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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS	5 - 8	3
III. CO-OPERATION IN THE POLITICAL FIELD	9 - 15	4
A. Political and security related matters	9 - 13	4
B. Outer space	14	5
C. Disarmament	15	6
IV. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	16 - 92	6
A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	17 - 20	6
B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development ..	21 - 25	7

* A/42/150.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	26 - 33	8
D. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	34 - 37	9
E. World Food Programme	38 - 41	10
F. International Labour Organisation	42 - 52	10
G. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	53 - 64	12
H. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	65 - 71	15
I. International Civil Aviation Organization	72 - 73	17
J. World Health Organization	74 - 80	17
K. Universal Postal Union	81	19
L. International Monetary Fund	82 - 84	19
M. World Meteorological Organization	85	19
N. International Maritime Organization	86	19
O. International Fund for Agricultural Development	87 - 90	20
P. International Atomic Energy Agency'	91 - 92	20

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 41/3 of 16 October 1986, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/41/532) and approved the conclusions and recommendations of the second general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (ibid., sect. III C), which was held at Geneva from 28 to 30 July 1986.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue co-operation in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and the establishment of a new international economic order. The Assembly further encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, particularly by negotiating co-operation agreements, and invited them to multiply the contacts and meetings of focal points for co-operation in priority areas of interest to the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

3. The General Assembly also recommended that a co-ordination meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference should be organized at a time and place to be determined through consultations with the organizations concerned. It also expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in the promotion of co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and expressed the hope that he would continue to strengthen the mechanisms of co-operation between the two organizations.

4. The present report deals with the measures taken to implement the above-mentioned provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/3. Section II provides a brief account of the consultations between the representatives of the two organizations and their representation at meetings. Sections III and IV set out the developments in regard to co-operation between the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

5. On 2 October 1986, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held their annual co-ordination meeting at United Nations Headquarters to review items on the agenda of the forty-first

session of the General Assembly, particularly those which were of great concern and interest to the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The meeting undertook an examination of the current international situation, dealing specifically with issues concerning the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan, the critical economic situation in Africa, and Namibia and South Africa. It emphasized the importance of holding an International Peace Conference on the Middle East and reiterated its determination to adhere to the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject.

6. On 3 October, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York and discussed matters of mutual concern to their two organizations.

7. At the invitation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Secretary-General attended the Fifth Islamic Conference of Heads of State or Government, held in Kuwait from 26 to 29 January 1987. In his statement at the inaugural meeting, the Secretary-General informed the States members of the Summit Conference of the efforts being made by the United Nations to resolve the problems that their countries were facing, including the Iran-Iraq war, the question of Palestine, the situation in the Middle East, the question of Lebanon, the situation in Afghanistan, the question of Cyprus, the situation in South Africa, the struggle against apartheid, the question of Namibia, the emergency situation in Africa and the financial crisis of the United Nations. The Secretary-General noted that all regional organizations share with the United Nations the broad aims of international co-operation for peace and development, and expressed reliance on the Organization of the Islamic Conference to play its full part in promoting the goals of the United Nations. The Secretary-General met with the Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, His Highness the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and discussed a wide range of issues.

8. The Conference decided to hold the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference in Senegal in 1990 and the seventeenth Islamic Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Jordan in the beginning of 1988.

III. CO-OPERATION IN THE POLITICAL FIELD

A. Political and security related matters

9. The Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Kuwait from 26 to 29 January 1987, reaffirmed earlier decisions and undertook new initiatives with regard to various aspects of the situation in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in Afghanistan, as well as other political issues with which the United Nations is also currently involved, namely, support for an International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, support for the liberation struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, the questions of the critical economic situation in Africa, the Comorian island of Mayotte, international terrorism, the aerial and naval attack against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the United States of America, the problem of the Horn of Africa and the refugee problems.

10. During the period under review, co-operation between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat was marked by a continued exchange of information on political questions and by informal consultations as the occasion warranted. The Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations continued to transmit to the Department pertinent reports and resolutions adopted by that Organization on questions relating to political and security matters.

