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INTRODUCTION

1. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) met at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 30 June 1971, at United Nations Headquarters, New York on 21 and 22 October 1971 and at the Headquarters of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, London, on 10 and 11 April 1972, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The executive heads, or their deputies, of all organizations and programmes of the United Nations system attended the sessions. 1/ At the conclusion of the October session, ACC paid tribute to U Thant upon his retirement after a period of ten years as Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chairman of ACC. The new Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, assumed the Chairmanship of ACC at the April session.

2. As the Second United Nations Development Decade gets under way, the world community has taken the initial steps to put into effect the new disciplines and approaches to international co-operation inherent in the International Development Strategy adopted by the General Assembly in 1970. It has also reached important decisions which are further broadening the scope of the activities of the United Nations system. To carry out effectively the tasks deriving from the Strategy will require a significant adjustments in the methods of work of many organizations and a strengthening of programmes and activities at a time when there is increasing concern about the need to reappraise budgetary and administrative policies.

3. The ACC is aware of the intrinsic value of the existence of a modern framework inherent in the Strategy in which concerted action for development can be given fuller practical expression. It similarly appreciates the positive and realistic goals embodied in recent intergovernmental decisions, such as those relating to the human environment, the sea-bed, etc., which are greatly extending the scope of

1/ The membership of ACC consists of the executive heads of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation (the ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the Chairman of ACC. In addition, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the executive heads of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the World Food Programme (joint United Nations/FAO programme) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) take part in the Committee's work as full members.

the activities of the United Nations system. It also reiterates its determination to enhance administrative and operational efficiency of the far-reaching programmes of member organizations. But ACC has concluded that the aims and objectives that Governments have set themselves in the strategy and in the other endeavours of international co-operation - which are closely linked to the Strategy in so far as they contain important developmental facets - cannot be achieved without the adoption, by the governing bodies and the administrations alike, of new approaches to co-ordination.

4. Indeed, it has become increasingly evident that to divorce co-ordination from substance is unrealistic. In some new fields it has been demonstrated that co-ordination can best be achieved when it is a built-in part of substantive activities at each stage of programme planning and implementation. The same applies to areas in which many organizations have long been carrying out interlocking activities.

5. Moreover, co-ordination can reach its optimum effectiveness only when all the organizations concerned are fully involved in the process. This involvement may be in technical assistance and investment concerns as well as in substantive activities. It is anticipated that the more active participation by all organizations in the co-ordination of operational activities at the technical level will help to give the work of ACC ever greater impact.

6. The ACC has devoted a considerable amount of time over the past year to planning how best to implement the provisions of the Economic and Social Council contained in its resolution 1643 (LI). Prior to the passage of that resolution, members had an opportunity at the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and ACC on 1 and 2 July 1971 ^{2/} to discuss with representatives of Member States the relationship which should exist between ACC and the Council and, in its widest context, the role of ACC within the institutional complexity of the United Nations system. The ACC has repeatedly stressed its willingness, as part of an evolving United Nations system, to carry out promptly any new requests the Council and the General Assembly may make of it. The provisions of the Council contained in its resolution 1643 (LI), as well as the forthright debate preceding the resolution's adoption, have crystallized the concerns of Member States and suggested how this might best be done. This is the first report which responds to one particular preoccupation of the Council, namely its desire for reporting along the lines suggested in that resolution. In response to the Council's wishes, much of this report consists of material drawn from reports of ACC subsidiary bodies. The sections on the Second United Nations Development Decade - natural resources; statistical activities; science and technology; marine science; human resources, education and training; population questions; action against drug abuse; public information

^{2/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3, paras. 720-731.

questions; administrative and financial questions; and evaluation - may be mentioned in this regard. Part I, A, below sets forth in considerable detail the Administrative Committee's understanding of how the provisions of resolution 1643 (LI) should be implemented.

7. In connexion with this question, ACC has carefully noted the debates in the Council aimed at strengthening its own role and enhancing its own methods of work. Indeed it would seem that the debate on the sphere of activities and competence of ACC was only one aspect of a widespread desire on the part of the members of the Council to devise improved procedures which would better equip the Council to perform its Charter responsibilities. In the preparation of this report, ACC has tried to respond to the wish of the Council that it should be confronted with less documentation, and that the documentation which it does receive should be action-oriented and concise. But, on the other hand, it is also faced with the requests of the Council in resolution 1643 (LI) that "the results of the work of its subsidiary bodies should be made available" and that "the necessary information and data" as well as information on the way the system operates should likewise be included. The ACC would accordingly welcome the reaction of the Council to its efforts to reconcile these two objectives.

8. As ACC reported last year, 3/ it is continuing to emphasize certain substantive fields which seem to offer attractive opportunities for concerted action through the setting up of functional groups whose meetings are attended personally by its members directly concerned. The first of those groups was the one on the green revolution, with respect to which ACC has already submitted a special report (E/5012 (Part II)). The ACC noted with appreciation the Council's response to that report in Council resolution 1645 (LI). Once the governing bodies of the agencies and other organizations concerned have reacted to it, ACC plans to consider what further steps might be taken and perhaps to submit a further consolidated report on the matter. The second functional group, that on the human environment, has naturally been very active during the period under review and its work is covered in part II, B, below. Finally, ACC wishes to inform the Economic and Social Council that it has set up another functional group - on employment policy in the Second United Nations Development Decade - to be convened by the Director-General of the ILO.

3/ Ibid., paras. 732-747.

I. GENERAL CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Sphere of activities and competence of ACC: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1643 (LI)

9. Following consideration of the provisions of Council resolution 1643 (LI) by ACC at its last two sessions, members acknowledged the importance of a positive and constructive response to the resolution on the part of all involved in activities of interagency co-operation. They believed that the systematic implementation of the resolution at all levels will enable ACC to be of greater assistance to the Council, through facilitating a more constructive dialogue and communication between the two bodies.

10. With those considerations in mind, ACC undertook a further review of the procedures and working methods of its subsidiary bodies in order to maximize their role of assisting ACC in the discharge of its complex task. It also re-examined its own procedures and working methods and those of its Preparatory Committee. The results of its review appear below under three headings: ACC reporting; ACC functions and methods of work; and prior consultations on work programmes.

2. ACC reporting

11. The Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, pointed out to the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination during the discussions prior to the passage of Council resolution 1643 (LI) that changes would certainly be made in ACC reports in order to achieve further improvements in response to the wishes expressed by delegations.

12. The eighth paragraph of the preamble of the resolution included, as one means of assisting the Council in its task of co-ordinating the activities of the system in the economic, social and related fields, the provision by ACC of "the necessary information and basic data". Paragraph 3 called for the annual submission by ACC of a concise report on the way in which the system operates, bringing out the problems solved, and, in addition, highlighting those unresolved for action at the intergovernmental level and making suggestions designed to facilitate the implementation by the organizations concerned of decisions taken by the Council in the field of co-ordination.

13. In response to those provisions, modifications are required both in the format and in the content of ACC annual reports. As regards format, ACC will endeavour to indicate more explicitly the relationship of the various sections of its annual reports to specific decisions or groups of related decisions of the various intergovernmental organs or, as appropriate, to specific items or groups of items to be taken up by those organs. As to content, the material might include the following:

(a) Such background information as would place the questions discussed in their proper context;

(b) The major issues raised for interagency co-operation by the relevant decisions or by the items about to be considered;

(c) Common positions reached on these matters, and progress made in giving effect to these understandings, including measures taken for "positive co-ordination";

(d) The difficulties encountered, including those stemming from "divergent decisions" by intergovernmental bodies, views thereon of individual organizations or groups of organizations, and an indication whether those problems may be the subject of further intersecretariat consultations, or whether they appear to call for further consideration and action by the legislative bodies concerned;

(e) In the latter event, suggestions and alternative courses of action.

14. A first effort has been made to reflect the above guidelines in the preparation of the present report. However, their full implementation will require adjustments in existing practices which can only be made gradually. In particular, further progress in highlighting difficulties encountered and divergent views of organizations, as suggested under (d) and (e) above, will necessitate additional changes in the reporting procedures of subsidiary bodies of ACC, which could not always be effected since these guidelines were worked out in October 1971. Meanwhile, ACC would welcome any further views of the Council on the subject, in the light of which it will continue its efforts to provide the type of information required to facilitate the tasks of the Council.

(a) Information on the work of subsidiary bodies of ACC

15. The Council, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1643 (LI) invited "the Committee to make available to the Council and the competent legislative bodies of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency the results of the work of its subsidiary bodies including ad hoc groups or panels or, where appropriate, brief summaries including the main topics and trends of discussions".

16. The ACC considered ways of implementing this provision, taking into account the wish of the Council to be kept informed of the results of the work being carried out by the subsidiary bodies of ACC, while not overburdening it with excessive documentation or an excess of routine or technical details. It is to be recalled that the reports of the subsidiary bodies of ACC have no independent standing except those portions and conclusions which have been reviewed and endorsed by ACC. In addition, the work of the bodies is often geared to providing information for the increasing number of reports requested of the Secretary-General in consultation with the agencies, which are submitted separately to the appropriate intergovernmental bodies. With these considerations in mind, ACC has endeavoured to meet this provision by providing extensive information on the work of its subsidiary organs in the body of its report, utilizing for this purpose material provided by those organs in their reporting to ACC. at the request of ACC, the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs, which is now regularly represented at these meetings, is endeavouring to assist these bodies in taking fully into account the needs and interests of the Council.

(b) In-depth studies by ACC on selected topics

17. The Council, in paragraph 4 of resolution 1643 (LI) called upon ACC to present annually to the Council a list of possible topics for in-depth consideration, with a system-wide coverage, and, once the list had been approved in principle by the Council, to present to the Council and, as appropriate, the competent legislative bodies of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency separate reports on each topic containing a concise and factual picture of the way in which the system as a whole operated, pointing out in particular any shortfalls or duplication and also the practical difficulties arising from the implementation of policies and programmes of work related to the topic in question.

18. The procedures envisaged in this paragraph will provide an additional opportunity for communication between ACC and the Council. ACC stresses the desirability of selecting topics on which concrete action can be taken by the Council, and in regard to which current developments would make it timely to work out an interagency approach. The Committee's proposals would take these criteria into account and reports on the topic chosen would be prepared in the interval between two summer sessions of the Council.

19. Two programme areas which seem at this time to meet the foregoing criteria are those dealing with natural resources and population. The ACC is aware that the Committee on Natural Resources has already recommended that the Council should invite the Secretary-General, in consultation with ACC, to prepare a report on the natural resources activities of the United Nations system. In the circumstances, the Council may like to consider whether it wishes to receive a further report on the matter, along the lines suggested in paragraph 4 of the resolution, and, if so, to work out a time-table for its consideration of the two proposed reports. Similarly ACC notes that a report by the Secretary-General is under preparation on the administration of population programmes financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activity, in implementation of General Assembly resolution 2815 (XXVI).

20. A review of the procedures envisaged in paragraph 4 of the resolution may be desirable in one or two years' time, in the light of the Council's evaluation at that time of the usefulness of the ACC studies in assisting it to carry out its co-ordination functions, and the Council's own experience in working out the practical arrangements required to deal satisfactorily with them.

* * *

21. The Council, in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of its resolution 1643 (LI), called for information to be submitted not only to the Council but also to the competent legislative bodies of the specialized agencies and IAEA. It is already the practice of some organizations to submit the reports of ACC, or reports on relevant parts thereof, to the competent governing organs, which often serve as a basis for action by those bodies in fields in which concerted action is necessary. This practice will be developed, taking into account the structure and procedures of each of the organizations concerned.

2. ACC functions and methods of work

22. The Council, in its resolution 1643 (LI), noted that ACC could, inter alia, effectively assist the Council... by serving as a clearing-house for matters that could more effectively be dealt with on a system-wide basis, by providing a suitable forum for consultations at the secretariat level on work programmes and by performing such other tasks as might be specifically entrusted to it by the Council. The Council further invited ACC "to maintain under constant review measures to be suggested to the Economic and Social Council, in order to ensure the fullest and most effective implementation of the agreements entered into between the United Nations, the specialized agencies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency".

