutions in other developing regions.

25. In the field of intra-African trade, the work programme includes a number of studies and projects covering commodities and raw materials. Work has already been initiated on the identification of existing and potential products for trade between African countries, intra-African trade in raw materials for basic industries and the establishment of an African Common Market. In the context of the latter, work has already reached an advanced stage in the establishment of a preferential trade area for the eastern and southern African States. Some of the work in this field is being undertaken in close collaboration with UNCTAD.

2. Specialized agencies and other international organizations

World Health Organization

26. Activities of WHO in the pharmaceutical sector will be concentrated on establishing integrated policies regarding health, trade and production, so as to ensure an adequate supply of and access to essential drugs in support of efforts by developing countries to extend basic health care coverage to the population. The Organization has formulated requirements for good practices in the manufacture and quality control of drugs and has recommended a certifications scheme on the quality of pharmaceutical products moving in international trade. The WHO Expanded Programme on Immunization involves direct action at the country level in formulating plans for vaccination programmes, including the procurement of vaccines, and seeks to reduce the dependency of the developing world on developed countries for their vaccine needs. At its twenty-first session in May 1978, the World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA 31.32, including an action programme of technical co-operation on essential drugs. This programme is aimed at strengthening the national capabilities of developing countries in the field of selection and proper use of essential drugs to meet their real needs. Further, it encourages local production and quality control, wherever feasible, of such drugs. The World Health Assembly urged Member States to establish adequate drug procurement, storage and distribution systems in order to make available reasonably-priced drugs of adequate quality to the population. In addition, it requested the Director-General of WHO, inter alia, to study the means by which prices of pharmaceutical products are determined and to examine possible strategies for reducing such prices, including the development of a code of marketing practices, with special emphasis on pharmaceutical products essential for the populations of developing countries.

World Bank

27. The Bank continues to be concerned with ways in which developing countries can accelerate their exports of primary and manufactured goods. Research is currently under way on increasing the potential of trade among developing countries. A chapter of the World Development Report, 1978 deals with this subject. An example of the Bank's operational assistance in this field is provided by the credit extended in 1978 to Afghanistan for the improvement of the production of fruits and vegetables for export to neighbouring countries. A direct effect of the Bank's activities, including those of IFC, has been the procurement, in developing countries, of goods and services for projects financed by the Bank. This concerns the supply of equipment and civil works as well as engineering.

B. Monetary and financial co-operation

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

28. The activities undertaken by the UNCTAD secretariat encompass not only the question of linkages among clearing and payments arrangements but also many other issues related to monetary co-operation as outlined by the Mexico City Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. Thus, UNCTAD has been contributing in collaboration with UNDP and regional commissions to the implementation of various of the clearing and payments arrangements among developing countries. It will continue to extend such assistance, upon request, in order to identify the monetary and payments obstacles that are hampering the increase of trade and financial flows; to enlarge the membership in existing schemes; to establish new multilateral payments arrangements; to extend the volume of eligible transactions; to increase the credit margin mutually granted; and to lengthen the settlement periods.

29. The first meeting of the Committee on Multilateral Payments Arrangements and Monetary Co-operation among Developing Countries was convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and took place at Bangkok from 11 to 14 July 1978 under the joint auspices of UNCTAD and ESCAP and with the financial support of UNDP. At this meeting the Co-ordination Committee adopted its rules of procedure and programme of work and invited UNCTAD to act as its technical secretariat for a period of two years. The Committee also invited the United Nations regional commissions, the International Monetary Fund and other relevant international organizations to continue extending assistance for strengthening payments arrangements activities and to support fully the technical secretariat in carrying out its functions. The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting in July 1979.

30. Pursuant to Trade and Development Board decision 160 (XVII) of 2 September 1977 on export credits as a means of promoting exports from developing countries, the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade at the forthcoming second part of its eighth session will, on the basis of documents submitted to the Board at its seventeenth session, consider the question of setting up an export credit guarantee mechanism. The UNCTAD secretariat, in consultation with a number of technical experts and Governments, will prepare the draft articles of agreement of the proposed facility.

