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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Secretary-General

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ABBREVIATIONS

BADEA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
EEC	European Economic Community
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EUA	European unit of account
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GNP	Gross national product
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PANAFTEL	Pan-African Telecommunication Network
SDR	Special drawing rights
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

INTRODUCTION

In section IV of its resolution 35/205 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a report on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and on the progress made in the implementation of the Immediate Action Programme (1979-1981) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see para. 1 below). Following this request, the present report, which was prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, is divided into two parts. Part One deals with the implementation of the Immediate Action Programme (1979-1981) and Part Two concerns the assessment of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which was held in Paris from 1 to 14 September 1981.

Part One

REVIEW OF PROGRESS UNDER THE IMMEDIATE ACTION PROGRAMME (1979-1981)

Background

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its resolution 122 (V) of 3 June 1979, decided to launch, as one of its major priorities, a comprehensive and substantially expanded programme, with both immediate and longer-term phases. Phase one of this programme, called for

An immediate effort to meet the critical situation of the least developed countries in the form of an Immediate Action Programme (1979-1981) of greatly expanded assistance for the least developed countries, aimed at (a) providing an immediate boost to their economies and immediate support for projects for the provision of the most pressing social needs, and (b) paving the way for much larger longer-term development efforts.

2. In its resolution 34/210 of 19 December 1979, the General Assembly reiterated the UNCTAD decision and requested the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to monitor progress under the Immediate Action Programme and, in particular, to invite donors, as well as the least developed countries to the extent of their possibilities, to submit information on the steps they were taking to implement that programme. In section I of its resolution 35/205, it urged all developed countries in a position to do so, multilateral development institutions and other sources to take urgent steps to implement without any further delay, and in any case before the end of 1981, the commitments undertaken in the Immediate Action Programme (1979-1981), contained in resolution 122 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; and, as mentioned earlier, in section IV of the resolution, it requested the preparation of the present report.

3. In pursuance of the latter resolution, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD asked governments and multilateral donor agencies to supply information regarding their efforts to implement the Immediate Action Programme. The written statements received from governments and multilateral agencies were reproduced - in most cases in full - for consideration by the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (see A/CONF.104/PC/2 and Add.1-7; A/CONF.104/PC/12; A/CONF.104/PC/13 and Add.1-3). The present report summarizes these replies. The terminology used is that of the respondents. Section I describes the steps taken by individual countries on the implementation of the Immediate Action Programme. Section II describes the steps taken by multilateral agencies in this regard.

4. The replies received, while useful in providing important detail on the current programmes of individual donors, in general did not address clearly the question of the steps being taken to provide for the two things called for in the Immediate Action Programme - additional finance to provide an immediate boost to the economies of the least developed countries during the period 1979-1981 and additional finance to assist the least developed countries in elaborating the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s.
5. The request made by the Group of 77 for at least \$100 million to support preparations by the least developed countries for the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s, as called for in paragraph 3 (c) of UNCTAD resolution 122 (V), and emphasized in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 34/210, continue to remain unfulfilled. Similarly, sufficient additional finance to provide an immediate boost to the economies of the least developed countries during the period 1979-1981 and to alleviate their most pressing social needs, as called for in UNCTAD resolution 122 (V), has not been forthcoming. On the contrary, despite the efforts made by some donors, the overall flow of concessional financial resources to the least developed countries declined in 1979 and, according to preliminary estimates, again in 1980 both in total and in per capita real terms (see table 1).
6. The tables in annexes I and II show detailed information of net official development assistance (ODA) disbursements in 1979 and 1980 to least developed countries from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and from selected multilateral agencies (by individual donor and recipient). They were compiled on the basis of the information received in the written statements by individual donor countries and multilateral agencies as well as of estimates by the OECD secretariat. The data shown are in current dollars and should be seen against an estimated increase in the unit value of imports of the least developed countries of 24.5 per cent in 1979 and of 23.7 per cent in 1980 and a population growth rate in these countries averaging 2.5 per cent per annum.
7. The 31 countries at present identified as least developed are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Yeman, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Leo People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Yemen. In its resolution 1981/34 of 8 May 1981, the Economic and Social Council decided to include Guinea-Bissau in this list. However, in view of the fact that the majority of the replies from donor Governments and agencies were prepared before the adoption of this resolution, Guinea-Bissau is not included in the information provided on the least developed countries, nor is it included in the statistical tables of this report.

Table 1. Real trends in the flow of concessional assistance to the least developed countries a/ by source 1978, 1979 and 1980

(Net disbursements in millions of constant US dollars at purchasing power of 1979 b/)

	1978	1979	1980*
I. DAC member countries	4 402.6	4 275.3 (4 358.8) c/	..
A. <u>Bilateral</u>	2 709.0	2 696.1 (2 779.6) c/	2 592.7
Australia	37.1	48.9	24.5
Austria	2.5	2.8	4.5
Belgium	93.6	100.9	77.4
Canada	207.2	163.8 (177.6) c/	133.5 c/
Denmark	91.1	83.0	84.6
Finland	13.2	14.9	17.7
France	263.8	242.9 (312.6) c/	290.4 c/
Germany, Federal Republic of	423.8	490.8	438.6
Italy	16.3	16.8	30.0
Japan	271.7	330.2	277.8
Netherlands	259.1	240.2	232.9
New Zealand	7.0	6.2	4.9
Norway	93.2	87.7	76.4
Sweden	173.2	200.9	147.9
Switzerland	52.0	28.5	46.2
United Kingdom	241.4	261.6	265.6
United States of America	462.8	376.0	439.8
B. <u>Multilateral d/</u>	1 693.6	1 579.2	..
African Development Fund	40.0	42.8	27.2
Asian Development Bank	70.5	60.3	60.4
European Communities	334.1	330.9	..
World Bank	16.7	19.5	..
IDA	446.4	462.5	358.6 e/
Inter-American Development Bank	21.2	15.9	..
IMF trust fund	279.1	182.9	183.4
United Nations agencies	485.6	464.4	..
II. OPEC member countries	616.0	688.5	765.6
A. <u>Bilateral</u>	511.5	593.3	663.1
Algeria	0.6	-	8.1
Iran	18.9	-	-
Iraq	49.3	-	21.9
Kuwait	142.6	114.7	120.5
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	14.3	-	6.4
Nigeria	-	0.1	0.5
Qatar	1.2	2.2	14.9
Saudi Arabia	215.0	383.6	339.0
United Arab Emirates	69.6	92.7	151.8
B. <u>Multilateral f/</u>	104.5	95.2	102.5
III. Socialist countries of Eastern Europe	87.9	(45.9)	..
IV. China	78.4	85.9	..
Grand total (I+II+III+IV)	5 184.9	5 095.6 (5 179.1) c/	..