23. Those provisions do not involve any specific new task for ACC, as they broadly reflect the types of activity that ACC normally discharges. However, they underline the need for ACC to indicate more explicitly the basic reasons why it is reporting on this or that particular question.

24. The Council also noted "that suggestions by various secretariats and secretariat bodies on possible courses of action would assist the competent intergovernmental bodies in exercising their decision-making role" and called upon the Committee, when it submitted suggestions and studies, to state options and alternative courses of action in order to facilitate the decision-making role of the appropriate legislative organs.

25. The ACC plans to avail itself from time to time of this opportunity to present its views on alternative courses of action open to the appropriate legislative bodies. The ACC, on such occasions, intends to report on various options it feels are open for legislative decision, and in doing so to reflect any differing views which may be held by members of ACC.

26. The Council, in paragraph 8 of its resolution called upon ACC to ensure, where appropriate, close control over all interagency meetings held for purposes of consultation and co-ordination.

27. That provision reiterated a request addressed to ACC by the Council in paragraph 6 of its resolution 1549 (XLIX). In pursuance of that resolution, ACC, in October 1970, confirmed its long-standing instruction that authority for all meetings of ACC subsidiary bodies and ad hoc interagency meetings should be given by ACC or by the Preparatory Committee on its behalf. In exceptional cases, when there is no opportunity for ACC or the Preparatory Committee to be consulted on the holding of an urgent meeting, or when it is necessary to change the place or date of a meeting already authorized, the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs has been empowered to act on behalf of ACC.

28. The ACC has made efforts to keep the number of meetings of its subsidiary bodies to a minimum. Before the holding of any such meeting is authorized, the subsidiary bodies which propose further meetings must submit a detailed justification, with special reference to the need to respond to specific requests

of the intergovernmental organs concerned. Whenever possible, direct consultations replace formal meetings. Moreover, the need to keep the cost of these meetings to a minimum is taken into account in the choice of both their place and timing; for example, arrangements are made for certain meetings to be held consecutively, or in conjunction with meetings of intergovernmental organs at which organizations are normally represented, or when they can be combined with other travel on official business.

29. With regard to the procedures for the notification of interagency meetings to the members of the Council, as required by the Council in paragraph 9 of its resolution 1643 (LI), ACC has agreed that the necessary arrangements would be the responsibility of the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs. Following the October 1971 session of ACC, the Office has issued periodic notifications as schedules were approved (see E/INF/119 and Add.1).

30. The ACC noted that the provision of the Council in paragraph 10 of its resolution 1643 (LI), concerning the possible association of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut with the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its Preparatory Committee, was addressed to the Secretary-General rather than ACC. In pursuance of that provision, the Secretary-General intends, on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, to establish when the presence of those officials at ACC meetings would be useful and, in such cases, to arrange for their attendance. Members of ACC will co-operate in suggesting items on the ACC agenda for the discussion of which the presence of the executive secretaries would be desirable.

31. Continuing efforts are also being made to ensure the representation of the regional economic commissions at meetings of the subsidiary bodies of ACC dealing with programme questions of direct concern to them.

32. The Council, in paragraph 2 of the resolution, requested ACC "to give priority to the study of uniform and co-ordinated methods which would enable the United Nations system to achieve greater productivity and efficiency through economies of scale and related advantages".

33. Bearing in mind the fact that the most efficient use of resources in areas where organizations have closely related activities requires the positive co-operation of all parties and organizations concerned within the system, ACC will seek to identify the programme and administrative areas where "greater productivity and efficiency" could be achieved.

3. Prior consultations on work programmes

34. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 1643 (LI), the Economic and Social Council also requested ACC to "continue to make the necessary arrangements for prior consultations among interested secretariats of the United Nations system before proposals on draft programmes are presented to the legislative bodies and also

before changes are made in the execution of approved programmes, keeping the Council informed on developments by means of periodic reports".

35. The ACC considers that the attempts to devise more satisfactory arrangements for prior consultations on detailed short-term "programmes and budgets" for the year or biennium immediately ahead have proved useful in ensuring the avoidance of duplication or overlapping. Moreover, the process of prior consultation is utilized not solely for these purposes, but also to identify areas in which joint or concerted action would be appropriate or where action by one organization could usefully complement that of another.

36. In some cases, organizations have also begun to submit medium-term programmes covering longer periods for comment. Because of the interrelationship between medium-term and short-term programmes, the opportunities for improving co-ordination have been enhanced thereby, since the exchange and study of future programmes enables each organization concerned to enter into a dialogue with other organizations on their proposed activities in related areas, and, the comments and suggestions of other organizations can more easily be taken into account. On the initiative of UNESCO, methods of carrying out this new approach were discussed at two meetings on pre-programming, convened successively at Paris and New York, which were attended by programme staff from several organizations.

37. The ACC considers that the foregoing efforts have been worthwhile and will continue to keep under review the functioning of the process of prior consultations among the organizations of the system and intends to report on these matters more fully in its next report, by which time it should be easier to evaluate the over-all effectiveness of the procedures concerned.

B. Questions relating to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the organizations of the United Nations system

38. In pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 2704 (XXV), 2874 (XXVI), and other relevant resolutions, and of the relevant resolutions of the agencies' governing bodies, the members of the United Nations system have increased their activities in the field of decolonization, particularly regarding the provision of assistance to refugees, and the working out, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), of concrete programmes of assistance to the peoples of the colonial territories in Africa.

39. Following a UNESCO/UNDP mission to Africa, the UNDP Governing Council at its recent thirteenth session allocated \$353,600 to a project of educational assistance to peoples from the above-mentioned territories presently residing in the United Republic of Tanzania, Guinea and Zambia. The project involves strengthening existing schools and institutions in the three countries in primary-teacher education, secondary education and secondary technical education, as well as a programme of fellowships for technician training.

40. The FAO and the World Food Programme sent a mission to Africa in September 1971 and its recommendations (FAO document CL.57/8), which include assistance to refugees in agricultural training as well as food aid, were approved by the FAO Conference in its resolution 8/71. The mission, inter alia, stressed that the most effective way of assisting refugees in agricultural training was to co-operate with and strengthen existing training facilities. It recommended that FAO consult with UNESCO, which is planning to set up two teacher-training institutes for the refugees, in order to consider the possibility of providing multidisciplinary types of education which would include agricultural components.

41. The Director-General of WHO, in pursuance of a decision of the World Health Assembly, also recently sent a representative to Addis Ababa to consult with OAU on the contribution that WHO might make in the health field in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2704 (XXV), and presented a report on the question to the WHO Executive Board (WHO document EB.49/20/Add.1). At its forty-ninth session, in January 1972, the Executive Board concurred with the Director-General's recommendations and requested him to enter into consultations with OAU and the host Governments concerned on detailed programmes of health assistance to the populations helped by the national liberation movements recognized by OAU (WHO document EB.49/R.45). The Director-General's recommendations included the provision of training of health workers, particularly middle-level and auxiliary health personnel, and the strengthening of existing training institutes in host countries; the provision of personnel for teaching and rehabilitation services; and the provision of fellowships and teaching seminars.

42. An agreement for mutual co-operation is shortly to be concluded between UNDP and OAU, proposals for which were approved by the Governing Council at its thirteenth session (DP/L.214). Under the agreement, projects are envisaged involving assistance, such as the provision of educational facilities for persons displaced from African territories under colonial rule or subject to racial discrimination. It is also envisaged that there will be projects which will have to emanate from OAU and be sponsored by the Governments concerned that will involve intercountry, subregional and regional co-operation.

43. Further steps are being taken by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, to stimulate contributions to that Programme. As a result of the consultations held on behalf of the Secretary-General with OAU, steps are also being taken to strengthen co-operation between the Programme and the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of Refugees; it is understood that this Bureau could play a complementary role by assisting in finding employment for persons completing their studies under the Programme. Furthermore, the Secretary-General would be prepared to consider, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the granting of subventions, as appropriate and subject to the availability of funds, for the purpose of education and training assistance which could benefit the peoples in the territories concerned. The Secretary-General also proposes to continue his consultations with the agencies with a view to closer co-operation in this field.

44. Mention may also be made of the implementation of the agreement reached on the division of functions between the High Commissioner for Refugees and UNETPSA whereby the High Commissioner would provide education and training assistance to refugees eligible under UNETPSA while the Programme itself would assist eligible persons to obtain education at the higher levels. There have been, in addition, contacts between the Programme and the various organizations concerned with a view to enhancing their co-operation in this field.

45. The High Commissioner has also continued to lend assistance to some 500,000 refugees from colonial territories. An amount of approximately \$US 1, 300,000 has been committed in 1972, essentially to promote rural settlement and provide medical and educational facilities. The establishment of counselling services has been promoted in a number of urban areas in Africa so as to help solve, in co-operation with the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of Refugees, the problems of an increasing number of individuals who seek employment. Close working relations were maintained with other members of the United Nations system including UNICEF, UNDP, the World Food Programme, the ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO.

* * *

46. It will be recalled that ACC agreed last year that a co-ordinated plan of action for the education and training of the peoples concerned under resolutions 2705 (XXV) and 2706 (XXV) and other relevant resolutions was essential. The arrangements for this were referred to the Sub-Committee on Human Resources, Education and Training which, at a meeting held in June 1971, concluded that there was no problem of overlapping or duplication so far as the United Nations Educational and Training Programme in Southern Africa was concerned and that consultations should continue to be held between the Programme and the agencies concerned, particularly UNHCR, the ILO, UNESCO and WHO. In the same context the Sub-Committee recognized the need for the mutual exchange of information on a regular basis. Further consultations will be held, as appropriate, among the organizations of the system concerned and an ad hoc meeting will be convened, at an appropriate time, with OAU participating, to consider arrangements for closer co-operation, preferably on the basis of concrete proposals for multidisciplinary action.

47. The ACC suggested last year that the flow of assistance to refugees could be further expanded if, in active co-operation with OAU, the Governments of the countries of residence were to assign a high priority to development projects carried out in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system which would be beneficial to the refugees.

48. The ACC wishes to underline this point again and to emphasize that if assistance to these refugees, which should include provision for their education, training and employment, is to be fully effective, it is desirable for them to have an adequate legal status in their country of reception; in particular they should be able to obtain residence and work permits from the Government concerned, as well as travel documents with an appropriate "return clause".

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. The Second United Nations Development Decade

Sub-Committee on the United Nations Development Decade

49. In its previous report (E/5012 (Part I)), ACC informed the Council that, in the light of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)), it had decided to revise the terms of reference of its Sub-Committee on the United Nations Development Decade in order effectively to serve the interagency needs arising out of the implementation of the International Development Strategy. In the period under review, and pending the adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of more detailed guidelines regarding review and appraisal of the Strategy, the Sub-Committee ^{4/} made preliminary arrangements for interagency consultations and co-operation at the technical level. In particular, agreements were reached to ensure, on a continuing basis, exchanges of the information and data which will be required by the various organizations of the system for the preparation of studies and reports on review and appraisal. The organizations also informed each other about current methods of work, particularly in connexion with the collection and analysis of technical data. In this context it was noted that considerable progress had been made in putting such data on computer tapes and discs and it was generally acknowledged that this would facilitate considerably the exchange of information. It was also agreed that these arrangements would be reviewed and strengthened in the light of new technological developments which were revolutionizing methods of data storage and use. It was reaffirmed that the underlying premise of such arrangements would be that the core of the information used in the preparation of reports on review and appraisal would be common to all the organizations with a view to avoiding duplication and overlapping of work.

50. A preliminary discussion was also held on the question of indicators for monitoring progress. It was generally felt that the list of indicators contained in the Secretary-General's report on review and appraisal (E/5040) provided a useful starting base for interagency co-operation in carrying out the work relating to over-all appraisals of progress, but from this broad area of agreement representatives of several organizations proceeded to make a series of comments and technical observations which helped to clarify a number of issues. Due note was also taken of the comments made on the subject within the Economic and Social Council. It was recognized that the list of indicators for sectoral appraisals would be more detailed than the corresponding sections of a list for over-all appraisals and it was agreed that, as and when appropriate, comments in writing on the present and future lists of indicators of progress for over-all and sectoral appraisals would be exchanged among the organizations responsible for work on such appraisals.