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31. The UNCTAD secretariat also intends to undertake a series of studies on capital markets in potential capital-exporting developing countries in which the experience of successful borrowers in those markets will be examined in order to facilitate access to them by other developing countries.

United Nations Development Programme

32. In Africa, UNDP will provide institutional support to the West African Payments and Clearing Union during the next five years. Assistance to the Investment Unit of the African Development Bank will continue. The terms of co-operation with the Central African Development Bank are under discussion. In the Arab region, UNDP is co-operating with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in a programme for the identification and preparation of intercountry investment projects and related feasibility studies. UNDP is also assisting in the establishment of the Arab Institute in Banking and Financial Studies. In Latin America assistance will continue to be provided to the Caribbean Development Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

Economic Commission for Africa

33. Within the context of activities related to intra-African trade promotion, studies are planned on monetary and financial co-operation aimed at strengthening the West African Clearing House and widening its scope to cover the remaining countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and on the establishment of a clearing and payments arrangements for central Africa. Work is in progress for the establishment of an African association of commercial banks.

C. Co-operation in food, agriculture and fisheries production

1. United Nations

United Nations Development Programme

34. In the African region assistance to subregional groupings and to intergovernmental organizations has been provided or is planned. A project on improvement and production of field food crops has as its long-range objective assistance in increasing and improving the production of cereals, food legumes and oilseeds through strengthening and linking national research programmes in 22 participating countries in the Near and Middle East and North Africa. Four continuing projects are providing training in various aspects of marine and inland fisheries development to a number of officials from countries in Asia and the Pacific. A root-crop development programme for the benefit of the South Pacific countries is under investigation. In Latin America, UNDP, in collaboration with FAO, the Governments and subregional and regional institutions, has been involved in programmes designed to expand the agricultural sector and to rationalize the development and use of resources, including forests and fisheries. Support for the development of fisheries is also being provided through the interregional programme.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

35. As a result of activities undertaken under the Agricultural Requisites Scheme for Asia and the Pacific, an ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO fertilizer advisory, development and information network for Asia and the Pacific is being established in 1978. The areas covered by the network include, inter alia, marketing, distribution and consumption and regional co-operation in production and trade.

36. The Commission's integrated programme on rural development provides opportunities for economic and technical co-operation. The main mechanism through which the programme is implemented is a system of national liaison officers who in periodic meetings enrich each other's knowledge of problems and possible solutions in dealing with rural poverty.

Economic Commission for Africa

37. ECA has prepared a number of studies for ECOWAS on agricultural production potential in West Africa and on trade promotion in food, livestock, fishery and forest products. The Commission co-sponsored, with the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, a conference on co-operation in the control of animal health and the promotion of livestock production for the Eastern and Southern African subregion. Assistance has also been provided to the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) secretariat and the Lake Chad Basin Commission in promoting co-operative projects in agriculture. A study has also been carried out in co-operation with the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) on the possibility of the West African subregion attaining self-sufficiency in rice production. The Commission is collaborating with FAO in the preparation of various documents for the tenth Regional Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture, the tenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa and the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

2. Specialized agencies and other international organizations

World Health Organization

38. The activities of WHO in the field of food safety, food hygiene and sanitation concentrate on the protection of the health of the consumer and provide for the development of appropriate national food control programmes and services. The programme includes advice on the organization of laboratory facilities, suitable methodology, and the surveillance of manufacturing establishments. The need for legislation and standards concerning food whose purpose is to protect the health of the consumer and to ensure fair practice in food trade is assessed through the mechanism of the regional co-ordinating committees for Africa, Asia and Latin America of the Codex Alimentaries Commission. The acceptance of Codex standards brings to the developing countries the added benefit of facilitating international trade in food. The health aspects of the development of water and irrigation systems have important economic consequences and WHO technical co-operation activities in this field should thus also be considered within the