Source: A/CONF.104/9 and tables in annexes I and II.

* Preliminary.

a/ Excluding Guinea-Bissau.

b/ Actual disbursements in 1978 and 1980 were converted to 1979 prices using the UNCTAD unit value index of imports of the least developed countries (1975 = 100) which stood at 122.7 in 1978, 153.9 in 1979 and 190.4 in 1980.

c/ Including allowance for amounts reported as "Least developed unallocated".

d/ Mainly financed by DAC member countries.

e/ Fiscal year 1980.

f/ Mainly financed by OPEC member countries.

/...

I. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL DONOR COUNTRIES

8. The following information is a summary of the replies received from Governments regarding their efforts to implement the Immediate Action Programme (for the full text of the replies, see A/CONF.104/PC/2 and Add.1-7 and A/CONF.104/PC/13 and Add.1-3).

AUSTRALIA

1. Australia's bilateral aid to least developed countries increased from \$US 13 million in 1972 to \$US 29.6 million in 1978, \$US 48.6 million in 1979, and \$US 30.3 million for 1980. In 1979, least developed countries received 10.1 per cent of total Australian bilateral ODA. All Australian aid to least developed countries has had a 100 per cent grant element, principal recipients currently being Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Samoa, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.
2. Australia's policy on local cost financing is that of meeting to a significant extent, and where appropriate, the local costs incurred in connexion with aid to least developed countries. Australia subscribes to the DAC guidelines on recurrent cost financing which call on members to respond constructively to requests for this type of assistance.

BELGIUM

1. Belgian development assistance to least developed countries placed it eighth in order of donor countries according to per capita GNP. In 1979, Belgium allocated almost a quarter of its external aid to the least developed countries. Furthermore, over 98 per cent of this aid was in the form of grants, and the loans were made on very liberal terms conforming to the recommended standards.
2. Among the various projects chosen by Belgium, special attention was given to those calculated to promote the export capabilities of the least developed countries, in order to increase their foreign exchange resources. Great interest was also taken in agriculture, particularly food production, in order to make these countries totally self-supporting as regards food.
3. Several projects for the exploitation of local renewable energy have been undertaken, to enable the least developed countries to make substantial savings on fuel import costs.
4. With regard to contributions to international organizations earmarked for particular projects, Belgium has directed its choice toward programmes and projects of advantage to the least developed countries, particularly those relating to food (78 per cent of Belgian food aid is allocated to these countries).

CANADA

1. Canadian bilateral development assistance to the least developed countries rose from \$US 159.25 million in financial year (FY) 1978/79 to \$US 181.03 million in FY 1979/80, an increase of over 13 per cent. The share of total Canadian bilateral aid going to the least developed countries rose from 33 per cent to 35 per cent in the same period. Canadian bilateral development assistance programmes are focused to a large extent on priority areas within the Immediate Action Programme - basic human needs, increased agricultural development, improved infrastructure, enhanced self-reliance and human resource development. Special attention has been paid to local cost financing and untying, particularly for projects involving basic needs. Even before the adoption of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), Canada decided unilaterally to forgive some \$250 million in least developed country debt by converting to grants the outstanding Canadian loans to the least developed. Current and further assistance to the least developed is being provided on a grant-only basis.

2. During the period 1978/79 - 1979/80, Canadian multilateral assistance increased from about \$393 million to \$398 million. Much of this assistance is used to assist the least developed countries, particularly that channelled through the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the various United Nations programmes, and the IBRD/IDA. About \$108 million was allocated to special programmes, especially the programme with non-governmental organizations, which is strengthening the local efforts of lower income groups. In 1979/80 Canada provided \$184 million of food aid assistance. The least developed countries are major recipients of Canadian food aid. The current untying policy provides for the untying of all multilateral assistance (except food aid), transportation costs, and 20 per cent of bilateral assistance. Certain bilateral development assistance projects can be untied more extensively, even up to 100 per cent.

DENMARK

1. Denmark's ODA constituted 0.75 per cent of GNP in 1978 as well as in 1979. Virtually all of its bilateral assistance is extended to developing countries with a GNP per capita of under \$US 550. In 1979 total net disbursements amounted to \$US 83 million and 34 per cent of Denmark's bilateral assistance was extended to least developed countries. Denmark's bilateral ODA is divided almost equally between grants - mainly extended as project aid - and highly concessional loans. Net disbursements in 1980 were \$US 104 million.

2. According to the latest available estimate, commitments in 1981 for Bangladesh and the United Republic of Tanzania amount to \$15.08 million and \$23.95 million respectively. The 1981 figures for other least developed countries are not yet available.

3. Denmark has invited least developed debtor countries that so wished to enter into individual negotiations on possible debt relief on past ODA debts. All requests so far have been met, and Denmark has in 1979 remitted debt in an amount of \$US 87.8 million to Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, Malawi, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Upper Volta and the Yemen Arab Republic.