11. The Organization of the Islamic Conference reaffirmed its full support of the resolutions concerning Namibia and South Africa, adopted by the General Assembly and other bodies of the United Nations. The Fifth Islamic Summit Conference urged the Security Council to impose comprehensive and effective sanctions against South Africa, in conformity with the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. It also reaffirmed that Security Council resolution 435 (1978) remains the only basis for the accession of Namibia to independence. It called upon member States to increase substantially their support and all forms of assistance to the liberation movements of Namibia and South Africa. It also expressed full solidarity with the front-line States and other neighbouring States for their support of the African National Congress of South Africa, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the South West Africa People's Organization.

12. The Fifth Islamic Summit Conference also strongly condemned the minority régime of South Africa for its apartheid policy and declared it to be the main obstacle to peace, security, stability and development in the region. The South African régime was condemned for the plundering of national resources of Namibia, including material resources, in flagrant violation of the provisions of Decree No. 1, for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, issued by the United Nations Council for Namibia. It called upon the Security Council to explore all ways and means that are available to it to accelerate the independence of Namibia.

13. Representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in the meetings of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the meetings of the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and the Special Committee against Apartheid, at their invitations.

B. Outer space

14. The Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat continued its co-operation with member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), particularly in implementing, for their benefit, the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 1/ The co-operation in 1986 included regional and international meetings under the auspices of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Division also carried out technical advisory missions in Iraq and Tunisia in 1986 on the basis of

reports submitted by them to the United Nations. Within the framework of the Programme on Space Applications, long-range fellowships are offered annually by member States and international organizations, and at present candidates from Democratic Yemen, Indonesia and the Syrian Arab Republic, are among the recipients in this Programme. Furthermore, member States of OIC nominated candidates for participation in the international training course and meeting of experts. These include participation of the OIC member States from Africa and Asia in the Eleventh United Nations/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) International Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications in Agricultural Statistics; the United Nations regional meeting of experts on space technology applications in the Indian Ocean region; and the United Nations/European Space Agency training course on drought assessment and vegetation monitoring.

C. Disarmament

15. As in the past, the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat continued its co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in particular by listing, as appropriate, under various disarmament agenda items of the General Assembly, resolutions adopted by the Organization, which with other resolutions, appear in official documents of the United Nations. The Department is ready to extend to the Organization, at its request, any assistance aimed at enhancing its activities in the disarmament field.

IV. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

16. During the period under review, a close co-operative relationship continued between various organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. As of now, eight organs and organizations of the United Nations system have concluded formal agreements and memoranda of co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Several organizations have expressed keen interest in establishing co-operative relationships with OIC. Many resolutions adopted at the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference reflected support of the Islamic countries for the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

17. In the context of its research and studies on various economic issues, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat develops national econometric models for the analysis of economic outlook and the evolution of economic policy of particular countries within the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

18. In the World Economic Survey that it issues annually, the Department also reports on international economic developments of importance to Member States,

including those of OIC. As in the past, the Department is ready to co-operate with OIC in the preparation of studies in specific areas.

19. In the area of statistics, the Department exchanges on a regular basis with the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries of OIC information on the development of socio-economic statistics and indicators.

20. Relating to population issues, the Department has prepared, at the request of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, tables on the population policy of member States of OIC with respect to current rates of population growth, fertility rates, levels of mortality and morbidity, international immigration, internal migration etc. (detailed statistics are available at the United Nations Secretariat).

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

21. The Department of Technical Co-operation for the Development of the United Nations Secretariat is following up the recommendations of the second general meeting with the secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with respect to consolidating and strengthening co-operation in the priority areas previously agreed upon, namely, the development of science and technology, investment mechanisms and joint ventures, and technical co-operation among Islamic countries in connection with the ongoing activities of the Department.

22. The Department is currently preparing energy studies in Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives and Pakistan, and helping to install computer systems and provide technical training in all the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Department is also providing institutional support to a number of national research and technical institutes located in the countries of the members of OIC.