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objectives of economic co-operation among developing countries. The Onchocerciasis Control Programme in the Volta River basin area, in which WHO is participating as executing agency for the health sector, is one example of an activity of WHO contributing to the economic development of an area which is primarily based on agriculture and cattle raising. The efforts of WHO for the study and control of parasitic diseases can also be linked to the objectives of economic co-operation among developing countries, as many of these diseases have serious economic implications and consequences. The incidence of diseases like schistosomiasis is favoured by man-made ecological changes, such as those resulting from the creation of dams, lakes and irrigation schemes. The WHO interregional project for research on the epidemiology and methodology of schistosomiasis control in man-made lakes is a co-operative effort. It will be completed by 1978 and the results will be analysed and evaluated in 1979.

World Food Council

39. At the fourth World Food Council Ministerial Session held in Mexico in June 1978, a recommendation on increase in the production of food was adopted, stressing the need to ensure continued support of donor countries and international organizations: to provide financial and technical assistance to specific programmes and projects for agricultural and food co-operation among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, designed to increase their agricultural production and fisheries and development of technologies; to improve security and conditions of supply; to promote their nutritional programmes; to expand their reciprocal trade; to develop technologies; and to increase their joint negotiating capacity in international markets.

D. Industrial co-operation

1. United Nations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

40. UNCTAD is actively working on the first stage of a series of studies on multinational production enterprises, analysing the viability of establishing such enterprises among developing countries. The goal is to expand and diversify production through trade expansion, using a multinational approach to production. Further, productive resources will be better utilized through multicountry arrangements for industrial co-operation for plant allocation, co-production, complementarity and specialization. These studies are being undertaken in close consultation and collaboration with UNIDO, FAO, the regional commissions and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations system and international organizations of developing countries.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

41. In 1977 UNIDO initiated a series of consultation meetings to facilitate the redeployment of certain productive capacities existing in developed countries

and the creation of new industrial facilities in developing countries. So far, meetings have been convened for iron and steel, fertilizer, leather and leather products and the vegetable oils and fats industries. Although such is not their primary objective, it is expected that these consultations will play a major role in identifying areas and specific opportunities for economic co-operation among developing countries. These consultations may be expected to lead to the establishment and strengthening of informal as well as institutional arrangements for intensifying sectoral co-operation among developing countries.

42. UNIDO intends to organize in 1978-1979 in three least-developed countries (Afghanistan, Haiti and Tanzania) round table ministerial meetings on industrial and technical co-operation among developing countries. These meetings will explore the way in which the invited developing countries could facilitate the flow of technical assistance, financial resources and joint participation in accordance with the specific industrial needs of the least-developed countries.

43. In pursuance of the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation among non-aligned and other developing countries and based on recommendations of the group of experts in pharmaceuticals which met in Guyana in 1976, UNIDO is developing a programme of economic and technical co-operation in the pharmaceutical sector. This programme is designed to initiate concerted action among developing countries with the support of the relevant international agencies in the field of drug policy, production, procurement and distribution of pharmaceuticals.

United Nations Development Programme

44. In Africa, UNDP assistance to subregional integration groupings is directed towards helping Governments in industrial planning. Assistance is being provided to the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS). In Asia, UNDP is assisting in building a regional network of agricultural machinery aimed at linking together national institutions to produce equipment especially suited to Asian conditions. Pre-investment feasibility studies are being carried out for the production of pulp and paper based on indigenous materials in order to meet the anticipated demand of the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). In Latin America, UNDP is assisting in the formulation of a strategy for the development of capital goods industries, which would include Latin American multinational enterprises for this purpose.

Economic Commission for Africa

45. In 1979, ECA will convene a symposium on industrial policies and planning which is expected to identify new priorities in industry and related sectors, as well as various types of instruments for implementing national and regional industrial development policies. The symposium is also expected to make recommendations concerning consultations on interregional co-operation in industry. The Commission is collaborating with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), UNIDO, FAO and UNCTAD in the formulation and implementation of industrial development programmes for Africa. Preliminary consultations have taken place with ECLA to determine areas of possible collaboration in industry. There has also been an exchange of information with ESCAP in the field of technology for small-scale iron and steel industries.