^{4/} The Sub-Committee last met in August 1971.

51. In connexion with its future work, the Sub-Committee agreed that there should be closer working relations between itself and the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities. In this connexion, the attention of the Council is drawn to the arrangements aimed at achieving proper co-operation between these two sub-committees, and with the Inter-Organization Board for information systems and related activities (IOB), which are described in chapter IV, C, below.

* * *

52. The Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-first session, 5/ and the General Assembly, at its twenty-sixth session (General Assembly resolution 2801 (XXVI)), adopted provisions which further defined the framework within which the review and appraisal exercises will be conducted. Both the Council and the Assembly had before them the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A system of over-all review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy" (E/5040). Of particular significance to interagency co-operation in this context were the decisions of the General Assembly which set out the mandate of the Committee for Development Planning, according to which the Committee, in the light of the purpose and scope of review and appraisal, will prepare, at the expert level, comments and recommendations relating to the over-all review and appraisal. The Assembly requested the competent secretariats at the sectoral and regional levels to co-operate with the Committee for Development Planning in the fulfilment of its task by collecting, processing and making available the necessary data and information, and invited the agencies "to integrate their review activities with the preparatory work for the over-all review and appraisal so as to avoid unnecessary duplication in this field".

53. The organizations of the system have taken due note of these provisions and look forward to increasing co-operation amongst themselves in the work relating to review and appraisal of progress in implementing the Strategy. To that end, and as a first step towards meeting the objectives laid down by the Council and the General Assembly, the organizations have supplied to the Committee for Development Planning information regarding the decisions adopted by their governing bodies in connexion with sectoral reviews and appraisals and on their current work in this area (E/AC.54/L.46). Representatives of the agencies also plan to follow closely the work of the Committee at its session at Geneva (10-21 April 1972) with a view to determining what additional arrangements are required.

54. The ACC decided that the Sub-Committee on the United Nations Development Decade should hold a session after the conclusion of the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on dates to be agreed upon in the light of consultations to be held during the session of the Committee for Development Planning. The purpose of the session of the Sub-Committee would be

5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3, chap. V.

to review existing arrangements relating to the implementation of the Strategy; to discuss the adjustments that may be required in the light of the aforementioned decision of the Assembly and of the relevant conclusions of the Committee for Development Planning; and to consider any other relevant matters, including, if necessary, questions concerning the lists of indicators, the relationship between over-all, sectoral, regional and national reviews and the assistance of international organizations to national reviews.

B. United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

55. The organizations of the United Nations system have actively participated and co-operated in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. For, inasmuch as the problems of the human environment are wide-embracing in nature and involve a complex range of international activities, the various organizations of the system deal with a number of subjects of direct and indirect relevance to the topics included in the agenda of the Conference. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference and the Secretary-General of the Conference have accordingly drawn upon the experience and expertise of the organizations in the preparation of the documents and in the formulation of the substantive proposals to be considered at Stockholm. The organizations have also co-operated in the work of, and provided substantive assistance to, the intergovernmental groups set up upon the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee to consider special problems, notably soils, marine pollution and conservation. Representatives of the agencies participated in the regional seminars held under the auspices of the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, and in the work of a number of formal and informal meetings convened for the purpose of holding technical consultations regarding specific issues.

56. The original arrangements regarding co-operation and co-ordination of the activities of the agencies relating to the preparatory work for the Conference at Stockholm, were made within the ACC Ad Hoc Group on the Human Environment, which was set up for that purpose. After some initial difficulties, mainly of an administrative and logistical character, a flexible method of interagency co-operation, based upon periodic multilateral and bilateral consultations, was gradually evolved, thus enabling each of the agencies to render assistance in its respective field to the preparatory process. These arrangements greatly facilitated the work of the secretariat of the Conference in the preparation of substantive papers for the Conference.

57. In the early stages of the preparations for the Conference, it was felt that one important contribution by the organizations to the deliberations of the Conference, particularly in connexion with the consideration of the international organizational implications of action proposals, would be the submission of a comprehensive statement on the current and planned activities of the United Nations system in the field of the human environment. The ACC accordingly agreed, on the basis of discussions between the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Secretary-General of WMO, who acted as its convenor, that the Functional Group on the Human Environment should concentrate on the preparation of a report

which would include a survey of the present activities of the agencies, including co-ordination arrangements amongst them, and a joint statement of the agencies' views about their future activities in this field. It was further agreed that WMO would act as the focal point for the preparation of the report, which would be considered by the Conference under the agenda item entitled "International organizational implications of action proposals". The Functional Group held several meetings and set up a technical working group in order to fulfil the task assigned to it. It submitted the final text of the consolidated statement to ACC at its October 1971 session, at which time ACC approved the text of the document and decided to submit it to the Conference. ^{6/} At the request of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and with the concurrence of ACC, the Functional Group also prepared a concise summary of the consolidated document which was submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session (A/CONF.48/PC/15/Add.2).

58. The consolidated document contains two main chapters and two annexes. Chapter I provides information on the current activities of the United Nations system relating to the human environment arranged in accordance with the main agenda items of the Conference. There is an additional section on relevant multidisciplinary action within the United Nations system. Chapter II analyses the programmes of the United Nations family in relation to the main functions that appear necessary in dealing with the human environment, such as the collection and exchange of information, monitoring and surveillance; research; the establishment of scientific criteria, of policy guidelines and standards and of institutions; the formulation of regional and international agreements; the development of technology; education and training; and funding. The chapter outlines the approach taken, what is being done, and what is in an advanced stage of planning by the different organizations in each of these functional areas. The annexes to the consolidated document provide a brief outline of the relevant work of each member of the United Nations family (annex I) and contain a detailed compilation of their activities in relation to the agenda of the Conference at Stockholm (annex II). In the light of the conclusions of the consolidated document, ACC has submitted to the Conference, in summary, the following considerations:

(a) The organizations of the United Nations system have constitutional responsibilities in large areas of the human environment;

(b) They are undertaking and planning a wide range of activities concerned with the human environment;

(c) The United Nations system has focused primarily on development. In many cases, environmental issues are facets of development, and the two should not be separated either in concept or in practice;

^{6/} The full text of the document may be found in Conference document A/CONF.48/12.

(d) There are important issues which are not at present covered, or are not covered adequately. In particular, there is a need for an integrated approach to many questions of the environment;

(e) The United Nations system of organizations has been built up essentially on a sectoral pattern. Through ACC it has machinery and arrangements for intersecretariat co-ordination and co-operation, developed and tempered over the past quarter century. The ACC not only provides facilities for co-ordination of sectoral activities, but provides an intersecretariat framework for an integrated and coherent approach to large general problems;

(f) A multidisciplinary, international approach to environmental questions depends essentially on the political will and decisions of Member States;

(g) The United Nations system has institutions, experience and machinery which can be adapted to new tasks and needs. These are at the service of the world community to carry out any intergovernmental decisions resulting from the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

C. Natural resources

59. The ACC reports below on two topics: the work of its Sub-Committee on Water Resources Development which met in February 1972, and its consideration of certain questions arising from the relevant decisions of the Committee on Natural Resources.

(a) Sub-Committee on Water Resources Development

60. Water resources is an area in which the activities of the various organizations of the United Nations system need to be carefully co-ordinated. Many organizations are involved in differing, but closely related, activities in this field. The Sub-Committee discussed many matters, including arrangements for its annual report on water resources development, as well as interagency co-operation in such fields as hydrology; hydrogeology; water resources policy, planning, administration and law; irrigation and drainage; water disposal and pollution; and desalination. Organizations also exchanged information on the problems they had had in recruiting qualified persons in these highly technical fields.

61. The Sub-Committee considered the long-term programme of international co-operation in hydrology proposed by the UNESCO Co-ordinating Council of the International Hydrological Decade, at its meeting in 1971, with a view to establishing the ways by which the various organizations of the United Nations system could co-operate in the implementation of this programme. The Sub-Committee agreed that this programme should be regarded as an international co-operative programme of an interagency nature and agreed on desirable divisions of responsibility in the implementation of the programme itself. The Sub-Committee

noted that no single agency or body should assume over-all responsibility for the execution or supervision of the whole programme. It was understood that the General Conference of UNESCO, on the basis of its Director-General's proposals and following upon the recommendations of the Governing Council, would delineate its own programme in accordance with its specific competence and would take appropriate organizational measures for its execution. Co-ordination between agencies would continue to be achieved through the Sub-Committee. Bilateral arrangements between secretariats in order to harmonize implementation of their respective hydrological programmes should also be encouraged. It was also agreed that agencies should ensure that those portions of the long-term programme for which they were considered to be primarily responsible should be included within their respective programmes of work; and that the primary responsibilities of other agencies should be noted so as to minimize overlap and avoid duplication. Whenever a primary responsibility could not be clearly established, possible duplication of efforts should be avoided by consultation. The Sub-Committee noted that the conclusion of a bilateral agreement between UNESCO and WMO was under consideration.

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62. The ACC endorsed these arrangements in the field of hydrology.

(b) Questions arising from decisions of the Committee on Natural Resources

63. The attention of ACC was drawn to the recommendations of interagency interest contained in the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its second session 7/ to be considered by the Council at its fifty-second session.

64. The ACC noted that the Economic and Social Council was requested to invite the Secretary-General:

(a) To draw up a concise report covering the work programme and sphere of competence of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in the natural resources field, together with the views of those organizations and agencies on the most rational division of responsibilities between them in those fields;

(b) To draw up, in consultation with ACC, proposals as to the most advisable measures to co-ordinate programmes of the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in the fields of water, mineral and energy resources.

65. The ACC noted that, should the Economic and Social Council approve the relevant recommendations of the Committee on Natural Resources, the Secretary-General would prepare and circulate to the agencies and organizations of the

United Nations system an outline of the report as soon as possible. The members of the system would then be invited to send their contributions and comments for incorporation in the preliminary draft of the report. It was envisaged that a further exchange of views and continuing consultations would follow, including the possible convening of an ad hoc interagency meeting, so that the Council would have the benefit of the fullest possible information for its consideration of the report.

66. The ACC noted that the Committee on Natural Resources approved in principle the holding of a United Nations water conference in 1975 or shortly thereafter; if the Council approved that proposal the ACC would, of course, be ready to co-operate in the preparations for the proposed conference.

D. Statistical activities

67. The need for a co-ordinated and integrated system of statistical activities has been a major concern of the Statistical Commission and the Economic and Social Council, particularly as a means of obtaining reliable and complete statistical data for socio-economic analysis for the monitoring of progress achieved under the Second United Nations Development Decade. Areas singled out by these bodies as requiring concerted efforts in respect of co-ordination include: 8/

(a) The preparation of integrated long-term programmes of statistical activities;

(b) The development of an integrated scheme of technical assistance;

(c) The co-ordinated use of computers, including, in particular, data banks of economic and social statistics and the development of information systems.

Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities

68. The Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities met in February 1972 to consider the following questions.

(a) Integrated long-term programmes of statistical activities

69. The Sub-Committee agreed to the preparation of a further five-year programme of statistics covering the years 1973-1977. It noted that the joint document

8/ See Economic and Social Council resolutions 1306 (XLIV) and 1566 (L) and Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 2, paras. 50-79 and resolutions 1 (XVI) to 3 (XVI).

submitted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to the Statistical Commission at its sixteenth session, 9/ which contained the five-year plan of statistical activities of the United Nations system in respect of 1971-1975, had been very well received by the Commission, as well as by CPC and the Economic and Social Council. The 1973-1977 programme would identify a number of major statistical policy alternatives for use in the planning of international statistical activities, and would include statements on (a) the purpose, (b) the timing, and (c) the resources required for each project listed.

70. The Sub-Committee also reviewed the work being carried out for the preparation of an integrated system of demographic, manpower and social statistics. A revised version of the system, covering the areas of responsibility of the United Nations, the ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO, was being finalized with the assistance of the Sub-Committee, taking into account comments received on the subject from national and international producers and users of demographic and social statistics.

71. The Sub-Committee recommended that efforts be made to gather, compile and interpret statistical data specifically relating to children and youth. Organizations represented in the Sub-Committee carrying out substantive programmes in those fields expressed particular interest for the project outlined in that connexion by UNICEF.