23. In seeking to promote technical co-operation among Islamic countries, the Department utilized 180 experts from Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda; and, in 1986, the Department made arrangements to provide 275 fellowships in Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, the Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the Sudan, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates. The Department is interested in expanding its roster of experts from developing countries and in obtaining information on training opportunities in developing countries. In this connection, it has appreciated the information concerning training courses provided by the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), and hopes that the long planned seminar on small-scale mining will take place in 1988.

24. The Department continues actively to promote follow-up investment for its projects (last year the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported \$2.3 billion of investment commitment related to the projects of the Department) and is co-operating with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the designated lead agency, to develop investment mechanisms and joint venture arrangements in the countries of OIC. The Department is interested in UNIDO's proposals for establishing a post-university training institution, under the auspices of the Islamic Development Bank, to identify and appraise investment projects, for preparing an inventory of consultancy capabilities in Islamic countries, and for studying the role of development finance institutions and Islamic banks in the formulation and promotion of joint ventures. For its part the Department will continue to assist OIC member States in identifying priority economic sectors and sub-sectors in connection with national development plans and in promoting national resources development, through the preparation of technical and economic studies, and in assisting in negotiations with potential investors.

25. Information on specific activities of the Department in OIC member States is available to the Organization of the Islamic Conference upon request. The Department looks forward to closer collaboration with the Organization in order to promote technical co-operation among the Islamic States and accelerate the economic development of the member States.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

26. Since 1963, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has provided active support to the Islamic Trade Development Centre (ITDC), one of the operational organs of OIC. The support consisted of technical assistance missions, provision of data on trade control measures, special statistical compilation, technical notes and major contributions to monographic publications.

27. In November 1984, under the auspices of UNCTAD/ITDC, a seminar on the global system of trade preferences was organized; resource persons and technical background papers were provided by UNCTAD. In addition, two resource persons were made available for the meetings of the Islamic Conference on Economic Co-operation and Information, held at Izmir, Turkey, in September 1986.

28. The UNCTAD Advisory Service on Transfer of Technology has provided technical and operational assistance to some member countries of OIC. Under a project funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), a seminar was held at Jeddah, from 10 to 18 November 1986, for high-level governmental officials dealing with policy formulation and implementation. OIC will be invited to a seminar for the Arab least developed countries (Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen), which is scheduled to take place in early 1988. The objective of the seminar is to strengthen the government ministries and departments concerned and to develop a package of programmes, policies and measures in order to promote exports and rationalize imports.

29. In the area of shipping, under the aegis of the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) requested the UNCTAD secretariat to

undertake a study that would identify the commercial potential for greater maritime co-operation among OIC member countries. Further to this request, a draft project proposal was prepared that is currently under consideration by IRTI.

30. As the scope of the initial requested study is extremely comprehensive, it was suggested that a first phase could already be launched that would consist of a desk study that would make use of readily available information and data from the United Nations system. This would be an important first step that could be followed up by further work.

31. The basic terms of reference for the study are to determine for each country the size and composition of the national fleet and the demand for maritime transport generated by the foreign trade of the countries concerned, as well as the degree of participation of the national fleet in different trades. Particular attention will be given to intra-OIC trades.

32. The UNCTAD secretariat has suggested that the following countries should be included in this study: Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. It would cover the entire shipping sector: tanker, dry bulk carriers and liner trade (including containerships), taking into consideration the following: existing availability of national ships; patterns of trade; degrees of participation of national and OIC shipping; likely future development of OIC fleets, trades and relevant participation in same; relevant institutional, shipping regulatory and political factors and, finally, cost and freight (revenue) factors.

33. It should be added that OIC, IDB and IRTI will certainly be interested in the follow-up to the programme of action on co-operation among developing countries in the area of shipping, ports and multimodal transport, which the ad hoc intergovernmental meeting of senior officials will consider during the meeting to be held at Geneva from 21 to 25 September 1987.

D. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

34. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues its policy of close co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference by maintaining frequent contact through regular visits and by an exchange of information of mutual interest.

