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

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 35/36 of 14 November 1980, the General Assembly decided to promote further the co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the political, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian fields and urged the two organizations to co-operate in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and the establishment of a new international economic order. It requested the Secretary-General, moreover, to examine ways and means of further strengthening co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and to submit a report to that effect to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.
2. The present report deals with the measures taken or envisaged to implement the above-mentioned provisions of the resolution. It also sets out the developments in regard to co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference which have taken place since the last session of the General Assembly.

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

3. At the invitation of King Khaled Ibn Abdel Aziz of Saudi Arabia and of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Secretary-General attended the Third Islamic Summit Conference held at Taif (Saudi Arabia) from 25 to 28 January 1981. He delivered an address at the Conference on 26 January 1981 and had meetings with the President and Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference as well as with several Heads of State of the Islamic world and other leaders on matters of common interest.
4. In his address, the Secretary-General, in particular, expressed his satisfaction at the strengthening of links between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. He reviewed the main political and economic problems which were of interest to both the Islamic community and the United Nations. He emphasized, moreover, the necessity of pursuing the efforts which had been initiated with a view to finding just solutions to those problems and strengthening international peace and security.
5. A special representative of the Secretary-General also attended the Twelfth Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which was held at Baghdad from 1 to 5 June 1981.
6. During the period covered by this report, consultations and exchanges of views on questions of common interest took place, on a continuing basis, between the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations and the United Nations Secretariat.

III. CO-OPERATION IN THE POLITICAL FIELD

7. The Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in the work of the seventh emergency special session of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine and delivered an address on 23 July 1980. Representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, including the Permanent Observer of the organization to the United Nations, also participated actively in the consideration by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People of the situation in regard to the Holy City of Jerusalem, the occupied Arab territories and the question of Palestine. The Commission created by the Security Council pursuant to its resolution 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979 to examine the situation relating to the establishment of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, was received on 4 October 1980 by King Hassan II of Morocco, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Jerusalem (Al-Quds Committee) of the Islamic Conference (see S/14268).
8. With respect to the situation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq, the Secretary-General has had consultations with the current President and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The two organizations issued calls for a cease-fire and offered their good offices with a view to settling the dispute by peaceful means. The Secretary-General appointed a special representative to assist the parties in the resolution of the conflict. Following the extraordinary meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held in New York on 26 September 1980, the Taif Summit Conference decided to set up a good offices committee composed of six Heads of State and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Secretary-General's special representative and the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference agreed to consult regularly on the progress achieved in the search for a solution to this serious crisis.
9. During the Taif Summit Conference in January 1981, General Assembly resolution 35/37 of 20 November 1980 on the situation in Afghanistan in which the Assembly recognized the importance of the efforts of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in this matter, was also discussed in the course of consultations which the Secretary-General carried out with a number of participants. The Organization of the Islamic Conference was subsequently kept informed, as it had requested, of the endeavours of the Secretary-General in this regard.
10. During the period covered by this report, the United Nations Centre for Disarmament maintained contact with the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference both studied various measures which could lead to general and complete disarmament. The two organizations emphasized on many occasions the close link between disarmament and development, pointing out that the resources released as result of the implementation of disarmament measures should be used for the economic and social development of all peoples and should help to reduce the economic gap between developed and developing countries.

11. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/36, the Centre against Apartheid has been supplying the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with its publications and pamphlets, General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the problem of apartheid. This material, and that supplied by the Department of Public Information, is intended for dissemination by the various Islamic news agencies (press, radio, television, etc.) based in Jeddah.

12. General Assembly resolutions on colonial questions have also been transmitted to the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with whom contacts in this regard have been maintained.

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

13. At the invitation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, representatives from the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, as well as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), participated as observers in the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Islamic Countries, held at Ankara from 4 to 6 November 1980. The participation of several United Nations bodies at the Conference made it possible to establish a close relationship between the over-all activities of the United Nations system in the fields of development and technical co-operation among developing countries, on the one hand, and the interregional economic co-operation efforts of the Islamic countries, on the other hand.

14. Active co-operation was established during the period covered by this report between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the following United Nations institutions and offices: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

15. The Organization of the Islamic Conference is in close contact with UNDP and with UNIDO with a view to establishing agreements defining the framework of their future co-operation. In connexion with the latter, it may also be noted that the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in its resolutions 16/10-E (see A/34/389) adopted in 1979 and 13/11-E of 1980 (see A/35/419-S/14129, annex II) urgently recommended the holding of an industrial round table consultation in Pakistan with UNIDO assistance.

A. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

16. At the request of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Department of Technical Co-operation and Development sent experts to Jeddah in 1978, 1979 and 1980 to advise the organization in certain technical fields and to establish programmes involving co-operation between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Department.

17. Consultations also took place at United Nations Headquarters between the Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

18. By its resolution 16/11-E (see A/35/419-S/14129, annex II), adopted at the Eleventh Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in May 1980, the Organization of the Islamic Conference requested the Secretary-General to pursue the finalization of the technical agreement with, inter alia, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

B. United Nations Development Programme

19. UNDP participated as an observer in the first Conference on Economic Co-operation among Islamic Countries, held at Ankara from 4 to 6 November 1980; in the Third Islamic Summit Conference, held at Taif in January 1981; and in the twelfth session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at Baghdad from 1 to 5 June 1981.

20. Conversely, the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in the second session of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which took place in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981, and in the twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council of UNDP, also held in New York from 9 to 29 June 1981.

21. By its resolution 16/11-E, the Organization of the Islamic Conference requested the Secretary-General to pursue the finalization of the technical co-operation agreement with UNDP. Accordingly, after several exchanges of views between the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Administrator of UNDP, steps were taken to make this co-operation more dynamic. These measures are expected to widen the scope of mutual co-operation in fields of common interest, such as reciprocal representation at various intergovernmental meetings and the exchange of information and documentation on questions of common concern.

22. In addition, consultations have taken place between the secretariat of the Islamic Development Bank and UNDP with a view to monitoring investments in UNDP-supported projects. Investments have already been made by the Islamic Development Bank in two UNDP-supported projects (in Indonesia and Somalia), and the possibility of a special interest agreement similar to the existing agreements

between UNDP and the major regional development banks and with the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development is being explored.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

23. During the first part of its seventeenth session, in 1977, the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD designated the Organization of the Islamic Conference as an intergovernmental organization which may participate, without vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Executive Committee and its subsidiary organs in accordance with rule 78 of its rules of procedure.

1. Exchange of information and contacts between the two secretariats

24. Pursuant to the above decision, the Organization of the Islamic Conference has, since 1977, received all UNCTAD documentation. The two secretariats have, moreover, maintained close contact through exchanges of information and regular visits by senior officials. Thus, three officials from the Statistical, Economic and Social Research Service, and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for the Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) visited UNCTAD in August 1980 and had detailed discussions with various UNCTAD officials on questions of common interest.

2. Participation in meetings of the two organizations

25. UNCTAD participated actively in the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Islamic Countries and in the drafting of the Plan of Action for Economic Co-operation among Islamic Countries, which was subsequently adopted by the Third Islamic Summit Conference, held in early 1981 (see A/36/138, annex I). On the initiative of representatives of UNCTAD, two paragraphs were included in the Plan of Action dealing respectively with: (a) special favourable treatment to be given to products which are of export interest to least developed member States; and (b) an agreement aimed at creating a free trade area and supporting efforts to liberalize trade preferences.

26. The Third Islamic Summit Conference also called upon the Islamic Development Bank to provide accelerated and increased assistance to the least developed member States and, in particular, to contribute towards financing trade on more favourable and flexible terms. In order to achieve that objective, the Conference decided to increase the capital of the Bank by 1,210 million Islamic dinars, to a total of \$US 3 billion, so that the Bank could diversify its operations (see A/36/138, annex II, resolution 6/3-E).

27. The Organization of the Islamic Conference, whose membership includes 14 of the least developed countries, participated as an observer in the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 1 to 14 September 1981, and in its Preparatory Committee. Such participation facilitated the implementation of the Conference's decisions by the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The latter has already established a fund of \$US 1 billion for the least developed countries among its members.

28. The Taif Summit Conference also approved a proposal by an Islamic group of shipping experts concerning the creation of the Islamic Shipowners Association (resolution 4/3-E). The Chairman of the group of experts is also Chairman of the UNCTAD expert group on bulk cargo.