72. The Sub-Committee also reviewed the progress made in the preparation of a directory of international statistics, which would be of considerable assistance to the Statistical Commission in its work on co-ordination and integration of statistical activities. Consideration was being given to including in the directory descriptions of the statistical services of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (CMEA), The European Economic Community (EEC) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) and of the statistical series and standards they use.

(b) Technical assistance

73. The Sub-Committee had before it and reviewed a draft of the Secretary-General's report to the Economic and Social Council on technical assistance in statistics provided by the United Nations system. The report was prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1566 (L) and the International Development Strategy and summarized past trends and future directions in technical co-operation, and the proposed action to which they lead. The report also suggested steps which the Economic and Social Council might wish to take to intensify current efforts to assist developing countries in improving their statistical services, with a view to meeting the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

9/ Ibid., chap. IV, section A.

74. In addition to reviewing the report, the Sub-Committee discussed questions relating to the execution of operational activities in the field of statistics. As far as training projects were concerned, the Sub-Committee concluded that it would neither be desirable nor possible to devise a priori an agreed scheme for the allocation of such projects. Since one type of project not infrequently shaded into another, it was considered preferable to deal with such questions on a case-by-case basis relying on the following criteria for guidance: (a) the major purposes and objectives of the projects; (b) the level of training offered; and (c) the contents and orientation of the syllabus.

75. With regard to general arrangements in respect of technical co-operation activities for the improvement and expansion of national statistical services, the Sub-Committee recommended that, in principle, when an expert post was devoted to an aspect of statistics that fell clearly within the responsibilities of a given United Nations organization, the technical supervision of the expert at the international level should be furnished by that organization. When the duties of the expert post covered fields of statistics which were part of the functions of more than one organization, the United Nations should have the over-all responsibility, subject to the following: (a) each of the organizations concerned should be consulted in respect of recruitment, (b) the expert would be instructed to submit his reports to each of them, and (c) each organization would furnish technical guidance on the aspects of his duties which were within its competence.

(c) Data banks of economic and social statistics

76. The Sub-Committee discussed with representatives of the IOB secretariat questions relating to the use of data banks of economic and social statistics in support of the efforts of IOB to set up an interagency information system related to the over-all administration of programmes of the United Nations family. The main concern of the Sub-Committee on Statistics related to the utilization of data banks for the storage and retrieval of statistical data, in particular their use for purposes of storing economic and social statistics necessary for the compilation of internationally-comparable data, and of supplying Governments as well as United Nations organizations with the data required for their substantive programmes.

77. The Sub-Committee also helped prepare a questionnaire on data bases of economic and social statistics, which was being sent to United Nations organizations and subsequently to all Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Sub-Committee considered that the information requested would be of great assistance for purposes of co-ordination and the exchange of computerized economic and social statistics among the organizations concerned, as well as for the preparation of a directory which would keep potential national users informed of the computerized data available.

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78. Other matters considered by the Sub-Committee at its sixth session included a proposal for the holding of a second international seminar on statistical

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organization. The Sub-Committee considered that the seminar could help with the implementation of the provisions of the Development Strategy calling on developing countries to "establish their planning mechanism, including statistical services, for formulating and implementing their national development plans during the Decade..." (see General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), para. 78), and providing for international assistance to that end. Moreover, Economic and Social Council resolution 1566 (L) requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the organizations concerned, "to undertake... concerted action to assist the developing countries in strengthening their statistical systems...". The Sub-Committee agreed that the seminar should be jointly organized by the United Nations and the statistical services of the specialized agencies concerned.

79. The Sub-Committee also reviewed arrangements for the issuance of the "International statistical reporter", a proposed new interagency periodical, aimed at keeping "national statistical offices informed of new statistical programmes, and of important changes in existing statistical programmes of all the organizations in the United Nations family", in pursuance of resolution 1 (XVI) of the Statistical Commission. 10/ The Sub-Committee recommended that the United Nations, in consultation with IBRD and IMF, draw up a more detailed prospectus and work out arrangements for editing and issuing the publication for consideration by the Sub-Committee at its next session.

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80. The ACC has endorsed these various efforts and approved the various recommendations formulated by the Sub-Committee.

E. Science and technology

81. The ACC had before it the report of the Sub-Committee on Science and Technology which met in November 1971 immediately after the fifteenth session of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

Sub-Committee on Science and Technology

82. The Sub-Committee agreed that it should have an opportunity to consider the final drafts of the regional plans of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development in order to ensure a well-balanced multidisciplinary approach as well as the integration of economic and social aspects with the industrial components of the plans. In the light of comments by its members, the Sub-Committee also agreed that certain revisions be made in the draft of the report on the application of science and technology to problems of population growth in developing countries which was being prepared by the

10/ Ibid., para. 39

Advisory Committee. Specifically, it was agreed that the subject matter of chapter IV on international assistance through the United Nations system should be recast in a more generalized and integrated form. The Sub-Committee then discussed the outline for the preparation of the report on the role of modern science and technology in national development called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 2658 (XXV). The Sub-Committee agreed that the views and contributions of the agencies should be consolidated through bilateral contacts between the United Nations and each of the agencies concerned.

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83. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1621 (LI), asked the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for submission to the Council at its fifty-second session, on the possible terms of reference of the new Committee on Science and Technology, taking into account the specific competence of UNCTAD, UNIDO, the specialized agencies and IAEA and the need for co-ordination between them and the Committee. The Secretary-General ascertained the views of the various organizations concerned before formulating the recommendations contained in his report to the Council (E/5116).

F. Marine science

84. The ACC reviewed the co-ordination of activities in the field of marine science in the light of the results of the work of its Sub-Committee on Marine Science and its Applications, which met in January 1972.

Sub-Committee on Marine Science and its Applications

85. At its meeting, the Sub-Committee concentrated its main attention on analysing the increasing co-ordination difficulties being faced in the above-mentioned field and the directions in which improvements should be sought.

86. The difficulties stemmed in the first place from the number and complexity of the activities in which two or more agencies had to collaborate or to co-ordinate their respective efforts. The Sub-Committee noted that there were more than 30 projects or programmes in which many - often six or more - agencies and/or organizations were involved. Secondly, the Sub-Committee considered that one central problem in the growing area of complex multidisciplinary work continued to be the lack of a truly joint mechanism to co-ordinate the scientific action required and to permit the United Nations organizations to discharge their functions in the field in an economic and effective way. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) had already gone part way towards providing such a mechanism and was a potential central body to plan and co-ordinate such scientific programmes and services. Steps had been taken to broaden the support for IOC through the establishment of the Intersecretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes relating to Oceanography (ICSPRO) in which the executive heads of FAO, UNESCO, WMO and IMCO as well as the United Nations were represented. However, as the Commission itself recognized, it had not up to that time been able to perform fully the functions expected of it or to cope with all the newly-emerging needs.

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87. The Sub-Committee also reviewed interagency collaboration in studies and action against marine pollution, in particular in connexion with the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, as well as arrangements for the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1537 (XLIX) on marine co-operation.

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88. The ACC noted that the responsibilities of IOC were steadily growing in connexion, inter alia, with the implementation of such projects as the Long-Term and Expanded Programme of Oceanographic Research (LEPOR), the integrated global ocean station system (IGOSS) and the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME). Many IOC resolutions called for action by more than one of the United Nations organizations. The IOC was facing practical difficulties in coping with these increasing needs as reflected in its own resolutions. At its seventh session, it had requested its Chairman to prepare, together with the Director-General of UNESCO and the executive heads of the other organizations co-operating through ICSPRO, a study of secretariat services for the Commission to help it fulfil more efficiently the functions which the world scientific community and member Governments expect from it. That study is now under way.

89. The ACC also noted that the executive heads of the organizations participating in ICSPRO were considering appropriate measures to improve the operational arrangements of IOC and were studying what new steps could be taken to improve the co-ordination and implementation of marine science programmes.

90. The ACC recognizes that the increasing need for co-ordination in the complex field of marine science is not being fully provided for at present - a state of affairs that should be remedied as quickly as possible. In its view the situation should be improved by strengthening existing mechanisms rather than by establishing new bodies and thereby complicating still further an already complex network of structures. Moreover, while a definite improvement in the present state of co-ordination in the field of marine science is needed, most of the efforts to achieve this have to come from the Governments themselves or require the approval of the governing bodies of the organizations concerned.

91. Furthermore, some aspects of the problem of co-ordination should begin to emerge more clearly in the near future once the results of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment are known and the study of the Chairman of IOC has been completed. Finally, this problem has a variety of legal, political and constitutional implications which raise far-reaching issues still not fully explored.

92. The ACC wishes to bring this matter to the attention of the Council and plans to return to it at an early date by which time it expects that it will be in a better position to comment.

G. Outer space

93. As Governments become increasingly aware of the potential of space technology for promoting development - particularly in the fields of communications,

meteorology and earth resources surveying - international involvement in activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space is growing. The organizations principally concerned within the United Nations system are the United Nations, UNDP, the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO, WHO, ITU, WMO, IMCO and IAEA.

94. One of the major developments during the last year has been the action of ITU through the World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications to allocate frequencies and to adopt administrative procedures for all kinds of space communications. 11/ This has important implications for the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Another major technical development has been the rapid increase in the number of countries that have installed stations for direct reading of pictures from meteorological satellites.

95. Considerable efforts have been made, first at the intergovernmental and then at the intersecretariat level, to plan future international activities regarding earth resources surveying by satellite in a rational way. The full potential of remote sensing is likely to become clearer in the near future after the results of the first Earth Resources Technological Satellite (ERTS-A), to be launched this year, are known. However, it is already evident that earth resources surveying by satellite can provide data that are valuable in a wide variety of disciplines - including agriculture, forestry, geology, hydrology, oceanography and urban planning - which fall within the competence of various organizations. Therefore, co-operative arrangements need to be made at an early stage. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has arranged for the convening of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, and this decision was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 2778 (XXVI). All the agencies concerned have been invited to make contributions to the work of the Working Group which will, inter alia, make recommendations for the possible development, provision and operation of data collection and utilization systems in the United Nations or other international framework. The General Assembly has requested the Working Group to solicit the views of the Committee on Natural Resources - which should ensure that there is no conflict between the decisions of these two bodies. The Working Group will have before it, inter alia, the results of a "consultation on the applicability of satellite and other remote sensing techniques to the management of food resources", convened by FAO in co-operation with the United Nations in September 1971 with the participation of the other interested agencies, the United Nations panel on remote sensing systems for earth resources surveys, held in May 1971, and the United Nations panel on the establishment and implementation of research programmes in remote sensing, held in Brazil in November-December 1971.

96. In the field of space communications, the first phase of the UNDP-financed project for a feasibility study for a regional system of tele-education for Latin

11/ A detailed report on the outcome of the Conference has been prepared for the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Information thereon will also be contained in the eleventh report on telecommunications and the peaceful uses of outer space, to be submitted by ITU to the Economic and Social Council and to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

America, being carried out by UNESCO in association with ITU, has begun. The co-operation of the ILO, FAO and WHO is being sought with regard to studies on the content of the broadcasts and of UNIDO in the local manufacture of television receiving sets. In a seminar at Buenos Aires in January 1972, agreement was reached to support the feasibility study and a plan of operation was approved. The plan has been sent by UNESCO to UNDP for approval. The UNESCO is proceeding with the recruitment of a team of experts and hopes to have them in the field by the beginning of August.

97. Arrangements which clarify the role of the Expert on Space Applications vis-à-vis the agencies, especially with regard to survey missions and panel meetings, were agreed on by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in July 1971, and afterwards endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. With regard to survey missions, the Sub-Committee recommended that requests from Member States for preliminary survey missions to explore the potential of space applications falling within the competence of the specialized agencies and substantive units of the Secretariat should be transmitted to them and be dealt with in consultation with the Expert on Space Applications. With regard to the convening of panels, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Expert, should continue to play a catalytic and co-ordinating role in arranging for panels on questions of the applications of space technology of practical interest to developing countries, making use of the resources and facilities at his disposal, and in co-operation with Member States and whenever possible, appropriate regional organizations. As appropriate, these panels should be organized jointly with the specialized agencies or United Nations units having a major interest in the subject and the specialized agencies should be invited to examine the possibility of arranging such meetings in their future programmes. An ad hoc interagency meeting in July 1971 considered the modalities for implementing the Sub-Committee's recommendations at the secretariat level, as well as other questions of interagency concern.