2. Specialized agencies and other international organizations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

46. UNESCO has started to promote a programme of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of educational equipment and material in order to build regional and national self-sufficiency. This programme aims at the development, through the different industrial sectors concerned, of the production of materials and equipment necessary for education in the following subsectors: construction, glass industry, light mechanical industry, pulp and paper mills and paper converting industries, print and book publishing, records, cassettes and film production, manufacture of radio and television receivers, production of communication equipment, electronics, informatics and solar energy generators. An interagency consultation on educational industries is planned in 1979 in order to discuss how to promote an increase in the production capacities of the developing countries of the above-mentioned materials. A preliminary consultation with UNIDO, FAO, the African Development Bank, UNDP and ILO was held in September 1978.

E. Co-operation in transport

1. United Nations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

47. UNCTAD is seeking to provide interregional advisory services on transit and transport problems and to establish a series of regional and subregional projects to carry out planning and costing studies and to address the specific problems of particular transit corridors. A number of UNDP-financed technical assistance projects are being executed and involve assistance on matters of transit and transportation in land-locked and island countries. UNCTAD has begun to collect the necessary data for the establishment of model rules on regional associations of ports, shippers and joint ventures in maritime transport of developing countries and has participated or will participate in several important meetings on co-operative efforts among developing countries that will be considered by UNCTAD intergovernmental bodies. A number of operational activities are being developed to promote co-operation among developing countries in the field of transport.

United Nations (Headquarters)

48. The work programme includes co-ordination of efforts to study interregional transport policies and interregional transport technology, and to assess the implications of both for transfer of transport technology among regions in the developing world.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

49. High priority is given to the promotion of integrated transport systems at

the regional, subregional and national levels. Regional seminars and workshops will be organized on training in transport planning and co-ordination, including urban transport. A seminar to be organized in co-operation with ICAO will determine the scope of a number of subregional studies aimed at determining the contribution civil aviation can make to the socio-economic development of the countries of the ESCAP region. The ESCAP work programme also includes a programme on shipping, ports and island waterways, dealing with regional and interregional co-operation.

Economic Commission for Africa

50. The Commission is directly involved in the implementation of the Trans-African Highway projects. Assistance is being provided to ECOWAS in the preparation of studies on transport problems. In the field of port management and development, ECA has contributed to the creation of African port management associations in order to bring about greater co-operation among African countries. Collaboration is being developed with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) in dealing with the problems of maritime transport and the creation of a joint ECA/IMCO unit in order to ensure follow-up action in this field. ECA is also co-operating with the African Airline Association.

2. Specialized agencies and other international organizations

International Civil Aviation Organization

51. The work of ICAO on air passenger and freight development for Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific should enable it to give valuable help to the developing countries in promoting the establishment of multinational services and enterprises of air transport facilities. ICAO has carried out a study to determine the contribution that civil aviation can make to the development of the national economies of African States (UNDP/ICAO project RAF/74/021) and identified more than 200 projects that involve economic co-operation among developing countries. A study on air passenger and freight development for Latin America was completed recently. A similar study for Africa is in progress and will be followed by other studies for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. All these studies will provide a basis for co-ordination at the regional level. In addition to participation in a joint ECLA/ICAO study of air transport between countries members of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, ICAO is actively seeking increased co-operation with other regional commissions.

F. Co-operation in telecommunications

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

52. In close co-operation with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and with the assistance of UNDP and voluntary contributions, ESCAP has promoted co-operation among developing countries in this sector. The ESCAP/ITU Unit, during the programme cycle 1972-1976, prepared a number of regional studies for the

establishment of the Asian Telecommunication Network. Technical assistance was provided for establishing regional tariff studies, traffic forecast, routing of traffic and regional signalling, as well as for the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, a regional intergovernmental organization which will pool the resources of the countries concerned for future assistance in the operation of the Asian Telecommunication Network.