35. In line with this policy, a UNHCR delegation led by the High Commissioner attended the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference in Kuwait.

36. An agreement of co-operation between the two organizations was finalized in July 1986, and might be signed before the end of 1987.

37. UNHCR continues to act as a focal point of the United Nations system for matters related to assistance to refugees.

F. World Food Programme

38. The co-operative relationship between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference remained the same as it was described in 1986 in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-first session (see A/41/532, sect. V, L).
39. WFP attended the second general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at Geneva from 28 to 30 July 1986. On that occasion, it held discussions with the staff and the delegation of OIC, and had the opportunity to draw their attention to the possibility of co-operation in the field of emergencies and humanitarian assistance, including collaboration with Islamic non-governmental organizations. WFP reiterated that it would respond positively to any action for co-operation.
40. Detailed statistics of WFP food aid to member countries of the OIC as at 31 December 1986 are available at the WFP secretariat.
41. The Programme would welcome any action taken by the United Nations system and OIC to promote concrete co-operation between the two parties.

F. International Labour Organisation

42. The relations between ILO and OIC date from 1980. Two experts from the OIC secretariat came to the Social Security Department of ILO for information on social security conventions existing in Islamic countries. Following this, ILO received a letter from OIC, asking for technical assistance in the preparation of a standard convention for Islamic countries. ILO duly replied, and a standard bilateral convention was sent to OIC.
43. ILO has participated in several experts' meetings organized by OIC, including, the experts' meeting at Ankara on the exchange of manpower and social security agreements and the meeting at Kuala Lumpur devoted to the same subject.
44. ILO will give its technical aid for a follow-up to this question, since OIC could play an important role in the conclusion for social security conventions between countries of emigration and immigration members of OIC, as well as to promote the ratification by them of ILO Conventions (Nos. 19, 118 and 157) concerning equality of treatment and the maintenance of rights in social security.
45. In the manpower and labour market fields, several consultations were held by the Director of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research Training Centre for Islamic Countries (Ankara). At a subsequent meeting held at the Centre, two ILO officials participated and presented a paper on statistical requirements and planning needs.

46. In the vocational training field, various inquiries were made and visits paid to the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research of OIC at Dhaka, Bangladesh. When the ILO Regional Adviser on Vocational Training visited the Centre, it was expected that there might be a possibility for collaboration with it when it became fully operational by the end of 1986.

47. During the past few years, there were various contacts between the ILO Bureau of Statistics and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research Training Centre for Islamic Countries. At the request of the Director of the Centre, ILO contributed to the preparation of the agenda of the second meeting of the Heads of National Statistics Organizations of the OIC member States and participated at the meeting, presenting a paper on the availability, timeliness and accuracy of statistics in Islamic countries. At the country level, the ILO Bureau of Statistics, through its regional adviser on household surveys based in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), assisted in several OIC member countries in establishing or developing their capability in labour force and related surveys. Of course, for the future, this type of co-operation could be strengthened and extended to human resources, development and employment fields with particular emphasis on youth employment. Otherwise, various contacts had been made through the ILO office in Kuwait.

48. The major fields of current ILO assistance in OIC member countries are vocational training (15 countries), employment and manpower planning (seven countries), co-operative promotion and development (six countries), management training and small enterprise development (six countries), small and cottage industries (five countries), population and family welfare (four countries), hotel and tourism training (three countries), working conditions (three countries), trade promotion (including labour export) (two countries), refugees (two countries), gainful activities for women (one country), and social security (two countries).

49. In addition to these country projects, OIC member countries are also being assisted through regional projects. ILO has sent a letter to the OIC secretariat at Jeddah requesting it to identify possible activities for co-operation. Co-operation has been taking place in the following fields: manpower and labour market; vocational training and social security; and social security.

50. In regard to social security, the office has participated in the Expert Meeting on Labour and Social Security and has provided ILO documentation and material for the Ankara Centre of OIC. It is expected that ILO would be invited to the next expert meeting.