Ad hoc interagency meeting

98. The ad hoc interagency meeting considered arrangements for the convening of panels on the application of space technology, which are being planned by the United Nations, as follows: one on educational broadcasting via satellite, to be held in India, another on the interpretation and use of meteorological information obtained from satellites in tropical areas, to be held in Mexico; and a third on remote sensing, to be convened when the first results of the ERTS-A satellite become available at the end of 1972. It was agreed, inter alia, that future panels should if possible be organized on a regional basis. The meeting also discussed the co-ordination of arrangements for preliminary survey missions and the possibilities for such survey missions in the future. Finally, arrangements were made regarding the issuance of the review of the activities and resources of the United Nations and of its specialized agencies and other competent bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

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99. These arrangements were endorsed by ACC. In view of the interdisciplinary nature of many space applications which entail the establishment of complex systems

and structures, it was agreed that further efforts to improve interagency co-operation and co-ordination in the above field were necessary. In particular, it was noted that in the absence of continuing consultations between the United Nations and the technical agencies without representation in New York, work might be undertaken under the aegis of the United Nations which would not take sufficiently into account the current stage of implementation of the relevant programmes of those agencies. Some of the problems may, however, be overcome by arranging for consultations among the organizations concerned, in conjunction with international conferences and meetings attended by the specialized agencies. It was also agreed that long-term planning of all conferences, panels, symposia and seminars dealing with outer space was essential, in order to avoid their overlapping in time and to permit their adequate preparation and a rational allocation of the subjects to be dealt with.

H. Human resources, education and training

100. The ACC reports below, on the activities carried out at interagency meetings concerned with human resources during the period under review and then describes and explains certain decisions which it has taken to streamline the co-ordination arrangements in this field.

(a) Sub-Committee on Human Resources, Education and Training

101. At its meeting held in June 1971, the Sub-Committee on Human Resources, Education and Training reviewed various aspects of the United Nations work programme for social development with particular implications for human resources, and considered, in the light of recent decisions of the Council and the General Assembly, (see para. 109 below) whether changes were required in its own terms of reference and functioning. The Sub-Committee also held substantive discussions on questions relating to youth activities in the system and on the co-ordination aspects of the education and training programmes for southern Africans and Namibians (see part I, B, above).

(b) Ad hoc meeting on youth

102. Arrangements for the further development of activities relating to youth, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 2497 (XXIV) and 2633 (XXV), were considered by an ad hoc meeting on youth convened by ACC in December 1971.

103. The consultations served to emphasize the need for further efforts within each organization to identify more clearly its policies and approaches to development activities for and with youth and the structures and procedures best suited to carry them out. With regard to field activities in particular, the ad hoc meeting on youth, while drawing attention to the need to ensure that concerted interagency programmes relating to youth were included in country programming, noted that a necessary pre-condition was that organizations should be able to identify in advance the type and content of projects which lent

themselves to joint interagency action. In connexion with research activities, the meeting noted with interest a project planned by UNESCO which would evaluate studies and reports on youth questions prepared within the system since 1965, particularly with respect to the impact of such studies on the programmes of individual organizations. It considered that the project would make a timely contribution to the co-ordination of the growing number of studies being undertaken by United Nations organizations in this field.

104. The ad hoc meeting also reviewed various reports under preparation. These included the Secretary-General's report on channels of communication with youth and non-governmental youth organizations, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2497 (XXIV); a draft report, being prepared by FAO, on rural youth strategy in the less developed countries; and a UNITAR study to be issued under the title "International youth organizations and the United Nations".

(c) Ad hoc meeting on the rehabilitation of the disabled 12/

105. This meeting, which was held in October 1971, reviewed the proposed programmes of activities of the organizations concerned for 1972-75 and concluded that the co-ordination of rehabilitation activities needed to be intensified through a regular exchange of proposals for future projects from the very outset of planning. The meeting also recommended that special attention be given in the relevant agency programmes to the study of the problems related to the acute shortage of trained rehabilitation staff and to ways and means of attracting and keeping such personnel. The meeting supported, in that connexion, the relevant recommendations of the United Nations Meeting of Experts on the Planning, Organization and Administration of National Rehabilitation Programmes for the Disabled in Developing Countries and recommended that regional training courses be organized wherever possible for personnel responsible for the administration and operation of medical, vocational, educational and social programmes of rehabilitation.

(d) Questions relating to the promotion of co-operatives

106. Activities for the development of co-operatives, and methods for the promotion of interagency activities in that field have, in recent years, appeared frequently on the agenda of both the ACC Sub-Committee on Human Resources, Education and Training and ad hoc meetings convened by ACC to deal with the co-ordination of rural and community development programmes.

107. While no comprehensive interagency programmes have as yet been developed in the whole field of co-operatives, the agencies concerned have been able to undertake several joint projects, primarily in the field of agricultural co-operatives, and have consulted regularly on their respective programmes with

12/ Participants at the ad hoc meeting included representatives of the United Nations, UNHCR, the ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the Conference of World Organizations Interested in the Handicapped (CWOIH).

the assistance, in recent years, of the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Agricultural Co-operatives. 13/

108. Following the adoption of its resolution 1491 (XLVIII) in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to collaborate closely with the ILO, FAO, UNIDO and other organizations concerned in preparing a programme of concerted action to assist developing countries "in utilizing the full potentialities of the co-operative movement in economic and social development", a report was prepared, in consultation with all agencies and institutions concerned, which included proposals for the development of a joint long-term programme of assistance in the above field. The report is to be considered by the Council at its fifty-second session.

(e) ACC decisions regarding co-ordination arrangements in this area

109. After the Economic and Social Council first considered the problem of utilization of human resources in 1967, ACC examined how the problem could most appropriately be considered within its subsidiary machinery and decided to establish a Sub-Committee on Human Resources, Education and Training, 14/ which met for the first time in 1969. Since then, the approach of the United Nations system to development has evolved considerably. The Council, in its resolution 1494 (XLVIII), called for the full integration of the "economic approach with the social approach in the formation of policies of the national and international levels". The Council's approach was confirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 2681 (XXV) and is reflected in the relevant provisions of the Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, which underline the interaction of the various aspects of development and call for a strengthening and a more comprehensive approach to the various means of "human development" including education and training, employment, policies for children and youth, and the participation of women in development. The importance of unified planning was again reiterated by the Commission for Social Development, at its twenty-second session, which noted that there was still a remarkable disregard for this approach, not only at the national level but even in the United Nations system. 15/

110. As part of its continuing efforts to ensure that its subsidiary machinery is in line with current requirements ACC, at its October 1971 session, concluded that adjustments were needed to enable it to contribute more effectively to the translation of the above-mentioned decisions of the Council and the Assembly into practical action, and also to better support the measures being taken to this end by individual organizations. In particular, ACC considered that the terms of reference of its Sub-Committee on Human Resources, Education and Training, which

13/ The Committee is composed of representatives of the ILO and FAO and three non-governmental organizations, namely the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers (IFPAAW).

14/ The Sub-Committee's terms of reference, which were based on the definition of "human resources" development contained in the Secretary-General's report on the subject (E/4353) included problems of manpower and the creation of employment, youth activities, popular participation in development and the involvement of women in development, and problems of special groups, such as refugees.

15/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3, paras. 60-74.

antedated substantive discussions within the system of the integrated approach to development, no longer adequately reflected the relevant activities of the system, and therefore decided to restructure it and to redistribute its responsibilities. Those matters previously included in its mandate which related to the implementation of the Development Strategy and the review and appraisal of progress during the Decade were referred to the ACC Sub-Committee on the Development Decade, while questions relating to education and training were referred to a reconstituted ACC Sub-Committee on Education and Training. The terms of reference of this Sub-Committee are as follows:

(a) To identify the problems and activities that need inter-institution co-ordination in the field of education and training, during both the formulation and the operational stages of programmes;

(b) To systematize interagency co-operation in the field of education and training, especially within the framework and perspectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade;

(c) To examine, in the light of the experience acquired, the procedures and types of action used by various agencies in the field of education and training with a view to any necessary harmonization.

111. The ACC has also asked its Preparatory Committee to keep under constant review all other questions relating to the social aspects of development, involving as they do a large part of the agencies' activities; in cases where it would not be appropriate for the Preparatory Committee to deal with any of these questions directly, an ad hoc meeting could be authorized, in accordance with the established procedures.

112. The ACC believes that these arrangements would bring the ACC machinery into line with the new procedures for review and appraisal in connexion with the Second United Nations Development Decade and the revised terms of reference of its Sub-Committee on the Decade, 16/ while at the same time they would ensure that all matters previously dealt with by the Sub-Committee would continue to receive adequate attention and safeguard the continuation of the long-established pattern of co-operation between the agencies active in the social field and the Commission for Social Development.

113. In this connexion it should be noted that these arrangements would continue to be supported by a network of procedures, both formal and informal, aimed at ensuring adequate prior consultations on the work programmes as well as co-operation in the planning and execution of individual projects and activities. In order to establish a focal point for the discussion and exchange of information on these matters, and particularly on the increasing number of interdisciplinary projects now being carried out by United Nations organizations, the United Nations decided in 1970 to outpost a staff member from the Social Development Division to

16/ See in this connexion the previous ACC annual report (E/5012 (Part I), para. 12).

Geneva. These arrangements have proved useful in promoting and assisting the necessary consultations with the organizations concerned.

114. It will be recalled that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighth session requested ACC to look into potential areas of overlap between the current United Nations work programme in the field of social development and those of the agencies. 17/ In pursuance of this decision, ACC arranged for its Sub-Committee on Human Resources, Education and Training to review this matter, on the basis of the comments that the agencies had formulated on that programme under the procedures for prior consultations on work programmes. The ACC is satisfied that the work programme adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-second session 18/ does not pose problems of interagency co-ordination and has noted that adequate arrangements exist for the continuation of prior consultations on the forthcoming programme proposals for the United Nations. In particular, ACC welcomes an undertaking by the United Nations to circulate the Social Development Division's work programme well in advance of its issuance as a document for the Commission, in order to permit earlier and fuller consultations on its various proposals. This will be done this spring for the work programme to be submitted to the Commission in 1973.

I. Population questions

115. The Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)) calls upon those developing countries which consider that their rate of population growth hampers their development to adopt the necessary measures in accordance with their concept of development, and asks international organizations to provide the assistance requested of them by the Governments of these countries. The subsequent decisions of the legislative organs of the system have stressed the need for a more efficient and expeditious delivery of such assistance, aimed, inter alia, at the development of dynamic and comprehensive population policies by the countries concerned and have drawn attention to the important links between population policies and the other means of development. 19/

17/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 5, para. 71.

18/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3, chap. XII.

19/ See, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 2683 (XXV) and 2815 (XXVI). The International Labour Conference, at its last session in June 1971, drew attention to the links between population factors and employment, in connexion with its World Employment Programme and called for the strengthening of international assistance in this respect.

116. National attitudes and priorities, as evidenced by requests for assistance, together with intergovernmental decisions, help to shape the assistance programmes provided by the United Nations organizations. In an increasing number of countries there now seems to be greater awareness not only of the urgency of the problem, but also of the need for international assistance programmes that are more closely tailored to individual country requirements and more fully integrated in their over-all development plans.

Sub-Committee on Population 20/

117. These developments have naturally influenced the way in which ACC and its Sub-Committee on Population have approached the co-ordination of the population activities of the system. A gradual shift of emphasis has taken place in the Sub-Committee's work, from an initial preoccupation with the harmonization of the relevant mandates of its member organizations to the systematic examination of common programmes, and of the co-operative arrangements and measures required in their implementation. This has, inter alia, made necessary a closer association of the regional economic commissions and UNESOB with the Sub-Committee's work.