Economic Commission for Africa

53. The ECA work programme provides for assistance and support to co-operative efforts in the development of telecommunications. Activities in this field are centred on the Pan African Telecommunications Network.

G. Co-operation in the field of energy

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

54. Based on a meeting of the Energy Working Group on Energy Planning and Programming, held in August 1978, a regional programme on energy is being developed by ESCAP as an extension of activities in recent years which have concentrated largely on energy requirements in rural areas, including the use of non-conventional and renewable energy resources. The programme is expected to involve technical assistance in energy planning and programming as such, and the establishment of a regular process of information exchange and of co-operative research and development, together with studies and seminars on topics of particular concern to the countries.

Economic Commission for Africa

55. The co-operative activities of ECA in the field of energy involve assistance to member States in the formulation of integrated energy policies, and the evaluation, development, exploitation and use of energy resources.

H. Co-operation in science and technology

1. United Nations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

56. Apart from the continuing work on the code of conduct on transfer of technology and on the revision of the industrial property system, the UNCTAD secretariat is involved in a series of activities, including studies, in which co-operation among developing countries in the technology field is the central or major element. Studies regarding co-operation in the field of technology cover both general aspects and sectors of critical importance to developing countries. Two meetings were held in 1978 dealing with subjects involving co-operation among developing countries in the technology field: (a) a meeting of an expert group to

review and contribute to drafting a hand-book on the acquisition of technology by developing countries, and (b) an intergovernmental expert group on brain drain. Operational activities in this field have continued to be developed at the regional level with the regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations. At the sectoral level, assistance is being given, in co-operation with the secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in the establishment of a pharmaceutical centre for the CARICOM region. UNCTAD is also participating, together with the Action Programme on Economic Co-operation of non-aligned and other States, UNIDO and WHO, in the UNDP-financed project on economic co-operation among developing countries in the pharmaceutical sector. Regarding training activities, the UNCTAD secretariat organized the third UNCTAD/SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority) Training Programme on Transfer and Development of Technology for the Central American and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries which took place in San José and in Caracas from 3 to 21 April 1978. UNCTAD is now organizing the fourth UNCTAD/SIDA Training Programme on the Transfer and Development of Technology, for the French-speaking African countries. Finally, the UNCTAD secretariat is also providing assistance at subregional and regional meetings in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and is contributing to regional papers to be submitted to that Conference.

United Nations (Headquarters)

57. Activities on economic co-operation among developing countries will continue in the framework of the programme on science and technology, particularly concerning the transfer of technology among developing countries, taking into account the results of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology. In the programme on ocean economics and technology, specialized work will be undertaken on specific aspects of economic co-operation among developing countries in marine and coastal affairs. Specifically, the global off-shore/near-shore marine resources survey will be extended on a regional basis and a report on regionalization in marine affairs will be prepared. The subprogramme on integrated coastal area development concerns multinational co-operation. The subprogramme on marine and coastal technology will include studies on the adaptation of existing indigenous technology in developing countries, including an analysis of regional potential for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in this area.

United Nations Environment Programme

58. The fifth session of the Governing Council of UNEP adopted a decision on the establishment of a global network of institutions to test, apply, publish and advise on appropriate and environmentally sound technology, including human settlement technology and technology for harnessing renewable resources of energy, particularly for use in isolated rural areas.

2. Specialized agencies and other international organizations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

59. UNESCO continues to promote co-operative programmes of regional and subregional

networks of educational innovation for development. The objective of these networks is to interlink existing national institutes undertaking innovative activities contributing to national development with a view to optimizing the use of resources through co-operative efforts. UNESCO now has three operational innovation networks for education: the Asian Programme of Educational Innovation for Development, Co-operation for the Development of Education in South-East Europe and the Network of Educational Innovation for Development in Africa. Networks for the Arab States and the Caribbean region are under preparation. UNESCO is making efforts to interlink different networks in the perspective of a global programme of international co-operation for educational innovation for development.