4. Denmark attaches importance to the facilitating of absorption of assistance. The assistance programme, and donor procedures are under current review to ensure maximum flexibility and simplicity.
5. In the area of trade, Denmark has established trade promotion offices in Denmark for each of seven poorer countries, including one least developed (Bangladesh), to facilitate access of the products of these countries to Danish markets. Through its substantial contribution to the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC), Denmark is assisting developing countries in diversifying and marketing their export products. Special ITC projects in the least developed countries of Malawi and Nepal are financed by Denmark. Owing, inter alia, to strong support from Denmark, the generalized system of preferences within EEC was even further improved in 1980 for the least developed countries.
6. The Danish policy with regard to financing of local costs continues to be very flexible and liberal, and the same is true for the financing of recurrent costs as far as the grant-financed assistance is concerned. Since project aid is totally untied, local costs may in principle be financed up to 100 per cent in the four main recipient countries - Bangladesh, Kenya, India, and the United Republic of Tanzania - no restrictions are maintained concerning the local cost component. Recurrent costs in connexion with the projects may also be financed for a couple of years after the final establishment of the project.

FINLAND

1. The increase in the volume of ODA remains a priority in the development aid policy of Finland. In June 1977, the Government set a medium-term target of 0.32 per cent to augment the ratio of aid appropriations to GNP at least twofold over the 1977 level by 1982; and in 1980, the Government announced its intention to set aside 0.7 per cent of GNP for development assistance by the latter part of the decade.
2. In 1979 ODA disbursements increased - in national currency - by 49 per cent, raising the share of ODA in GNP to the level of 0.21 per cent; 17 least developed countries received assistance totalling \$US 14.9 million, which amounted to 38 per cent of total bilateral assistance. In 1980 the over-all share of ODA disbursements in GNP increased to 0.22 per cent and total disbursements to the least developed countries amounted to \$US 21.9 million or 36 per cent of total bilateral assistance.
3. Finland has converted into grants all outstanding ODA credits and credit commitments extended to the least developed countries and countries in a similar economic position and has moved to an all-over grant basis in its development co-operation with these countries.
4. The bulk of Finnish bilateral grant aid continues to be for technical co-operation programmes in the programme countries within the framework of country programming. The need for local costs financing as well as for procurement from third countries is considered case-by-case in the context of the appraisal of a project as a whole.

5. Finland has decided to include coffee, as well as some additional industrial and agricultural products, in its generalized system of preferences in favour of the least developed countries.
6. Finland has recently increased its trade and economic co-operation with developing countries in general. The first agreement with a least developed country, the Sudan, was contracted in 1980.
7. The share of multilateral assistance in over-all disbursements was 43 per cent in 1980 after having been 55 per cent in 1979. Among the multilateral financial institutions with which Finland is co-operating, a major share of the funds is allocated to IDA. In the 1980 budget, allocations to IDA for the third installment under the fifth replenishment, in which the share of Finland is \$US 41 million, amount to \$US 15.4 million. Finland is also a founding member of IFAD, to which it has pledged \$US 3 million.
8. Training courses and seminars for nationals of developing countries have been arranged on a bilateral basis in co-operation with United Nations specialized agencies. The two principal fields of training supported by Finland have been trade promotion and forest industries.
9. Finland has recently increased government appropriations for humanitarian aid and emergency and disaster relief. In this framework, Finland in 1979-1980 supported the assistance programmes for Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Somalia and Uganda. Humanitarian aid, emergency and distress relief for these and other countries amounted to \$US 3.2 million in 1979 and \$US 3.6 million in 1980.

FRANCE

1. Bilateral ODA from France to the least developed countries amounted to \$US 261.48 million in 1978 and \$US 312.62 million in 1979, representing an increase of 12.7 per cent. In 1979, the amount was more than 11 per cent of total bilateral assistance and approximately 0.06 per cent of GNP. During that year, African least developed countries received an increased share of the subsidies allocated under the Fonds d'Aide et de Coopération (FAC), amounting to 47.6 per cent of FAC commitments in 1979 as against 42.3 per cent in 1978. In absolute terms, commitments to least developed countries rose by more than 50 per cent. In 1980, the budgetary appropriation of FAC was substantially increased (by nearly 50 per cent) and this will benefit the least developed countries considerably.
2. A new category of loans comprising a concessional element of nearly 70 per cent has been created at the Caisse centrale de coopération économique (CCCE), for the most disadvantaged countries and, in particular, the least developed countries. The loans are for 30 years, with an interest rate of 1.5 per cent during the 10-year grace period and 2 per cent thereafter.
3. During 1979, CCCE committed \$US 35.26 million in this way to some of the least developed countries and to Sahel countries which had been victims of the 1977-1978 drought. Twenty-four projects were funded to meet the most immediate needs of the rural population (more or better food, water and fuel supply).

4. All loan agreements of the Treasury concluded in 1979 with least developed countries have involved grants associated with the loans. The three countries in question (Bangladesh, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania) were allocated \$US 15 million, in associated grants, bringing up the average grant-element for the three countries to over 68 per cent.

5. In 1979, the over-all grant-element of France's ODA to the least developed countries was 93 per cent.

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is making a significant contribution to the implementation of the Immediate Action Programme by increasing the volume of its aid to the least developed countries, the sectoral distribution of aid, the provision of study and expert funds, the financing of project studies and the secondment of advisers in all important sectors of technical co-operation.

2. Bilateral net disbursements of ODA to least developed countries thus increased from \$US 227 million in 1977 to \$US 491 million in 1979 and \$US 542 million in 1980, an increase of 87 per cent from 1977 to 1980. Commitments increased even more rapidly from \$US 267 million in 1977 to \$US 955 million in 1979 and \$US 1,751 million in 1980. This increase corresponds to a growth of 414 per cent within a period of three years. These commitments will consequently result in considerably increasing disbursements in the forthcoming years.

3. Under technical co-operation, government commitments to least developed countries went up from \$US 90.2 million in 1977 to \$US 121.8 million in 1978 and \$US 178.8 million in 1979 (an increase of 34 per cent between the years 1978 and 1979). Co-operation with least developed countries is focused, to the extent of more than 50 per cent, on sectors closely related to satisfying the basic needs of the poorer population segments.