118. One aspect of the Sub-Committee's work which reflects this shift of emphasis is the initiative recently taken by the Sub-Committee to review the arrangements approved by ACC in 1968 for co-ordination in the fields of population 21/ in order to meet the requirements of both organizations and member States for fuller interagency co-operation at all stages of programme planning and to reflect the expanded activities of all the organizations concerned, in particular the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and IBRD. It is proposed to complete this exercise at the Sub-Committee's next meeting early in 1973.

20/ The last two meetings of the Sub-Committee were held respectively on 25-27 October 1971 and 28 February-1 March 1972.

21/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 3, paras. 725-735.

119. The Sub-Committee on Population also continued to provide the forum for the joint consideration of meetings planned by the organizations concerned and for the preparation and review of the increasing number of studies and reports requiring interagency consultations. Thus, the Sub-Committee had before it at its fifth session in October 1971 the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the World Population Conference concerning the programmes of both the World Population Year and the Conference. The relevant reports (E/CN.9/244 and 245) were reviewed and approved by the Population Commission at its sixteenth session. In addition, a study entitled "The population problem: problem of population growth and socio-economic development; application of science and technology" was considered by the Sub-Committee, in pursuance of decisions taken by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development at its fourteenth session.

120. The Sub-Committee also reviewed, prior to their submission to the Population Commission, the documents containing the two-year and five-year proposed programmes of work for the United Nations Population Division, and the comments that the organizations concerned had formulated on them under the arrangements for prior consultations on work programmes. In that connexion, and in order to reduce the documentation to be submitted to the Commission, the Sub-Committee suggested that the United Nations should prepare, in advance of the Commission's sessions, brief information papers covering the relevant activities and programmes of all United Nations organizations concerned.

121. The Sub-Committee assisted in the preparation of the Secretary-General's proposals for the establishment of a United Nations world population training institute (E/CN.9/262) which were considered by the Population Commission at its sixteenth session. The Commission was not able to formulate any recommendations with regard to those proposals; however, it requested the Secretary-General to establish, in consultation with the United Nations organizations concerned, a committee to study the matter further and to develop more comprehensive and concrete proposals for consideration at a future session of the Commission. The Commission also recommended that an experimental high-level programme of multidisciplinary training be initiated as soon as possible, and that the experience of this programme should be reported to a future session of the Commission.

122. The Sub-Committee considered ways of carrying out those decisions and agreed that the United Nations should act as the focal point for the development of the experimental programme. In that connexion, the Sub-Committee recommended that steps be taken to appoint a high-level official, with adequate staff resources, to direct the programme in consultation with the organizations concerned. The Sub-Committee further agreed that in carrying out the programme full advantage should be taken of existing regional facilities and welcomed the interest expressed in principle by UNFPA for the development of multidisciplinary ad hoc training projects. It was also considered that the development of the programme should continue to be guided by the Sub-Committee itself, thus avoiding the establishment of a new interagency committee.

123. Co-ordination requirements in the field of demographic projections were another subject to which the Sub-Committee had devoted particular attention during the past year. The Sub-Committee concluded that co-operative arrangements aimed at the

integration of the relevant components of those projections had, on the whole, proved quite satisfactory. However, in order to meet the requirements of the World Population Conference, 1974, and of the review and appraisal exercise in connexion with the Development Decade, it would be necessary to further accelerate the pace of that work and to arrange for the Sub-Committee's Working Group on Demographic Projections to meet more frequently. In that connexion, the Sub-Committee expressed the hope that means would be found to ensure the participation of all organizations concerned in the work of the Group including, in particular, the regional economic commissions and UNESOB.

124. Finally, reference should be made to the Sub-Committee's review of the procedures for the provision of family-planning services at the local level. The Sub-Committee considered that matter on the basis of a paper prepared at the initiative of the Executive Director of UNICEF, who had raised the issue in ACC the previous year, and called the Committee's attention to the need to develop new approaches for the provision of family-planning services by the system, based on a fuller utilization of, and improved linkage with, existing services at the local level in the countries concerned.

125. It was felt that in order to meet the needs of the increasing number of developing countries wanting extended family-planning services to reach progressively the greater part of their population, a common approach on the part of all the organizations concerned was necessary. The following guidelines were agreed upon:

(a) A necessary condition for the success of any family planning programme is the existence of a channel, or channels, which can carry the relevant services to the mass of the reproductive age group. At present, the channels in use reach a rather small proportion of the population, and their extension, on the necessary scale, presents a formidable task;

(b) The linking of family-planning services to elementary maternity and child health services is now generally accepted as a particularly important element of the peripheral delivery system. A further solution to the deficiency of existing services may be sought in the wide extension of elementary and basic services, delivered by auxiliary personnel selected and trained in the provinces or districts concerned. These can be most effective if they are well co-ordinated, at all levels and particularly at the intermediate level, with the health services required for the provision of modern family-planning methods. This means devising a pattern of services available to the general population and using the relatively small numbers of professionally-trained people more selectively for direction and supervision of auxiliary personnel;

(c) While the general health services, in particular maternity and child health services, should remain the principal channel for the delivery of family-planning services, it is essential for the countries concerned to consider all available means of supporting and/or promoting family-planning activities, including information and motivational aspects by means, for example, of women's educational and literacy programmes, agriculture and home economics extension services,

community development in and out of school education, social welfare services, labour welfare education, communications media, and voluntary non-governmental organizations;

(d) It is recognized that conditions vary greatly from country to country and that each country will have to seek its own solution to these problems. This will require new approaches and experimentation to identify the most appropriate means of family-planning and related supporting services that can be made available and acceptable to the largest possible number of people;

(e) This problem is necessarily a long-range one and an infrastructure capable of providing the needed services will take years to develop.

* * *

126. The ACC has endorsed the recommendations and conclusions formulated by its Sub-Committee on Population.

J. Action against drug abuse

127. The new wave of drug abuse and the increasing concern of Governments registered in a series of resolutions have led to the creation of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and to an expansion of activities to help Governments combat such abuse. 22/ Some of this expansion involves the United Nations, which is concerned with the international control of dependence-producing drugs and the illicit traffic, and WHO, which is concerned with the identification of drugs requiring such control and the treatment, including rehabilitation, of drug-dependent persons. The activities of other organizations are also involved: for example, FAO (in the field of crop substitution and rural development), UNESCO (educational and preventive aspects), ILO (vocational training for rehabilitation of addicts and their employment), UNIDO (finding substitute crops producing industrial raw materials), UNICEF and WFP either have been, or will soon be, involved in these widening activities.

128. The creation of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control will serve to assist Governments and other bodies in reducing the problems associated with drug abuse and to increase the capability of the United Nations system towards that end. It will provide substantial assistance in mounting large-scale, multisectoral field projects through which the organizations of the United Nations system can provide technical as well as financial assistance. The first of these, a \$7.2 million (\$2.084 million from the Fund and \$5.163 million from Thailand) five-year project in Thailand, was approved by the Fund's management and the Government in December 1971.

22/ See General Assembly resolutions 2433 (XXIII), 2434 (XXIII), 2584 (XXIV), 2719 (XXV), 2720 (XXV) and 2859 (XXVI); ECOSOC resolutions 1532 (XLIX), 1559 (XLIX), 1576 (L), 1577 (L) and 1578 (L).

129. The ACC is aware that the successful planning, implementation and appraisal of international programmes to deal with drug-dependence require the full collaboration of the international organizations concerned. Consultations to this end have already been carried out at several levels: (a) informally, with respect to some individual projects; (b) at an ad hoc meeting, in July 1971, to discuss programmes and procedures, at which all organizations concerned were represented; and (c) as necessary, at the level of the Preparatory Committee and ACC itself.

Ad hoc interagency meeting

130. At an ad hoc interagency meeting in July 1971 a "Plan for concerted action against drug abuse", 23/ prepared by the United Nations, was presented for discussion. The plan was drawn up in response to (a) Economic and Social Council resolution 1559 (XLIX), (b) General Assembly resolution 2719 (XXV), and (c) the Secretary-General's aide-mémoire of March 1971, all having to do with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. It called for expenditures of some \$100 million over a five-year period and included the following components: crop replacement; the establishment of United Nations regional advisers; measures against illicit traffic; the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug-dependent persons; and research, education and information activities. The discussions ranged over these broad fields as well as some specific projects.

131. At the end of that meeting, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, who served as Chairman, welcomed the unanimous support of the organizations present for the world-wide campaign to tackle the drug problem - a campaign that would be carried out in, and for the benefit of, both developed and developing countries, and that would be aimed at the suppression of drug abuse in the three fields of supply, demand and illicit traffic. He stressed that it was generally agreed that the system-wide approach called for the closest possible interagency co-operation, at both the preparatory and the executing stages, of all those who would take part in the activities being supported by the Fund. He noted also that responsibility had been assigned to the United Nations for planning and, as appropriate, executing projects which were eligible for assistance from the Fund.

132. The Chairman added that once projects had been approved by the Fund, each organization would be given executing authority for such projects as fell within its own field of responsibility. When projects called for a multidisciplinary approach, the general rule would be followed that the participant in whose field of responsibility the major content of the project lay would be the executing authority. It was clear that the special features of the drug-abuse-control plan would call for flexibility in the application of this rule and that, in each case, the details would have to be worked out through consultations and with full interagency co-operation.

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23/ Ibid., Resumed Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12, para. 43 and chap. V.

133. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2859 (XXVI), strongly endorsed the activities of the United Nations family in the field of drug-abuse control, urged Governments to support the United Nations Fund, and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, to report to the Economic and Social Council on how the United Nations system could increase its effectiveness in the fight against drug abuse with special reference to youth.

134. The discussions on the problems, programmes and projects related to drug dependence highlighted once more the complexities of this field and the great need for many of the organizations of the United Nations system to bring to bear their special skills in a fully co-ordinated effort to help reduce drug dependence. The ACC therefore decided to convene an ad hoc interagency group on the matter which is to meet in the summer of 1972 to improve the arrangements for interagency co-operation and to review projects of interagency concern to be considered by the Fund. The ACC is also encouraging the regular exchange of information between the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned.

III. PUBLIC INFORMATION QUESTIONS

135. Two subsidiary bodies of ACC - the Consultative Committee on Public Information (CCPI) and the Centre for Economic and Social Information (CESI) Programme Committee deal with the various different aspects of this question. Information on their activities is provided below.

A. Consultative Committee on Public Information

136. The CCPI, at its fortieth session in February 1972, centred much of its attention on problems relating to audience targeting. While the mass media were and would remain an essential channel for disseminating information originating from United Nations organizations, it was recognized that new and more individualized methods should also be developed. These methods need in no way conflict with the necessity of adopting a universal approach. The Committee considered that the question of "target audiences" was central to making information activities more effective and agreed to discuss it in greater detail at its next session.

137. The CCPI dealt at some length with information efforts relating to population activities. The Committee agreed that executing agencies should pay particular attention to the most effective means whereby support could be given to the fund-raising activities of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. It was recognized that population questions lent themselves quite well to information activities connected with a variety of other development issues. A number of interagency themes offered opportunities for combined initiatives in the field of information.

138. The Committee discussed the financing of public information activities on UNDP-assisted projects. In this regard, executing agencies emphasized that the field reporting on the efforts of developing countries was essential. Field coverage by the agencies, which had been previously financed from project budgets, would be even more difficult to arrange than in the past in view of country programming. The executing agencies expressed the hope that UNDP would earmark funds to enable the United Nations system to organize effective media coverage of UNDP/agency-assisted field activities.

139. In recent years, CCPI has proceeded - on a yearly basis - to a review of the information activities of its respective members. While recognizing that such an examination was of value and should be maintained, the Committee decided that henceforth the reports of its members should concentrate on items and matters envisaged for the coming period. This would facilitate the co-ordination of information activities within the United Nations system, which was the principal objective of CCPI.

B. The Programme Committee of CESI

140. The CESI Programme Committee, at its seventh session in February 1972, reached two decisions regarding information programmes for the mobilization of public opinion in support of the Second United Nations Development Decade, which should considerably increase their impact.

141. In the first place, it was agreed that in order to achieve more effective public support for the objectives of the Development Decade, the information services of the organizations of the United Nations system would collaborate to focus attention on selected themes and activities during designated periods in 1972 and 1973. The choice of appropriate topics and proposals of concern to more than one agency would be the subject of further consultations within CESI.