World Health Organization

60. In 1976, the twenty-ninth World Health Assembly recognized that the development of appropriate methodologies and technologies is an important support element in primary health care and rural development and, as such, should be considered a priority area. It requested the Director-General to take adequate measures to establish and develop a programme of health technology as it relates to primary health care and rural development. In pursuance of the resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly, WHO initiated a programme of appropriate technology for health.

International Labour Organisation

61. The work programme of ILO includes a major emphasis on the collection and dissemination of appropriate technologies. In the cases of civil construction and industry, ILO co-operates with IBRD and UNIDO respectively.

World Intellectual Property Organization

62. A study of existing arrangements and future possibilities in the field of industrial property for the promotion of technological innovation was prepared by WIPO and considered by a working group on this subject in 1978. The working group formulated a number of recommendations concerning the promotion, development and protection of inventions and innovations. It recommended the adoption by Governments of integrated policies and programmes for stimulating technological innovation, particularly concerning small inventions, as well as the adoption of legislative measures for protecting inventions and innovations; the establishment of institutions which could provide technical, financial and legal assistance to inventors and innovators; the encouragement of inventors and innovators to form professional associations; the development of factors contributing to a positive national innovative climate, and the development of means for finding and promoting latent innovative talent. Moreover, the working group recommended that WIPO should examine the possibility of (a) expanding the WIPO Training Programme to provide training for officials of government institutions active in the field of the promotion of technological innovation, (b) issuing a publication containing information on selected innovations and new ideas, in particular those emanating from developing countries, (c) collecting information and establishing a clearing

house for information on legal and institutional arrangements for promoting technological innovation, and (d) convening a meeting of representatives of various institutions dealing with the promotion of technological innovation. The purpose of the meeting is to identify the factors which create a favourable national innovative climate in developing countries and to prepare guidelines for the creation and administration of institutions in developing countries dealing with the promotion of technological innovation. In addition, the working group recommended that WIPO should continue its efforts to facilitate and improve access by developing countries to the technological information contained in patent documents and related non-patent literature and to search reports on the state-of-the-art in technology prepared by industrial property offices in developed countries in order to examine patent applications.

I. Co-operation in insurance and tourism

United Nations Development Programme

63. In Africa, UNDP has provided assistance for a training programme for officials from national insurance companies. In Asia, UNDP has assisted in determining the feasibility of establishing the Regional Asian Insurance Corporation, which is expected to start operation in the near future.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

64. ESCAP is assisting its member countries in the formulation of their master plans on tourism, and is currently planning a regional seminar and subregional workshops on the development of tourism. Close co-operation with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) has been maintained in both formulation and implementation of tourism activities.

Economic Commission for Africa

65. In the field of tourism and as a way of improving the development of tourism in Africa, ECA organized, in collaboration with WTO, the first Regional African Conference on Tourism and Economic Development at Banjul (Zambia) from 16 to 19 October 1978.

J. Training and education, manpower, health and the role of women

1. United Nations

United Nations Development Programme

66. An overwhelming factor of UNDP technical co-operation is the promotion and development of human resources. Accordingly, training and skill development constitute part of UNDP technical co-operation activities covering the four regions of the developing world.

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

67. The Voluntary Fund for the Decade is facilitating ESCAP technical assistance and co-operative activities for the integration of women in the development process in member countries. A Mobile Training Scheme financed by the Office of Technical Co-operation of the United Nations Secretariat is currently undertaking follow-up activities in Nepal, Afghanistan and Bangladesh and will develop training programmes for trainees in Papua-New Guinea and other interested countries in the South Pacific. Thailand has also expressed interest in the scheme.