HUNGARY

1. The Hungarian Government has so far made, and will continue to make in the future, considerable efforts to expand its economic relations and co-operation with the least developed countries.

2. To date, Hungary has concluded bilateral trade agreements with 12 least developed countries. The increase of the deliveries of goods to Hungary by the least developed countries is also assisted by extensive tariff preferences under the Hungarian preferential tariff system. The goods of 30 least developed countries enjoy full exemption from duty in Hungary.

3. The Government has entered into bilateral technical and scientific co-operation agreements with 15 least developed countries. In general, these agreements envisage co-operation in the fields of science, technology, industry, agriculture, public education and public health, providing for, inter alia, the

sending out and exchange of experts, the transfer of technical documentation, production, experience, expertise, and technologies. Co-operation also covers education in universities, high and secondary schools, training of technicians and skilled workers, and in certain cases post-graduate courses as well. In 1979, Hungary received almost 1,000 persons from the least developed countries for vocational training and more than 70 Hungarian experts participated in the realization of economic development tasks, within the framework of technical and scientific co-operation, in several least developed countries.

IRAQ

Assistance granted by the Government of Iraq to least developed countries (and to Djibouti and Mauritania) totalled, in 1979, \$US 269.7 million, of which \$US 232.2 million consisted of concessional loans and \$US 37.5 million of grants. In 1980, aid to the same countries totalled \$US 818.9 million, of which \$US 127.5 million consisted of grants and \$US 691.4 million of concessional loans. In 1979, assistance to two Asian least developed countries accounted for \$US 21.7 million and to 10 African countries for \$US 248 million; in 1980, three Asian countries received a total of \$US 379.2 million and 12 African countries \$US 439.7 million.

IRELAND

1. Disbursements to individual least developed countries for 1979-1980 consisted of a grant to the United Republic of Tanzania (1979) of \$US 0.12 million.
2. Ireland provides assistance of a technical and minor capital nature and the amounts paid to each project include local and recurrent costs. Five least developed countries have benefited from this assistance. Total disbursements amounted to \$US 2.55 million in 1979 and \$US 4.29 million in 1980. 1/

JAPAN

1. Japan's ODA to least developed countries has recently rapidly increased, amounting to \$105 million in 1977, doubling to \$217 million in 1978 and tripling to \$330 million in 1979. Provisional estimates for 1980, of disbursements excluding technical co-operation, amount to \$US 235 million. Moreover, the relative share of the assistance to these countries in total bilateral ODA also increased from 11.7 per cent in 1977, to 14.1 per cent in 1978 and 17.2 per cent in 1979.
2. In 1979, 36.2 per cent of Japan's total ODA to least developed countries, amounting to \$119.4 million, was in the form of grants. Japan is making every effort to provide its assistance to least developed countries in the form of grants

1/ The exchange rates used were: EIR 0.46620 (1979) and EIR 0.52701 (1980) to \$US 1.00.

wherever possible, and intends to continue its efforts to improve loan terms, when providing ODA loans to least developed countries in response to their request.

3. Japan is implementing debt relief measures for all the least developed countries in line with resolution 165 (S-IX) of the Trade and Development Board. The amount of debt relief assistance for these countries increased from \$US 8.5 million (29 per cent of the total relief) in 1978 to \$US 11.0 million (36 per cent of the total) in fiscal year (FY) 1979.

4. In the case of projects in least developed countries where domestic capital is grossly insufficient, Japan gives special and favourable consideration to local cost financing upon their request and allows such financing on a case-by-case basis. In carrying out project-type technical assistance, budget appropriations were made for such expenditures as local cost financing (\$US 2.1 million in FY 1979, \$US 3.4 million in FY 1980 and \$US 3.9 million proposed for 1981), site operation costs, expenses for training medium-level technicians, and expenses for developing project infrastructure.

5. Japan is offering commodity loans on a case-by-case basis to those least developed countries which are facing serious balance-of-payments difficulties in order to give them balance-of-payments support; \$US 189.8 million in commodity loans were given to poorer developing countries in FY 1979.

KUWAIT

1. Loans to least developed countries as at 30 April 1980 given by Kuwait through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development stood at \$US 679.67 million. Twenty countries benefited from these concessional loans, which had interest rates varying from 0.5 to 4.0 per cent, grace periods of 2.0 to 10.0 years, and maturity of 9.5 to 50 years. In addition, projects with a total loan component of \$US 62.7 million have been under consideration.

2. Technical assistance grants as of April 1980 were given to 13 least developed countries and totalled \$US 13.6 million. 2/

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has links with most of the least developed countries through a number of agreements.

2. During the period from 1970 to 1980, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in collaboration with a number of least developed countries, established joint ventures with total capital of \$US 278.5 million and the participation of the

2/ The exchange rate used in converting data into US dollars was 0.27130 dinars (1980) to \$US 1.00.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the capital of those ventures ranged from 49 to 70 per cent. In the same period, in collaboration with some least developed countries, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also established joint banks with a capital of \$US 28.5 million in which it is participating to the extent of 50 per cent of the capital.

3. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has provided a number of least developed countries with material assistance totalling \$US 730 million. During the biennium 1979-1980, it granted \$US 230 million to a large number of least developed countries. Most of the assistance provided by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya consists of grants, and where loans are given as part of this assistance they are normally long-term loans repayable over a period of more than 20 years, sometimes with a seven-year period of grace, at an interest rate of less than 5 per cent. In many cases those countries are exempted from such payments.

4. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is also making a large and effective contribution to Arab, European, Islamic and African financial institutions, to the OPEC Fund and to IFAD. These institutions also provide loans for the least developed countries.

NETHERLANDS

1. The Netherlands Government considers the improvement of the position of the least developed countries and the alleviation of poverty within these countries as one of its highest priorities in the field of development co-operation.