142. Secondly, a series of measures in the field of development education were undertaken by CESI, FAO and UNESCO which again, it was hoped, would result in their having greater impact and co-ordination:

(a) The Centre for Economic and Social Information agreed to provide resources to permit expansion of the activities of the Development Education Exchange Service of the FAO "Action for development" programme;

(b) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization agreed to arrange, in co-operation with CESI, seminars and study tours on development issues for producers of educational materials and officials of teacher-training institutions;

(c) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with CESI, would examine the question of economic and social development in the context of curricula at the higher education levels and would survey possibilities for intensified international action in this field, where many recent studies have opened new avenues of approach.

* * *

143. The ACC decided that the Programme Committee of CESI should in future meet only once a year and in conjunction with the annual session of CCPI.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

A. Personnel and administrative questions

Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel Section)

144. The Personnel Section of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) met in March 1972 to discuss the matters indicated below.

(a) Questions relating to the work of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System

145. A major administrative preoccupation of CCAQ during the past year has been that of providing information, documentation and services to the Special Committee established by the General Assembly (resolution 2743 (XXV)) to review the United Nations system of salaries and allowances. During the Committee's first session, from May to August 1971, the executive heads of the organizations comprising the common system presented to the Committee extensive background papers describing that system and some of the problems involved in its operation. They and their representatives also appeared before the Committee to respond to questions, to elaborate on the written presentations and to suggest possibilities for amendments to the present conditions of service.

146. In preparation for the Committee's second session, beginning in January 1972, the executive heads submitted to the Committee an extensive statistical report, replies to a list of questions and two documents setting forth common views regarding possible changes in the manner of fixing salaries and allowances. The detailed analyses required for the preparation of these joint responses and the drafting of them were carried out by CCAQ through a high-level working party in the autumn of 1971. During its regular session in March 1972, CCAQ continued its study in detail of all ideas for revision of the salary and allowance system which had up to that time been considered by the Special Committee in order to be prepared to respond to questions from the Committee. It is envisaged that CCAQ will meet again early in July 1972 to examine the Special Committee's report and prepare, for consideration by ACC, a transmittal of that report to ICSAB in September 1972 for that Board's comments to the General Assembly in accordance with the terms of Assembly resolution 2743 (XXV).

(b) Views of ACC on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems of the United Nations

147. At the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General referred the report by a member of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems of the United Nations (A/8454 (Parts I and II)) to the executive heads of the specialized agencies and IAEA with a view to determining areas where close co-operation in personnel questions arising from the report would be of mutual benefit to member organizations of the common system. The General Assembly requested that the views of ACC in that regard should be transmitted to the Special Committee.

148. While the report was based primarily on the circumstances of the United Nations, the executive heads of the organizations in the United Nations common system felt that many of the fundamental ideas raised in it were of interest to other organizations within the common system, all of which could benefit from a careful study of the report.

149. The executive heads had already given the Special Committee their views on the need for a career cadre; the question of recruitment by competitive examination of junior professional staff; and the possible establishment of a strong, independent central administrative organ to be responsible for certain functions in defined areas of the common system. They had prepared in 1970, for the International Civil Service Advisory Board (ICSAB) an extensive report on staff training and the limited extent to which common in-service training was possible. They had also prepared another extensive report on promotion policies. Copies of those reports were also given to the Special Committee.

150. The executive heads were informed that the United Nations was preparing studies for a long-term recruitment plan to be presented to the Assembly at its twenty-seventh session. The Secretariat would keep the other organizations fully informed of its preparatory studies on the matter. It was discussing with the Governments of two Member States (Italy and Japan) the possibility of conducting pilot competitive examinations for junior entry into its professional category. It was not the intention of the United Nations to propose further action on the other recommendations in the report until the report of the Special Committee was presented to the General Assembly.

151. Since the United Nations had not commented definitively nor taken firm positions on matters other than the long-term recruitment plan and the pilot competitive examinations for junior professional entry, the executive heads considered that it would be more appropriate to reserve comment on the other recommendations in the report until such time as the Secretary-General had envisaged further action on them. At that time the organizations would consult together on the implications for the common system as a whole.

(c) Other staffing matters

152. The CCAQ has maintained its continuous surveillance of the operation of the common system and, in particular, has dealt with a number of issues of interpretation and application of that system. Among these were problems arising in connexion with recent changes in exchange rates and matters concerning certain aspects of conditions of service in the field, travel and leave, administration of the education grant, and retirement. In addition, an interorganization agreement on transfer of staff between organizations was finalized and approved by the ACC. This agreement will considerably facilitate mobility of staff between the various organizations of the common system and therefore contribute to the strengthening of the International Civil Service.

153. The ACC endorsed the various recommendations and decisions taken by the Personnel Section of CCAQ and adopted the foregoing statement with respect to the report on personnel problems of the United Nations.

B. Financial and budgetary matters

Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial Section)

154. The financial section of CCAQ also met in March 1972 when it discussed overhead costs, standardization of financial regulations and other matters.

(a) Overhead costs and cost-measurement systems

155. In accordance with a time-table established by the UNDP Governing Council at its twelfth session in June 1971 (see E/5043, para. 173), the organizations have begun a series of detailed studies of problems related to the overhead costs of executing agencies participating in the United Nations Development Programme. Commencing with a "Special management survey on the reimbursement to executing agencies of overhead costs for UNDP-financed programmes", the studies have progressed to the stage where the organizations have established, as a matter of urgency, a task force for the purpose of developing a cost-identification and cost-measurement system usable by at least the larger organizations in determining, inter alia, the cost of the services they provide to UNDP.

156. Noting that the Governing Council, at its thirteenth session, in January 1972, had requested the Administrator to submit a progress report on this subject to the Governing Council at its fourteenth session, in June 1972 (DP/L.225), CCAQ agreed that the task force should meet in continuous session from the middle of March to early May 1972 in order to provide detailed recommendations for inclusion in the progress report.

157. While the immediate objective of these studies is to contribute to solving the problem of overhead costs incurred in executing and administering the United Nations Development Programme, CCAQ considered that as a long-term objective they should co-operate in developing and introducing systems of cost measurement that will also provide cost information for the planning, budgeting, financing, implementation and evaluation of their headquarters and field activities and for cost-control purposes.

158. Since the Governing Council also expressed the wish that the advice of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) should be made available to the Administrator, and that JIU should undertake an independent in-depth study of the whole question, consideration is being given how best to obtain the co-operation of JIU in the matter. As a first step, since it is understood that the Unit's time-table will not permit any substantial involvement in the study in 1972, a copy of the ACC progress report will be forwarded to JIU for such comments as the Unit may wish to make at the same time as it is submitted to the Administrator.

(b) Standardization of the financial regulations

159. Further progress is being made in the preparation and approval of standard texts for the financial regulations of the organizations. The CCAQ has established a Working Party on Financial Regulations that is meeting regularly in order to prepare standard texts for the approval of ACC.

160. The CCAQ recognizes that consideration of certain groups of regulations will have to be left in abeyance pending changes that organizations are currently making in their financial and budgetary practices. In the meantime the organizations will continue the work of preparing standard texts for those regulations whose wording will not necessarily have to await discussion of and agreement on the substantive issues.

(c) Other financial and budgetary questions

161. Although the studies on overhead costs and standardization of financial regulations have taken up most of the time of CCAQ during the period under review, the organizations have reached agreement on a number of other questions. Among other things, consideration has been given to the possibilities of implementing two particular recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. One of these recommendations was that the cost of conferences and meetings should be the subject of a special line in the budget, covering direct expenditure, and an annex containing an estimate of the total expenditure pertaining directly and indirectly to these activities (A/6343, para. 10⁴ (d)); the other recommendation was for a geographical annex classifying the different projects by the countries in which they are carried out (A/6343, foot-note 3 (b)).

162. As regards the first of these recommendations, CCAQ has stressed that all the organizations are taking very seriously the more general recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on reducing the number and cost of meetings and the related documentation, and worth-while progress is being made. There would seem to be some doubt, however, whether a statement showing the total cost of each conference, including the indirect costs, would be sufficiently useful to warrant the not inconsiderable expense of the cost-accounting techniques involved in preparing it. Most organizations already give their legislative or governing bodies a detailed conference programme which is adequate to enable the body to decide whether a particular meeting is necessary or not, and direct cost figures usually appear in the budget. The over-all additional indirect costs would not appear to be of great additional assistance. The recommendation for a separate budget line covering the cost of all meetings would also appear to be inconsistent with the trend towards programme budgeting since each meeting forms part of a substantive programme. The further views of the Council would therefore be appreciated before action is taken on this recommendation.

163. Regarding the question of a geographical annex to the budget estimates, while some organizations have found it desirable to produce schedules of projects by

country and region for their governing bodies, others have found that a substantial proportion of their projects are derived from over-all programme requirements and the extent of their implementation in individual countries cannot easily be forecast in advance. In some cases individual country projects are considered by bodies other than those responsible for adopting the budget, and at different times. In these circumstances it appears that the requirements of the legislative and governing bodies of the organizations are being met in the way they desire, and any change might cause difficulties at the organization level. Accordingly, it would be desirable to receive the views of the intergovernmental organs concerned before proceeding further.

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164. The ACC finds these arguments of considerable cogency and agrees that further steps with regard to these two recommendations should not be taken until the views of the competent intergovernmental organs concerning them have been obtained. It also endorsed other decisions taken by CCAQ, including the arrangements outlined above with regard to overhead costs.

C. Information storage and retrieval matters

165. The ACC is keenly aware of the interests and concerns with regard to the utilization of modern management techniques in the United Nations system, including the use of computers as appropriate, formulated by Member States in many resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and expressed at CPC and ACABQ meetings. While desirous that the techniques for the processing of information should increasingly serve decision-making within the system, help in the efficient execution of its programmes and promote increasing cohesion among the agencies which constitute the system, Member States are naturally concerned that their greater utilization is achieved without waste and duplication. The ACC shares those views and is therefore reporting more fully than usual on recent developments in this area.

166. The ACC is aided in pursuing these objectives by the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities (IOB) constituted pursuant to resolution 2741 (XXV) of the General Assembly. Under its terms of reference, the Board also gives policy guidance to the International Computing Centre (ICC) in Geneva. Thus, the IOB serves as a means for making known and more relevant the services which are offered by ICC and encourages broader participation in that Centre.

167. Since the last report of ACC on the use of computers in the system, 24/ the Director of the IOB secretariat has taken up his duties (as of 1 October 1971). Three working parties of the Board have met to make recommendations on the IOB work programme in three important areas: handling of documentation; the use of network analysis in project execution; recruitment and personnel information systems.

24/ See E/5013.

1. Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities

168. The IOB held its third session from 2 to 4 February 1972. After reviewing the report of the first working party, and in view of the importance to member States and international secretariats, IOB agreed on a feasibility study by a task force on the computerized treatment of project documentation to be led by the Director of the IOB secretariat. 25/ Meanwhile, the work already initiated by several organizations in the storage and retrieval of information in a few areas of documentation will continue and a greater exchange of the benefits to be derived from these systems will be facilitated through the IOB secretariat.

169. Considerable time was spent by IOB on the exchange of information concerning developments in computer applications both within and outside the United Nations system. These developments are occurring rapidly and agency representatives found the mechanism of IOB and the services of its secretariat in providing information on these developments useful and likely to prove more so in future.