2. Specialized agencies and other international organizations

World Health Organization

68. At the request of its member States and with financial and other support from national and international bodies, WHO has undertaken a study of the problem of international migration of physicians and nurses. The study is being carried out in three phases, and the first phase is based on existing published and unpublished information. This information has provided valuable clues as to the dimensions, directions, determinants and consequences of health manpower migration. The primary objective of possible follow-up studies would be the design and implementation, through the health system, of a feasible programme of action to modify the pattern of migration of physicians and nurses in direct ways, the focus being on resolving the inconsistencies within the health manpower system and between it and the health service system.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

69. UNESCO has organized a series of regional ministerial conferences on educational policies in all regions: four in Africa, four in Asia, four in the Arab States, three in Latin America and two in Europe. These conferences regularly analyse, inter alia, educational policies, strategies, plans, as well as achievements, problems, new mobilities and dimensions of international and regional co-operation among institutions of higher education and research.

World Bank

70. Research carried out by the Bank at the regional level is intended to assist individual countries in identifying potential areas for co-operation, such as policies relating to migration. One special application has been the provision of technical assistance to capital-surplus developing countries for the planning and execution of projects that will be implemented by immigrants from labour-surplus developing countries. On a global basis, the Bank has been sponsoring the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), together with FAO and UNDP. Research centres for the development of products and techniques to be employed in developing countries are being financed by CGIAR in 11 developing countries. The sharing of knowledge and experience among managers through regional training projects and study tours in developing countries contributes to the

strengthening of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The Bank supports this type of exchange by including fellowships and training components in many of its projects. All sectors of the Bank benefit from these programmes. The Bank also offers courses for senior officials from developing countries through the Economic Development Institute, in collaboration with regional institutions wherever possible.

World Meteorological Organization

71. WMO is instrumental in promoting the exchange of meteorological information, experience and skills among its members. Such exchanges constitute an important contribution to economic and social development not only in the expansion of agricultural productivity, development of water resource potential and improvement of air transportation, but also in providing advanced warnings on bad weather.

K. Co-operation in postal services

72. The Manila, Colombo and Mexico City programmes do not include a specific section dealing with co-operation among developing countries in postal services. However, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and UNDP are active in this field, promoting regional and subregional co-operation throughout the developing world. Co-operation is promoted at the technical level with a view to ameliorating the postal services and at the level of postal administration in order to encourage the establishment of closer links among the postal services. Through UNDP-financed projects, UPU is providing technical assistance and organizing training activities in the postal sector in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America.

L. Co-operation in meteorology

World Meteorological Organization

73. In collaboration with UNDP, and through special programmes funded by members, WMO assists developing countries in implementing intercountry projects which have as their basic purpose the collection of information to develop water resources potential, increase agricultural productivity and reduce the deleterious effects of tropical storms. WMO is developing a programme for strengthening the agrometeorological and hydrological services in the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel and for establishing a regional centre for training and application of agrometeorology and hydrology. The programme consists of seven co-ordinated national projects for developing agrometeorological and hydrological station networks and strengthening services for data processing, as well as disseminating agrometeorological information to the farming community. The co-operation of the individual countries concerned is essential, both in terms of technical and financial support, in order that optimum use can be made of meteorological and hydrological information for the planning and development of agricultural production.

74. A hydrometeorological survey of the catchments of the Lake Victoria, Kiogo and Mobutu Sese Seko involves the co-operation of seven other African countries. The analysis of data on the catchments of the lakes provides the basis for the study of the water balance of the Upper Nile. This will enable the countries involved to plan irrigation schemes, swamp reclamation and other development projects and initiate intergovernmental co-operation in the storage, regulation and use of the waters of the Nile.

75. Under both an intercountry project and individual projects in six countries of the Central American isthmus, meteorological and hydrological observation station networks have been expanded and modernized; national data-processing centres have been established; counterpart institutions have been strengthened and data for planning, water conservation and use, especially hydroelectric power generation, and agricultural development, are being published. This co-operative effort enables each of the participating countries to benefit from the development of the infrastructure of other countries of the region.

76. Another example of intercountry co-operation is the WMO/ESCAP Typhoon Committee of the Southeast Asia and Pacific Region. Through the exchange of information, experience and technical skills, and the improvement of observation networks and telecommunication facilities, the member countries are co-operating in a joint endeavour designed to develop an effective typhoon flood warning system. Improved disaster benefit from this co-operative programme is evident.