29. In the field of transfer and development of technology, UNCTAD has worked with a number of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the preparation of studies, on the organization of and participation in training programmes and, in particular, on technical and operational assistance relating to several aspects of the transfer and development of technology, including programming, planning, building construction, evaluation and the basic law concerning contracts.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

30. Although the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has no activities of its own directed exclusively to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, its programme is nevertheless of definite interest to that intergovernmental organization. The Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Co-operation among States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (resolution 1/3-E, Plan of Action, sect. I) recommends that member States should give consideration to assisting the Islamic countries affected by natural calamities such as drought and flood and to devising ways and means for tackling such natural phenomena as desertification, deforestation, waterlogging and salinity.

31. In this connexion, UNEP organized two seminars, one at Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 March 1979 and the other at Bangkok from 14 to 18 August 1979, jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), on the topic "Alternative lifestyles and development patterns". A number of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference took an active part in the seminars.

32. The two seminars recommended, inter alia, that the Afro-Asian countries and the competent international organizations should undertake research and studies with a view to identifying and applying desirable new approaches to development in such fields as utilization of tropical forests; evaluation of deficiencies with the aim of supplying populations with essential goods in keeping with their desire for social justice; and the economic and environmental implications of a single-crop economy, with particular reference to export crops. A number of other recommendations were made for action at the interregional and regional levels.

E. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

33. During the period covered by this report, there were exchanges of correspondence and visits by high-level officials between the Centre and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Director of the Centre took advantage of his presence in Jeddah in March 1981 to pay a visit to Mr. Arshad Uz Zaman,

Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Exchanges of information and contacts take place on a regular basis and at a high level.

F. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

34. Long before the adoption of General Assembly resolution 35/36, UNIDO was in contact with several affiliates of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and with some of its member States on questions relating to the objectives of the Conference. In 1978, the host country for the Conference of Ministers of Industry of Islamic Countries approached UNIDO and requested it to prepare working papers covering the following subjects:

(a) Financial co-operation for industrial development in the Islamic countries, with special reference to the capital goods and engineering sectors;

(b) Co-operation in the fields of research and training among the Islamic countries;

(c) Industrial development of the Islamic countries: progress, present status and future prospects;

(d) Ideas for co-operation among the Islamic countries for the development of the capital goods industry.

These papers were duly prepared in 1979 and revised in 1980, when the Conference was postponed for a second time.

35. Co-operation between UNIDO and the Islamic Development Bank dates back more than three years. The two organizations concluded a formal agreement after carrying out a series of co-operative activities.

36. UNIDO has also entered into co-operation with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for the Islamic Countries (an affiliate of the Organization of the Islamic Conference). A joint programme for an industrial training and development centre in a member country is in course of preparation. Missions have been exchanged between UNIDO and the Research Centre, and the latter also participated as an observer in the Third General Conference on UNIDO.

37. UNIDO has participated actively in meetings and conferences to which it was invited. It took part in the meeting of the Economic Committee at the seventh session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at Djakarta from 30 March to 2 April 1981; it subsequently participated, at a high level, in the Twelfth Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Islamic Countries, which took place in Baghdad from 1 to 5 June 1981. The New York Liaison Office of UNIDO has maintained close contact with the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, who expressed the organization's interest in establishing a

formal agreement for co-operation with UNIDO. A senior UNIDO official has already visited the headquarters of the organization at Jeddah to discuss a preliminary draft of such an agreement.

G. World Health Organization

38. Although there is as yet no direct co-operation between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, indirect co-operation has already been established between the two organizations in the health field through the Islamic Development Bank, of which the Organization of the Islamic Conference is a member and with which WHO signed an agreement and a memorandum of agreement in 1979.

39. WHO has been co-operating with the Islamic Development Bank to improve the health of Ugandan refugees in the southern Sudan and of refugees from the Ogaden in Somalia. WHO personnel participated, at the request of the Bank, in a number of joint missions carried out in those countries in 1979-1980 to identify the needs of the refugees. The Islamic Development Bank has allocated more than \$5 million for these refugees and for Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Chad refugees in Cameroon.

40. On the basis of the principle that health is a natural human right and an integral part of socio-economic development, regional and national strategies of health for all by the year 2000 provide numerous occasions for co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, particularly in the fields of primary health care, sanitation, health education and public information. Several WHO member countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region are at various stages of formulating and/or implementing primary health care programmes with the essential component of health education, which ensures community participation in the development of public health activities. Among the countries involved, mention may be made of the Sudan, Democratic Yemen, Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan.

H. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

41. With the signing on 8 January 1979 of a general co-operation agreement, UNESCO and the Organization of the Islamic Conference have maintained and developed very close relations in the fields of education, science, culture and information. The implementation of that agreement has resulted in reciprocal representation at meetings of the official bodies of the two organizations and in exchanges of information and documentation. In 1980, the Organization of the Islamic Conference appointed a representative to UNESCO.

42. UNESCO has been represented at nearly all the high-level conferences of the Organization of the Islamic Conference since 1978. In January 1981, the Director-General of UNESCO attended the Third Islamic Summit Conference held at Taif and delivered an address.

43. On 13 November 1980, a further agreement was signed, pursuant to the first agreement, for the celebration of the fifteenth century of Hegira, covering the following joint activities:

- (a) A round table conference on Islam today;
- (b) An international symposium on Islam, philosophy and science, which was held in July 1981 at UNESCO House simultaneously with an exhibition on the same theme;
- (c) Publications;
- (d) The preservation and publication of Arab manuscripts in Africa;
- (e) A round table on Hegira;
- (f) An exposition on Islam, education, science and culture.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference made a contribution of \$700,000 for the carrying out of these activities.

44. Several of these activities have already been successfully completed. The round table conference on Islam Today was held on 10 and 11 October 1980 during the twenty-first session of the General Conference of UNESCO at Belgrade. An exhibition on Islamic civilization was held at the same time. The International Symposium on Islam, Philosophy and Science was held at UNESCO House in Paris from 8 to 11 July 1981, while the exhibition on the same theme was held from 8 to 21 July 1981. Negotiations are taking place with a view to carrying out the other joint activities.

45. From 1 October to 3 December 1980, the Organization of the Islamic Conference organized at UNESCO headquarters an international seminar on Jerusalem, followed by an international seminar on Islam from 4 to 6 December 1980.

46. These activities were organized in the spirit of the co-operation agreement between the two organizations, namely, the elimination of racial discrimination and colonialism in all its forms and the consolidation of international peace and security. These objectives are identical with those of General Assembly resolution 35/36.

I. United Nations Fund for Population Activities

47. Within the context of mutual co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Government of Turkey requested the UNFPA and the organization to sponsor jointly a Muslim Scholar's Congress on Population, Health and Development, to be held in Jakarta in early 1983. The Preparatory Committee met in Ankara from 10 to 14 August 1981 and drew up a preliminary report on the Congress.

J. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

48. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees maintains excellent relations with the Organization of the Islamic Conference. During the period covered by this report, there was a regular exchange of information and visits by high-level officials between UNHCR and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

49. At the invitation of the Office of the High Commissioner, a representative of the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated as an observer in the work of the thirtieth session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme in October 1980, at Geneva. Two representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference took part in the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva in April 1981. In addition, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference visited the headquarters of the UNHCR and had fruitful talks with the High Commissioner.

50. The High Commissioner attended in person the Third Conference of Heads of State of Islamic Countries at Taif in January 1981. He was represented by a special envoy at the special session and at the Eleventh Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Islamic Countries, held respectively in January and May at Islamabad.

51. These contacts and exchanges of information have enabled the two organizations to provide effective humanitarian aid to refugees in Asia and Africa, in accordance with the decisions taken by both the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

V. WAYS AND MEANS OF FURTHER STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF
THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

52. In view of the fact that the Islamic countries co-operate with their neighbours within the framework of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, ECA and ESCAP, it would be appropriate for the Organization of the Islamic Conference to be granted observer status with those regional commissions. Such status could enable the Organization of the Islamic Conference to place the experience of the Islamic countries in its relevant regional environment and to help to maintain consistency and continuity between regional efforts and Islamic co-operation.

53. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for the Islamic Countries in Ankara has expressed the desire for contacts with the corresponding units at United Nations Headquarters.

54. The Shipping Division of UNCTAD is contemplating close co-operation with the Islamic Shipowners Association, as soon as it is established, on questions of common interest. This possibility has already been the subject of discussions between UNCTAD and the Chairman of the group of shipping experts of Islamic countries.

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55. The Secretary-General assigned special responsibility in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/36, in which the Assembly requested him to examine ways and means of further strengthening co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization. In view of the extent and variety of the questions of common interest, the Department in carrying out this task will maintain close contacts with other departments and offices concerned. With regard to issues falling under the competence of the specialized agencies, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in his over-all co-ordinating function in the economic and social fields, will provide the Department with the necessary guidance.