2. The Netherlands has, for several years now, been giving a high proportion of its bilateral ODA to these countries. In 1979, bilateral ODA to the least developed countries accounted for 25 per cent of total bilateral ODA, which figure corresponds to 0.16 per cent of GNP. For 1980, this increased to 28 per cent of total bilateral ODA or 0.19 per cent of GNP. In addition, it should be noted that the least developed countries, in principle, receive grants only. During 1979, 27 least developed countries received assistance. Total commitments amounted to \$US 292.9 million and disbursements to \$US 240.2 million. In 1980, commitments increased to \$US 354.2 million and disbursements to \$US 302.6 million.

3. Recently, a new approach has been developed, labelled a "programmatic approach", and measures have been taken for reducing the time-lag between commitments and disbursements for concrete projects and programmes. This approach implies also that the Netherlands takes a very flexible attitude to the financing of local costs, including recurrent costs, in particular in the direct attack on poverty. It also implies that more emphasis is progressively to be laid on import support, programme aid and balance-of-payments support.

4. During 1980, a total debt of \$US 11.37 million owed by the least developed countries was written off.

NEW ZEALAND

1. Ten least developed countries benefitted from New Zealand's bilateral ODA in 1979-1980. Gross disbursements during 1979 and 1980 were \$US 7.20 million and \$US 5.97 million respectively. While New Zealand continues to accept the aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as ODA, it has not been possible to set a date by which this may be reached.
2. New Zealand has adopted a flexible case-by-case approach to local cost financing in keeping with the spirit of the DAC guidelines on local and recurrent cost financing. Requests for contributions towards recurrent costs of projects in their establishment stages are considered provided that such assistance does not exceed 10 per cent of the total project costs. During 1979 and 1980 local cost financing amounted to \$US 0.07 million and \$US 0.88 million and recurrent cost financing to \$US 0.05 million and \$US 0.02 million, respectively.
3. New Zealand's contributions to multilateral aid agencies in 1979 and 1980 amounted to \$US 14.0 million and \$US 13.1 million respectively, part of which was directed to least developed countries.

NIGERIA

The Government of Nigeria has provided technical assistance in various fields to 18 African least developed countries. In addition, Nigeria provided grants to Botswana (\$US 0.13 million), Cape Verde (\$US 0.12 million), Chad (\$US 3.67 million), Ethiopia (\$US 0.61 million), the Gambia (\$US 0.18 million), Lesotho (\$US 0.37 million), the Sudan (\$US 0.73 million), Uganda (\$US 0.09 million) and the Upper Volta (\$US 0.75 million). Moreover, grants for drought relief have been given to Mali (\$US 0.92 million), the Niger (\$US 2.76 million), Rwanda (\$US 50,000) and Somalia (\$US 2.20 million). ^{3/}

NORWAY

1. The Norwegian Government has traditionally focused its development aid on least developed and other low-income-developing countries. Norwegian ODA is extended in the form of grants and Norway thus has no outstanding ODA loans. Furthermore, Norwegian ODA is in principle untied. According to preliminary estimates, Norway attained at ODA/GNP ratio of 0.82 per cent for 1980, against 0.93 per cent in 1979. The percentage share of bilateral ODA to least developed countries in 1980 was approximately 35 per cent, of which some 40 per cent was given in the form of technical assistance.
2. Commitments to individual least developed countries include for Bangladesh - \$US 22.5 million in 1979, \$US 22.2 million in 1980 and \$US 19.8 million in 1981;

^{3/} The exchange rate used in converting data into US dollars was 0.54445 naira (1980) to \$US 1.00.

in Botswana - \$US 5.1 million in 1979, \$US 6.4 million in 1980 and \$US 4.7 million in 1981; for the United Republic of Tanzania - \$US 32.5 million in 1979, \$US 40.0 million in 1980 and \$US 35.8 million in 1981.

3. Net disbursements have amounted to the following: for Bangladesh, \$US 22.3 million in 1979 and \$US 22.2 million in 1980; for Botswana \$US 3.8 million in 1979 and \$US 4.9 million in 1980; for the United Republic of Tanzania \$US 28.6 million in 1979, and \$US 36.2 million in 1980.

4. The Norwegian aid programme maintains an approximately fifty-fifty division of the total appropriations between bilateral and multilateral aid. In its multilateral aid, Norway supports international organizations which are giving special consideration to the particular needs of low-income countries, including least developed countries. Norway is a main contributor to UNDP and has earmarked approximately 5 per cent of its 1980 contribution to UNDP for the UNDP Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries. Norway is also a main contributor to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, which is providing investment loans on grant terms to the least developed countries.

5. The Norwegian Government has traditionally taken a positive and flexible attitude towards local and recurrent cost financing. This policy will be continued, and ways and means will be sought to make Norwegian development aid even more flexible and more easily applicable for the specific objectives contained in the Comprehensive New Programme of Action, such as support for administrative planning efforts as well as programme and budget support measures.

6. The Norwegian authorities have actively encouraged increased access for exports of the developing countries by unilaterally dismantling barriers to trade and implementing special commercial policy measures to promote adequate markets for the products of least developed countries.

7. The need to promote exports in particular from the least developed countries has been given emphasis by the Norwegian Government. Norway is one of the largest financial contributors to the ITC integrated country programmes.

POLAND

1. Poland has not imposed any quantitative restrictions or other non-tariff barriers on imports of processed commodities and raw materials from the least developed countries. As from 1 January 1981, Poland has granted, under the generalized system of preferences duty-free treatment to goods imported from and originating in the least developed countries. The Polish Chamber of Commerce has offered its services and assistance to increase information about the Polish market.

2. Poland has concluded agreements on cultural, scientific and technological co-operation with 12 least developed countries. The assistance assumes the forms of training of cadres and other nationals in Poland, and sending highly qualified experts to least developed countries. More than 400 nationals from these countries were studying in Polish higher education centres in the academic year 1979/80.