51. ILO took part in the second general meeting between the United Nations and OIC, held at Geneva in July 1986.

52. There is considerable potential for increased co-operation between ILO and member countries of OIC, which can be facilitated and strengthened by a systematic collaboration with the OIC secretariat.

G. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

53. FAO continues to co-operate very closely with the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Some of the highlights of the activities covering this co-operation, for the period of one year from March 1986, are given below.

Meetings and documentation

Islamic Summit Conference

54. A senior officer from FAO attended the Fifth Islamic Conference of Heads of State or Government, held at Kuwait from 26 to 29 January 1987. The co-operation between FAO and OIC was summarized in a document entitled "Report and related documents of the second session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), Istanbul, 14-16 March 1986". This document was presented to the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference by the President of Turkey and was subsequently adopted at that Conference. The Summit Conference also took note of the invitation of the Government of Pakistan to host the third meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. This meeting is likely to take place in Pakistan during the second half of 1988. FAO has been requested to assist in the preparation of this third ministerial meeting.

Islamic Development Bank

55. A delegation from the Islamic Development Bank visited FAO headquarters on 17 and 18 December 1986. During the course of the various meetings, the delegation was briefed on the structure, functions and priority programmes of FAO. Similarly, the policies and structures of the Bank were also outlined. The necessity for further co-operation between the two organizations and the development of practical arrangements for co-operation were stressed.

56. It was also agreed that at least one annual meeting and mid-term review meeting would be held by the two organizations each year. The delegation from the Islamic Development Bank invited FAO to the next meeting of the Governing Board of the Bank, which will take place in the second half of March 1987 in Turkey.

57. It was suggested that the network of FAO representatives should be fully involved in the identification of the projects of the Islamic Development Bank; they should also brief the missions of the Bank that would be visiting the countries concerned. After reviewing a number of proposals, it was agreed that FAO would be requested to submit to the Bank detailed documents and further information required on selected proposals.

Project analysis

58. FAO contributed a lecturer to the seminar on project participation and evaluation in agriculture and rural development, held at Ankara from 13 October to 7 November 1986. It was sponsored by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC). The prime objective of the

seminar was to improve the capacity of the participants in formulation, evaluation and monitoring of agro-based and agro-related projects. Participants came from the following 13 Islamic countries: Bangladesh, Benin, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda.

Agricultural sector analysis

59. A technical co-operation project is under way for 1987 with the objective of strengthening the capacity in the institutions of the member countries of OIC in the field of training in agricultural sector and project analysis, as well as training of trainers from the OIC countries. The programme consists of reviewing basic socio-economic concepts, teaching methods and dissemination techniques. It is planned that 24 participants will attend the seminars.

Forestry

60. FAO and the Organization of the Islamic Conference have carried out the following activities in regard to forestry:

(a) With emphasis on facilitating the participation of Islamic countries in the international exchange of statistics on production and trade in forest products, a questionnaire has been issued in Arabic, English and French;

(b) In order to assist in the development of sound investment proposals in afforestation, fuelwood production and tree planting for conservation and production purposes, a guide to financial analysis of tree growing has also been published in Arabic;

(c) Requests for assistance under the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, which is a joint multi-donor approach to forest sector development in the tropics, co-ordinated by FAO, were received from seven OIC countries. In the Sudan, the activities of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan have reached the project identification stage. In Malaysia, preparation of the Plan is now well advanced. A sector review mission was fielded in Guinea in March 1987. For the other five countries, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Somalia, missions representing the Plan are under preparation. Several other countries have indicated interest in obtaining assistance through the Plan;

(d) FAO, as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Transnational Green Belt Project for North Africa, continued its technical support to this project and participated in the fourth session of this Committee;

(e) A first phase of a regional project on dune mapping, stabilization and afforestation was initiated. The project concerns 11 member countries of OIC, namely, Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen;

(f) A co-operative programme on forest arid land restoration and desertification control for the Maghreb and Near East countries was formulated and is being presented to the Governments for finalization.