170. The discussion of the future work programme of IOB led to the development of proposals for establishing common systems for the treatment of information. It is no doubt useful that a central library of "software" be maintained and that the Director of the Board's secretariat serve as a communication centre so that organizations may learn from one another and avoid duplication. Whether common systems and joint operations, however, will in fact ensue depends in the first place on policy decisions or interpretations of the needs of management in each agency, and secondly on a large amount of technological analysis conducted under the auspices of IOB. At present, the agencies are not in a position to increase

25/ The terms of reference of the IOB task force on documentation of economic and social development projects can be summarized as follows:

(a) To study and report on the feasibility of an inter-organization system for the storage, retrieval and presentation of information required for the management of projects in economic and social development;

(b) To examine and record the needs of members of the United Nations system for documentation on projects from the standpoint of management;

(c) To review the relevant achievements in standardization of documentation already accomplished in economic and social projects by the United Nations organizations and others in the field of economic and social development;

(d) To define and suggest responses to the needs of the United Nations system, which includes servicing the practical information needs of member States;

(e) To prepare an outline programme of work in this field for the IOB secretariat, covering the next two or three years. This programme should indicate the realistic objectives to be achieved during the period, the benefits to be derived from their achievement both by member States and organizations, and the resources needed to achieve these objectives.

their contributions for the central work beyond the present very limited core budget of the IOB secretariat and the loan of limited professional services. Thus, even the first important item on the work programme, treatment of project documentation, can benefit only from a preliminary attack, unless resources become available from external sources. Meanwhile, members of IOB will endeavour to explore ways in which, if and when additional resources become available to IOB, statistical data, as well as project documentation, can be made more generally available and usable for the purpose of project planning and management.

171. The IOB heard a progress report on the International Computing Centre by the Chairman of its Management Committee in pursuance of the decision that IOB would be kept informed of developments at the Centre. The details are given below.

2. Activities of the International Computing Centre, Geneva

172. During the course of 1971, a careful review was made of the computer equipment at ICC with the objective of providing the most advanced and economical devices for its users. A change in the central computer processing unit will be made in mid-1972 from model 360/65 to a model 370/155. It is ICC policy that no equipment changes can be made if they would cause any user to change its application programmes. The ICC is studying the feasibility of photo-composing on the computer in a format that can be used directly for offset printing. This would not only substantially reduce the production costs of publications but also reduce the time-lag between when the data are made available and when they are published.

173. Another field of current interest is how best to serve the needs of remote users through terminals. A co-ordinated approach is required, and using the UNCTAD/ECE remote terminal as a model, a generalized procedure has been developed. A variety of high speed terminals may now be linked to the ICC central processing unit over telephone lines with a minimum increase in costs. These terminals can be used both as concentrators for low speed devices such as video inquiry units, or for remote batch processing.

174. The ICC has developed a procedure which provides statistics on equipment usage and costs for each component (personnel, equipment and supplies) required for each job carried out in the Centre. Costings are prepared on a weekly and monthly basis providing the degree of detail or summarization the user needs. In addition, every job processed on the computer has the cost of the run printed on the output.

175. The ICC has to assure all users that their data film will be protected from unauthorized modification and from accidental (or intentional) disclosure to unauthorized persons. This is done by using normal control procedures such as separating responsibilities among its personnel and physical security measures whereby unauthorized persons are not permitted to enter the computer environment and also by combining these methods with additional capabilities built into the computing system.

176. Technical seminars and orientation courses are being held periodically when such courses are not available in individual organizations. Fellowship training is also available to nationals of developing countries covering both theoretical and practical systems analysis and programming with the emphasis on statistical data-processing.

177. The ICC budget for 1973 has been established at approximately the same level as in 1971 and 1972, namely \$1,612,000 for 1973. The main expenditure will be for the rental of data processing and peripheral equipment, estimated at \$844,000. Staff costs are estimated at \$580,000.

178. The following paragraphs describe in some detail the specific activities for which these funds have been used.

179. By the end of 1971, the United Nations had become the major user of the ICC computing facilities. In order to prepare the statistics for processing by ICC and to control and check work done in Geneva, the Statistical Office has a small staff outposted to Geneva. This staff processes international trade statistics received from Governments and converts them to a standardized format for inclusion in the statistical data banks; ICC is responsible for processing part of these statistics. It furnishes most of the electronic data processing services in respect of the quarterly and annual external trade services that Governments report to the United Nations on tape, punch cards etc.

180. The ICC also tabulates national accounting statistics, such as estimating missing data, compiling average annual rates of growth, index numbers and ratios of aggregates and delineating the functional relationships and correlations between them. Print-outs are also prepared in respect of volume II of the United Nations Yearbook of National Account Statistics. The work for the United Nations Committee on Contributions which is scheduled to meet in Geneva in 1972 was also programmed and processed by ICC in Geneva.

181. Consideration is being given to shifting to ICC early in 1973 more of the electronic data processing required by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. It is planned to transfer practically all of the electronic computer work on external trade data that are now being furnished by the New York Computing Centre and in addition to transfer the work on the annual demographic statistics for the purpose of the Demographic Yearbook. These two computer applications are the large-scale requirements of the Statistical Office of the United Nations for electronic computer services that have not yet been shifted to ICC in Geneva.

182. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe have used the computer for econometric work and for statistical analysis. The computer has been used to help build and test econometric models of the market for major commodities of interest to developing countries, e.g. rubber and tea. Extensive use has been made of international trade data recorded on tapes to produce analytical tables (e.g. presenting growth rates, market shares and other relevant information), for use in a wide variety of reports. The UNCTAD has also used the computer to develop a system of documentation control as well as a personnel information system.

183. The World Health Organization, the second major participant in ICC, has made use of the ICC data preparation and computer services for all of its computer applications. These applications lie mainly in the areas of health statistics, research, information retrieval, library, drug monitoring, distribution and sales of WHO publications, and for administration purposes. As was envisaged prior to the establishment of ICC, in order to ensure that development work would be carried out with a full understanding of the organization's specific needs, the system analysis and programming functions for the above work are being undertaken by WHO.

184. The United Nations Development Programme, the third major participant in ICC, has continuously extended its use of the Centre. It is implementing the programmes for the first part of its new reporting system covering financial reports to be produced bi-monthly, monthly and quarterly through ICC. The periodical processing will be based upon input data to be derived from UNDP headquarters and the executing agencies. It is anticipated that the system will become operational during April 1972. The specifications for an extended version of the financial reporting system as well as systems specifications for the second part of the UNDP reporting system covering substantive data reported from the field is under preparation by the Management Information Services and will be submitted to ICC for programming in mid-1972.

185. The major non-participant user is the World Meteorological Organization. The ICC computer services are, for the time being, utilized by the WMO secretariat only in substantive areas of activity, mainly for keeping under review the status of implementation of the World Weather Watch, which is the major programme activity of the organization.

186. The International Labour Organisation has used the ICC computer for scientific and research work in connexion with its "World employment programme" and "Social security projects" in Ghana. In 1972, it is expected that ICC facilities will be used by the ILO on an increasing scale for the same type of work relating to Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition to this increased utilization, discussions are continuing regarding a direct link between the ICC and the ILO computer.

187. The World Intellectual Property Organization used the ICC computer in 1971 for its "International classification of industrial design".

188. The UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre has so far used the computer on a modest scale for experimental applications, such as the internal distribution of documents and journals, the preparation of bibliographies and compiling the Trade Centre's staff manning tables.

189. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has planned for two projects to be processed in Geneva. The first, a library awareness system, will save FAO the cost of programming the system by using programmes developed by WHO. The second project uses the United Nations statistical data bank to produce a matrix of world trade in agricultural commodities. In both cases, the input data will be prepared in Rome, and the tape sent to Geneva by pouch for further processing.

190. The International Civil Aviation Organization made use of ICC facilities to process its "VHF assignment planning" and "Exchange of operational meteorological information" systems during the Sixth European Mediterranean Regional Air Navigation Meeting, which was held at Geneva.

191. At the present time, it would be uneconomical for the International Atomic Energy Agency to rent a "dedicated" line between Vienna and Geneva to use the computer. However, IAEA is keeping in touch with ICC, bearing in mind the possibility that in the future there may be certain work not requiring rapid results, which could be undertaken at Geneva.

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192. The ACC is satisfied that the three sponsoring organizations have made a decision for joint computer operations which is efficient and economical from their points of view. In accordance with the interest expressed by member States and in the interests of effective management, members of ACC affirm their desire gradually to make greater use of this facility as it may meet their needs. This is not a matter which can be arranged quickly. To divert the momentum from one set of procedures for administrative, technical and programme services to another set requires considerable effort and expense and will be phased over several years. The process is not simple and mechanical; it is organic. The major part of costs associated with the use of computers does not lie with the hardware. Rather, the major expenditures relate to training of staff, systems analysis and the development of software. These operations of necessity vary with each agency and are both under its policy control and intimately tied in with its programme.

193. The ACC looks to IOB not only to provide policy guidance to ICC, but to help ACC in carrying out its resolve to expand the utilization of ICC in every way which would be of benefit to the programmes of work of the agencies and to utilize ICC as part of the IOB effort to achieve not merely a central service but also the joint exploitation of computer techniques in the broadest sense.

V. OTHER QUESTIONS

A. United Nations staff college

194. The Executive Director of UNITAR informed ACC of developments relating to the establishment of a United Nations staff college.
195. The ACC reported last year on proposals by the Executive Director of UNITAR calling for the establishment of a United Nations staff college on the basis of a feasibility study (E/5012 (Part I), paras. 84-87). Members of ACC had expressed interest in these proposals and requested the Executive Director to keep them informed of progress made in carrying out the project.
196. The establishment of a United Nations staff college was approved in principle by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, but the Assembly deferred a decision on the financing of the College until its twenty-seventh session. The Governing Council of UNDP took a similar position at its meeting in January 1972 and is expected to take up the question again at its January 1973 session.
197. Meanwhile, in consultation with the agencies, the Executive Director has appointed a consultant to review the project in the light of the discussions by the General Assembly and the Governing Council in order to meet all the requirements for its approval and financing, and in particular to clarify the extent of commitments which the agencies would be ready to accept, and to propose a blueprint of the programme of the college.
198. So far, several organizations, specifically UNICEF, the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and IMCO, have indicated their intention to make continuing contributions to the college, subject to the approval of their respective budgetary authorities. Questions relating to the statute of the college, and the blueprint of its programme, are also being discussed in the hope that the college might start functioning in 1973, subject to the adoption of the necessary measures by the United Nations General Assembly.

B. Evaluation

Study group on evaluation

199. The ACC interagency Study Group on Evaluation met on 21 and 22 February 1972 and examined, at the invitation of UNDP, a provisional draft set of guidelines for the evaluation of UNDP-assisted projects and UNDP country programmes as a whole. This draft paper was in two parts. The first related to project evaluation and introduced a check-list system based on analysis of each step of project activity from conception to follow-up. The second concerned the evaluation of the UNDP country programme as a whole, for which a set of principles and considerations was set forth.

200. The method of evaluation of technical co-operation projects consists of a systematic review including analyses of project conception and design, of implementation in the light of the activities concerned and the international and national inputs required for these activities (including the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of project personnel, equipment and fellowships, and of national inputs such as buildings and other physical plant, counterpart staff, policy inputs and co-ordination with other relevant development activities and the utilizations of the results of the project. The participation of the Government itself is particularly pertinent.

201. The approach to UNDP-country-programme evaluation (as reflected in the provisional draft), endeavours to review the continuing programme of assistance in the context of the country's over-all economic and social situation, development objectives and priorities and to examine the relevance, adequacy and effectiveness of the assistance programme in the light of these objectives and priorities. To the extent that the evaluation of the programme as a whole also required evaluation of the projects in the programme, the objectives, linkages, environment, orientation, planning, project inputs and outputs and co-ordination between the projects and with other relevant development activities in the country are systematically examined in detail. Agreement was reached that self-evaluation through a built-in continuing process of assessment was the most economic and effective way of ensuring periodic evaluation of all projects and programmes. In addition, external independent evaluation might be needed in selected cases.

202. The Study Group generally agreed to these approaches and suggested elaboration of the main principles and considerations, especially in regard to country-programme evaluation. It also commended the approaches thus elaborated to ACC for application within the United Nations system.

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203. The ACC noted the views of the Study Group, and agreed that the guidelines constituted a flexible and practicable management tool which will complement the agencies' own evaluation system while not necessarily intended to replace other evaluation approaches and techniques which participating organizations may now have or develop in the future for meeting different purposes. However, efforts need to be continued to prevent excessive proliferation of evaluation machinery in the United Nations system.

204. The ACC also agreed that the findings from project and programme evaluation could, through systematic feedback, lead to improved programming, project design, implementation and follow-up, and enhance accountability to the governing bodies in regard to the efficiency and effectiveness of the assistance provided by the United Nations family. Moreover, evaluation activities should be appropriately linked to reporting systems required by various governing bodies.