Secondment of Polish specialists to the least developed countries continues to grow. Seminars have been held for representatives of the business sector from developing countries to broaden their knowledge of trade policies, practices, and modalities of trading with Poland; for example, a regional seminar for African countries was scheduled for June 1981.

3. Industrial co-operation, particularly through the promotion of mixed capital companies which, inter alia, guarantee optimum adjustment of industrial plants to local requirements and training of local personnel, is being increased.

SPAIN

Spain is not a member of the Development Assistance Committee of OECD and is not considered a donor country by the international community. However, it has given both loans and grants to the least developed countries, amounting, in 1979, to \$US 4.96 million and \$US 0.05 million respectively; in 1980, to \$US 27.81 million and \$US 0.20 million respectively; and in 1981, so far, to \$US 2.15 million in the form of grants. 4/

SWEDEN

1. Sweden is convinced that the rich countries must accept a moral responsibility for the international distribution of financial resources, and that a growing volume of assistance is particularly important to the poorest developing countries.

2. Swedish assistance is given on very soft terms; 98 per cent of its bilateral assistance is in the form of grants. Credits carry no interest or service charges and have a 50-year maturity, including a 10-year grace period. The development credits extended earlier to the least developed or most seriously affected countries were written off in 1978. The major part of Swedish assistance is untied.

3. One third of Swedish assistance is multilateral and reaches the developing countries through various United Nations specialized agencies. Sweden concentrates its bilateral development co-operation on 20 so-called programme countries, of which 8 (Bangladesh, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania) are least developed.

4. In 1979/80, the total support through country frames to the least developed countries was \$US 161.43 million. In 1980/81, it is proposed to reach \$US 179.7 million, and by 1981/82 it is intended to attain \$US 173.6 million. These amounts represents a share of 33.2 per cent in total 1979/80 flows and it is planned to allocate a share of 35 per cent in 1980/81.

4/ The exchange rates used to convert data to US dollars were 66.149 pesetas (1979), 79.250 pesetas (1980) and 89.259 (1981, April rates) to \$US 1.00.

5. In addition to bilateral assistance, through country frames, the least developed countries received \$US 16.8 million in 1977/78 and \$US 18.6 million in 1978/79 in the form of support through disaster relief, non-governmental organizations, etc.

SWITZERLAND

1. Switzerland has gradually directed its ODA towards the least developed countries and the poorest populations. Assistance is given on very liberal terms. The proportion of ODA allocated to the least developed countries (48 per cent of bilateral assistance) is much greater than the DAC average (19 per cent in 1978). By the end of 1981 Switzerland will have increased its bilateral assistance to the least developed countries from \$US 29.47 million in 1979 to \$US 51.71 million, an increase of almost 75 per cent.

2. Switzerland constantly advocates in the governing bodies of multilateral organizations, greater concentration of their activities on the least developed countries. It has increased its contribution to the UNDP Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries from \$US 1.8 to \$US 2.4 million in 1979; and its contribution to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, from \$US 0.5 million to \$US 1.2 million in 1979, and from \$US 1.2 million to 1.8 million in 1980.

3. In the context of the Immediate Action Programme, Switzerland has provided specific assistance to Bangladesh, Mali, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta and the Yemen Arab Republic, in various areas of urgent need.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1. In 1979, in conformity with the United Kingdom's policy of concentrating aid in the poorest countries, out of the total net bilateral aid programme of \$US 1,128 million, 25 per cent, or \$US 282 million, went to the least developed countries. In 1980, aid to these countries increased by 22 per cent, reaching \$US 344 million. Commitments to the poorest countries (including the least developed) have, since 1975, been on grant terms.

2. The United Kingdom was one of the first countries to implement Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX). Agreements have now been signed with 17 of the poorest countries which had loan payments outstanding but which were eligible to receive aid on grant terms, waiving all payments on past aid loans as they fall due or, in one case, adopting equivalent measures. Ten of the 17 are amongst the least developed countries.

3. In 1979, 41 per cent of United Kingdom ODA was channelled through multilateral institutions. Support is being given to the international organizations which give special consideration to the needs of the low-income countries, including the least developed. For example, United Kingdom contributions to IDA have been among the largest (the United Kingdom's share of the sixth replenishment will be 10.1 per cent, or \$1.212 billion).

4. In 1979, over \$US 79 million was spent on bilateral technical co-operation for the least developed countries, not including the cost of regional programmes from which these countries also stood to benefit. At the end of 1979, there were 1,558 experts financed by the United Kingdom Government under bilateral technical co-operation arrangements in the field in 18 of the least developed countries.
5. Aid has also been provided in the form of disaster relief (in 1980, to Bangladesh, Haiti, Nepal and Uganda) and research into many problems affecting the least developed countries, particularly in the energy sector.
6. The United Kingdom is able to take a flexible attitude on the proportion of local costs which may be financed according to the circumstances of individual cases. For certain kinds of projects, particularly many of those intended directly to help the poorest, its participation necessarily involves providing a local cost component. In 1979, total local cost financing amounted to \$US 102 million.
7. The United Kingdom recognises the need and is able to consider assistance in the form of both offshore and local recurrent costs where severe budgetary problems exist.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. In line with established United States policy of focusing economic assistance on the poorest countries, the least developed countries are receiving priority in the allocation of United States bilateral assistance and food aid.
2. In 1980, total ODA granted by the United States amounted to \$7.091 billion, as compared to \$4.684 billion in 1979, and disbursements of this assistance to least developed countries amounted to \$351 million in 1980, as compared to \$377 million in 1979.
3. ODA provided to the least developed countries is highly concessional and has a grant element of 92.1 per cent. The United States Congress has also enacted legislation which would allow a least developed country to make payments on past dollar loans in local currency, which would then be used for mutually agreed developmental activities. With regard to food aid the least developed countries can satisfy the dollar repayment obligations under (Title III) loans by utilizing the proceeds from the sale of agricultural commodities under these loans, for mutually agreed developmental purposes.
4. The United States fully supports the recent DAC guidelines on local and recurrent cost financing and on aid implementation and, in conformity with these, inter alia, allows the waiver of requirements for 25 per cent of the host Government's contribution to local or recurrent costs and to training programmes when appropriate.
5. Full tariff reductions on most products agreed upon in the multilateral trade negotiations have been implemented immediately for most least developed countries.