Fisheries

61. The following regional activities were carried out as follow-up to the recommendations of the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development in the fields of small-scale fisheries development, aquaculture and marketing in which the Islamic countries were involved:

(a) The Mediterranean Aquaculture Development Project, funded by UNDP (1980-1986), provided technical assistance to several Arab-Islamic countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. The follow-up phase of this project has been proposed to the Italian Government for financing and is expected to start in 1988. UNDP is funding the bridging period during 1987;

(b) A subregional project for the development of fishery co-operatives in Democratic Yemen, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen will commence its activities during this year and will provide technical assistance and equipment for the strengthening of small-scale fishermen's co-operatives in these countries;

(c) Given below are the three FAO regional fishery bodies covering Islamic countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean that play an important role in co-ordinating efforts and enhancing co-operation between member countries in order to achieve better management of the resources and optimum development of the fisheries at the regional level:

- (i) Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey are members of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean;
- (ii) Bahrain, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are members of the Committee for the Development and Management of the Fishery Resources of the Gulfs of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC);
- (iii) Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan are members of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission; the first three are also members of the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal of the IOFC and of the Bay of Bengal Project: Development of small-scale fisheries.

Statistics

62. In regard to agricultural statistics, FAO has provided technical assistance to a number of member States of OIC, as follows:

(a) A draft manual for the collection of agricultural machinery inputs was prepared;

(b) The Near East Supplement to the 1990 World Census of Agriculture Programmes was prepared in draft form. This supplement will be published in both English and Arabic;

(c) A technical research paper on methods of the nomadic livestock enumeration in the Near East was prepared;

(d) A National Demonstration Centre on the 1990 World Census of Agriculture Programmes was organized at Ankara, during June and July 1986. It was organized in collaboration with OIC and the Turkish Central Statistical Office. Participants from 14 member countries of OIC attended the training course.

Co-operation between FAO and member countries of OIC
within the FAO/OIC co-operation framework

63. Within the framework of co-operation between FAO and OIC, FAO approved two technical co-operation projects for the Government of Bangladesh. These two projects are entitled "Flood control and flood protection in Islamic countries" and "Collaboration and co-ordination in research, training and technology in OIC countries". Consultants have been recruited and are carrying out investigations with member Governments concerned in these two areas. FAO will soon be receiving the draft report of these consultants, which, after clearance by FAO, will be forwarded to the Government of Bangladesh; in turn, the Government of Bangladesh is expected to send it to the secretariat of OIC at Jeddah for further action.

Information systems

64. The Organization of the Islamic Conference and FAO are currently involved in the following activities in regard to information systems:

(a) Thirty-two OIC member States participate in the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology and 30 in the Current Agricultural Research Information System. They all benefit from the system's outputs and services. The Arab participating centres have been invited to attend a technical consultation to be held at Baghdad in April 1987;

(b) FAO continued to provide assistance, on request, to strengthen national and regional agricultural documentation capacities. Missions by FAO staff and consultants were carried out in 14 countries, and training at headquarters or in the field was provided to nationals from 17 countries;

(c) Documentation projects are currently being executed in Cameroon, Democratic Yemen, Guinea, Lebanon and Sierra Leone and also for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) at Khartoum. Two projects in Niger and Turkey were completed in 1986.

H. United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Education

65. UNESCO co-operated with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in the following activities:

(a) A national literacy training course was held in Mauritania from 5 March to 1 April 1987, consultancy being paid by UNESCO;

(b) A national literacy training course is scheduled to take place at Islamabad, Pakistan, in August 1987.

Science

66. The UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Arab States maintains close co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Specialists from UNESCO have participated in the following meetings:

(a) The Committee on Science and Technology Co-operation participated in the OIC meeting, held at Istanbul from 19 to 21 November 1986;

(b) The ISESCO Symposium on the Application of Computers, held at Rabat from 5 to 19 January 1987.

Culture and communication

67. Co-operation between OIC and UNESCO has resulted in the preparation of a publication on different aspects of Islamic culture.

68. In this regard, the Drafting committee established by the Director-General of UNESCO to supervise the preparation of the publication has among its members one official designated by the Director-General upon the suggestion of OIC.