Improvements which will benefit the least developed countries are also being introduced into the operation of the generalized system of preferences.

6. The United States Peace Corps has been working in 14 least developed countries. During 1979, it provided 813 volunteer-years to these countries.

VENEZUELA

1. Venezuela is aware of its role as a third world country and as a member of OPEC. Together with the other member countries of OPEC, Venezuela is participating in a programme of financial assistance to developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, through the OPEC Fund.

2. Venezuela co-operates with various countries in the region through the Venezuelan Investment Fund, the trust funds with the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, and through economic co-operation agreements with the countries in question.

II. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND MULTILATERAL DONOR AGENCIES

9. The following is based on information provided by bodies of the United Nations system and multilateral donor agencies and submitted to the Preparing Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in document A/CONF.104/PC/12.

A. United Nations bodies and programmes and specialized and related agencies

1. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

1. In the context of its programme and in conformity with its mandate as the executing agency most responsible in the United Nations system for building and strengthening the institutional infrastructure and broadening the resource base of developing countries, the Department gives priority to the requests of least developed countries for assistance financed with funds allocated to it in the Regular Programme. The Department's activities include the execution of 22 projects in 18 least developed countries which provide for assistance in regional planning, economic planning at the national level, strengthening and creating project formulation and evaluation units, and rural development.

2. In the mineral and energy sectors, the Department, in accordance with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/176 on multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources, is in the process of estimating the financial requirements over the next 10 to 15 years for the exploration and location of mineral resources in those developing countries that have indicated their interest. Missions consisting of one specialist in non-fuel minerals, and one in mineral fuels, are being made available on request. This

assessment of financial requirements in the mineral and energy sectors could make a useful contribution to the over-all assessment of the least developed countries' needs for external assistance. 5/

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific 6/

1. The secretariat of the Commission carries out a number of activities in respect of the least developed countries in the ESCAP region, on the basis of the work programme for the period 1979-1981.

2. As regards agriculture, the secretariat provides assistance to the least developed countries in the region in the planning of agricultural development; the countries receiving this assistance include Bangladesh, Nepal and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. So far as industry is concerned, the secretariat has been investigating the possibility of establishing "prime mover" industries in Nepal, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The environment and its protection in the least developed countries of the region have formed the subject of studies by the secretariat; specific questions considered include land management, the prevention of desertification, and the protection of the marine environment. The secretariat has provided assistance to the least developed countries in the region in the matter of regional trade expansion and co-operation, and in respect of export promotion, trade information, freight, tariff and payments policies, transit arrangements, customs administration, the production of and trade in raw materials and commodities (coconuts, hides and skins, jute, silk, tropical timber), multilateral trade negotiations, transport and communications, tourism, statistical services, etc.

3. Economic Commission for Africa 7/

1. Under the Commission's auspices an intergovernmental conference was convened at Addis Ababa in March 1980 to consider the problems and prospects of the least developed countries of Africa. 8/ The Conference recommended, inter alia, that a Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African Countries should be established (for which the ECA secretariat is to prepare a number of studies); that a unit should be established in the Commission's secretariat to deal with the problems of these countries; and that the secretariat should expand its work on projections for these countries. The Conference identified the following areas for priority action and support: self-sufficiency in food; the establishment of an industrial base with strong linkages to agriculture; the development of transport and communications

5/ See also TD/B/AC.17/16/Add.5

6/ See also A/CONF.104/PC/5.

7/ See also A/CONF/104/PC/4.

8/ For the report of the Conference, see E/CN.14/766.

with emphasis on building local capacities for the construction and maintenance of feeder roads in order to ensure efficient production and distribution of goods and services; the development of a national education and training programme appropriately linked to production processes; the improvement of data collection, processing and dissemination; and efforts to counter drought and to reverse desertification.

2. In addition, the Conference made certain recommendations concerning the volume and quality of the external assistance to be granted to the least developed countries of Africa, the petroleum supplied for these countries, and other topics related to those to be considered at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

4. Economic Commission for Western Asia 9/

1. The secretariat of ECWA has been carrying out activities designed to assist the two least developed countries in the region, Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic. The activities include advisory services, training and research. The area covered by these activities include the principal sectors of the economy - agriculture, fisheries, industry, energy, transport - and also certain supporting services such as statistical services, demographic surveys, health care, educational services and planning.

2. The regional project under which the Commission provided advisory services and training to Yemen and Democratic Yemen in the field of public finance and administration from 1973 to 1979 was terminated owing to lack of funds.

3. In the biennium 1982-1983, it is proposed to undertake a review and analysis of trends, policies and measures affecting development prospects in these two least developed countries, to improve national capabilities in project formulation and implementation, and to draft guidelines for project identification.

4. In the period 1984-1989 the Commission intends (i) to support the implementation of the International Development Strategy and the Substantial New Programme of Action for the least developed countries in its region; (ii) to provide technical assistance to these countries in identifying and eliminating planning "bottlenecks"; (iii) to assist them in working out projects supporting their integration with each other and with other countries in the region; (iv) to approach possible donors of assistance; (v) to assist the two countries in organizing meetings with donors at which the modalities of aid would be reviewed.

5. The Commission's secretariat suggests that in the context of the Substantial New Programme of Action consideration might be given to:

(a) The strengthening of the capacity of the region's least developed countries to carry out their own development projects;

9/ See also TD/B/AC.17/16/Add.3

(b) The granting of incentives, as part of local or recurrent costs, to persons working in development planning, statistics, accountancy, project formulation and monitoring in these countries;

(c) The encouragement of donors to give higher priority to regional and subregional projects, with more intensive involvement of the regional commissions;

(d) The concentration of resources provided by donors on specific projects.