69. The subsidiary organizations of OIC are associated in the preparation of the publication. Thus, the Director-General of ISESCO is the co-director of volume VI of the publication entitled Islam in the Modern World. The Islamic Foundation for Science and Technology for Development is being consulted for the preparation of volume IV entitled Science and Islam.

General programmes and programme support

Office of Statistics

70. During the past year, the UNESCO Office of Statistics has supplied ISESCO, upon request, with two computer tapes containing statistical information for ISESCO member States, extracted from the UNESCO Statistical Data Bank. It is probable that up-dated data will be supplied at the appropriate time.

Office of the UNESCO press

71. UNESCO provides its publications free of cost to ISESCO and is willing to offer ISESCO its facilities to translate UNESCO publications, particularly those dealing with Islam, into the languages it chooses.

I. International Civil Aviation Organization

72. As reported previously, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) participated in the first meeting between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the organizations of the United Nations system. The Conference has been informed of ICAO readiness to co-operate, within its area of responsibility, with OIC and that ICAO co-operates with OIC member States. At the present time, ICAO is providing technical assistance to the following OIC States:

(a) Africa: Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda;

(b) Middle East: Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen;

(c) Asia and the Pacific: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives and Pakistan.

73. For its part, the Islamic Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs has adopted, at several consecutive sessions, a series of resolutions on strengthening the solidarity of their member countries in the control of unlawful interference with civil aviation. These resolutions have condemned acts of air piracy and have called upon the OIC member States to adhere to and meet their obligations under the relevant conventions on unlawful acts against civil aviation drawn up under the auspices of ICAO. These resolutions represent, of course, valuable support for the work of ICAO in the field of civil aviation security.

J. World Health Organization

74. The co-operation of the World Health Organization (WHO) with the Organization of the Islamic Conference is limited as far as direct contacts are concerned; however, WHO has maintained extensive co-operation in different health-related areas with several Muslim countries. These activities are summarized below.

I. Health-learning materials

75. Jordan, Morocco and the Sudan are sharing expertise, materials and experience in the development and production of teaching and learning materials for all categories of health staff. While Jordan is just beginning its project, the Sudan and Morocco have well-established projects that are in active production. The Sudan project will be the focal point - together with the Health Teaching and Learning Materials Clearing House at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, located at Alexandria - for a network of Arabic-speaking countries.

76. An inter-country meeting is planned for July 1987, which will bring together representatives from Jordan, Bahrain, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, in order to plan individual country projects as well as the development of an Arabic-speaking network.

2. Environmental health, water and sanitation

77. In connection with the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (proclaimed for the period 1981-1990 by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/18 of 10 November 1980), the WHO Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean Region requested, in October 1985, the WHO Regional Director to establish a decade advisory committee composed of senior representatives from among major technical water and sanitation sector agencies. During its meeting at Cyprus in September 1986, attended by the focal points for the Decade at the country level from 11 Islamic countries, the Committee recommended that a regional donors' consultation be held, involving financing as well as benefiting agencies from countries of the eastern Mediterranean region. WHO is at present discussing preliminary arrangements for the meeting with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the co-ordination secretariat for the Arab National and Regional Development Institution.

78. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean established in 1985 a Centre for Environmental Health Activities at Amman, Jordan. The general objective of the Centre is to support the Environmental Health Programme in the countries of the region and, in particular, to stimulate additional resources for environmental activities.

3. Essential drugs and vaccines

79. With the support of the WHO Programme on Essential Drugs and Vaccines, nearly all the member States of OIC have established a list of essential drugs to guide the purchasing and use of pharmaceutical products in their countries. Active programme and support activities are presently going on in 13 of the OIC member States to develop further these national programmes. Important action in this area refers to managerial questions (procurement, stocking, distribution), policy and legislative questions (national drug policies, formularies), training of medical and managerial health staff, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the essential approach to drugs in each country.

4. Collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

80. The Secretary-General of the Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in a joint meeting of the League of the Muslim World and WHO on Islamic rules governing foods of animal origin. The Secretary-General of the Academy is also a member of the Committee to Study

Stunning by Electric Shock, established by a resolution adopted at the Jeddah meeting. The Committee met at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Food Hygiene and Zoonoses from 30 June to 3 July 1986.

K. Universal Postal Union

81. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has taken the initiative in establishing relations with the Organization of the Islamic Conference by sending it documentation relating to postal development in the countries covered by that Organization and by requesting it to let UPU have all the documents of the Organization in return, in order to establish the basis for an exchange of information and specific proposals for active co-operation between the two organizations. So far, OIC has not reacted to the offer of co-operation by UPU.

L. International Monetary Fund

82. The International Monetary Fund has continued to devote particular attention to the interests of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its member countries. The existing close relations with the Islamic countries and their institutions, particularly the Islamic Development Bank, have been pursued in 1986 in terms of financial as well as technical assistance.

83. Among the issues of immediate concern to the Islamic world, the Fund has devoted particular attention to a subject within its specific area of competence, namely, Islamic banking. Following extensive research, the Fund published in March 1987 in its series of occasional papers, volume 49 entitled "Islamic Banking", authored by Zubair Iqbal and Abbas Mirakhor, which provides one of the most up-to-date scientific treatments of the subject.

84. Before its publication, the research paper upon which it was based was the subject in 1986 of extensive discussion by members of the Fund's Executive Board, meeting in a seminar format.

M. World Meteorological Organization

85. During the second general meeting between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, WMO briefed the representatives of OIC on the WMO activities and areas of possible co-operation. WMO is not currently involved in any specific direct bilateral co-operation with OIC.

N. International Maritime Organization

86. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has not so far had any activities in the context of bilateral co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It is, however, ready and willing to consider co-operation with OIC in areas within the competence of IMO and subject to the wishes or requests of OIC.

O. International Fund for Agricultural Development

87. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has continued during 1986 to accord due consideration to the promotion of co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference and to supporting the efforts of the Islamic countries that are members of both IFAD and OIC in order to eradicate hunger and poverty in their rural areas through the design and implementation of sustained agricultural and rural development projects and programmes.

88. In the light of the co-operation agreement signed between both organizations in 1983, which calls for consultation and exchange of information between IFAD and OIC in areas of mutual interest, specifically in improving the food production capacity of the Islamic countries, IFAD participated in the second general meeting between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. On this occasion, IFAD reaffirmed the importance it continuously attaches to fruitful and practical co-operation with OIC in tackling the food problems of the Islamic countries.

89. In this connection, it may be mentioned that, during 1986 IFAD approved 21 new projects with a total financial commitment of approximately \$US 157.5 million to be financed both from the resources of IFAD's regular programme and that of its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, which became effective in May 1986. Six of these projects with a financial commitment by IFAD of about \$US 49.6 million were for Islamic countries. Consequently, by the end of 1986, the total number of IFAD financed projects in Islamic countries since the Fund started operations in 1978 reached 78 in 29 Islamic countries for approximately \$US 1,019 million, representing 39 per cent of a total number of 198 projects and 43 per cent of the total loan amount of \$US 2,345 million. Out of these 78 projects, 59 amounted to about \$US 735 million, representing 76 per cent of the total number of projects, and 72 per cent of the total loan amount to these countries were provided at highly concessional terms, that is, at a 1 per cent service charge and a repayment period of 50 years, including a 10-year grace period.

90. The investment of IFAD in Islamic countries of about \$US 1,019 million helped mobilize an additional amount of \$US 1,569 million from other co-financers.

P. International Atomic Energy Agency

91. The Agency has no direct form of co-operation with OIC, that is to say, no formal bilateral agreement or memorandum of understanding, and, in view of this, it is not in a position to respond precisely to General Assembly resolution 41/3 of 16 October 1986.

92. At the same time, the Agency is providing technical assistance to its member States, 29 of which are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and is supporting programmes in priority areas of their interest in accordance with specific requests submitted by their Governments.

Notes

1/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2), para. 426.