5. World Food Council 10/

1. The activities of WFC in least developed countries have concentrated on assisting these countries in carrying out their strategies with regard to food supplies. The countries which have requested assistance for this purpose include Bangladesh, Benin, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Haiti, Mali, Rwanda, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

2. The Council's general objective in the least developed countries is to foster measures for eradicating hunger and malnutrition through progressive economic development, increased food production and equitable distribution of foodstuffs.

6. United Nations Industrial Development Organization 11/

1. The declarations and plans of action adopted at the second and third General Conferences of UNIDO (Lima, 1975 and New Delhi, 1980) and resolutions adopted by the Industrial Development Board at various sessions envisage special measures of assistance to the least developed countries, particularly in the African region, where the majority of these countries are situated. For the purpose of financing technical assistance activities in favour of developing countries, including the least developed among them, UNIDO relies on resources from UNDP, the Special Industrial Services (SIS) fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDF), trust funds, the regular budget of the United Nations, and its own regular programme of technical co-operation. Contributions to the financing of certain operations carried out by UNIDO in least developed countries were received also from individual donor countries, from the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Expenditures by UNIDO in 1979 on projects benefiting least developed countries amounted to the equivalent of \$US 16.6 million.

2. In order to increase the flow of technical assistance to the least developed countries from other developing countries, UNIDO has instituted a programme of "solidarity meetings" within the framework of economic and technical co-operation

10/ See also TD/B/AC.17/16/Add.2

11/ See also TD/B/AC.17/16/Add.6.

among developing countries. Meetings of this nature have been held or are planned in Afghanistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Haiti, Bangladesh, the Sudan and the Upper Volta. Assistance - in the form of training fellowships, support for industrial projects, and in other forms - has been offered by developing to least developed Countries at such meetings. Through its own training programme, UNIDO awarded fellowships to nationals of 18 least developed countries in 1979. Other training courses are planned by UNIDO, in conjunction with the Government of a developing country, for personnel from least developed countries, who are to receive instruction in the preparation of projects. Through the UNIDO System of Consultations, information is provided to least developed countries on topics of special interest to them and on the economic prospects of particular industrial sectors (e.g., fertilizers, leather and leather products, vegetable oils and fats, petrochemicals, agricultural machinery, iron and steel). The least developed countries have access to the UNIDO industrial inquiry service and the industrial and technological information bank (INTIB). UNIDO defrays the travel and subsistence expenses of participants from least developed countries who attend consultation meetings organized under its auspices.

7. United Nations Development Programme 12/

1. In recognition of the importance of technical co-operation in least developed countries, the Governing Council of UNDP decided at its twenty-seventh session that UNDP should significantly increase the allocation of its resources to least developed countries during the third cycle (1982-1986). 13/ Of the 81 per cent of the total resources (projected for illustration purposes at an annual increase of 14 per cent), which are available for country programmes, 80 per cent will be allocated to countries with a per capita GNP below \$500, with higher increases in allocations foreseen for countries below \$250 per capita GNP. The total allocation for least developed countries (excluding countries classified "as if" least developed by UNDP) during the second cycle (1977-1981) was \$US 608 million. During the third cycle (1982-1986) an allocation of \$US 1,391 million is proposed, representing an increase of 128.7 per cent.

2. UNDP expenditures for least developed countries amounted to \$139.3 million in 1979 and \$158.3 million in 1980. Figures for 1981 are not yet available but an increase is expected. In addition, the Special Measures Funds for the Least Developed Countries financed \$9.8 million in 1979 and \$14.0 million in 1980. The 1981 budgeted amount is \$12.7 million. UNDP has been able to mobilize, directly or indirectly, approximately an additional \$1,020 million for least developed countries through various special funds.

3. UNDP is not only increasing its allocation of general resources to the least developed countries but is also able to provide special forms of support, including

12/ For the full text of the reply, see A/CONF.104/PC/2/Add.4.

13/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 12 (E/1980/42/Rev.1), chap. XI, decision 80/30.

some capital assistance. For certain specific requirements, Governments can call upon the resources available in the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). UNCDF projects are designed to be rapidly implemented, using simple technology adapted to local conditions. In addition, UNDP has administered since 1972 the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (SMF). Support costs related to projects financed by SMF are paid from UNDP general resources. Total voluntary contributions to SMF for the 1972-1980 period amount to \$73,349,000.

4. In order to respond more effectively to the requirements of the least developed countries, UNDP has introduced, at the national level, considerable flexibility in its operations by adopting such measures as local-cost financing, programme support projects, direct operational assistance and the use of United Nations volunteers at preferential rates. As regards UNDP intercountry programmes, at the regional and interregional levels, in Asia, for the 1980-1981 period, government representatives from least developed countries agreed to a \$15 million intercountry programme exclusively devoted to their problems in transport and handling equipment, agriculture, foreign trade and investment, communications, health, industry and energy. These efforts will be continued into the next programme cycle (1982-1986). In the Arab region, intercountry co-operation has been promoted in the fields of telecommunication and desert locust control. A major project currently under consideration will deal with the unified geological and water resources mapping of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. In the African region, five projects have been approved which specifically address the particular problems of least developed countries in Africa and a sixth project is ready for approval. The total cost of these six projects in UNDP exceeds \$2.25 million.

8. World Food Programme

1. The World Food Programme (WFP) has been providing assistance to least developed countries, through projects for economic and social development and emergency operations, ever since its inception in 1963. Since 1974, after the world food crisis of the early 1970s, it has been doing so on a priority basis. Special attention is given to assisting projects aimed at promoting agriculture, and especially food production and rural development, and to projects intended to improve the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups of the population.

2. As a special measure in favour of least developed countries, WFP has set up a special allocation from its cash resources to provide training, chemicals, equipment and materials to improve warehouse management. The Programme has also agreed to cover up to 50 per cent of the internal costs of handling its assistance in those countries, part of which could be used for constructing and improving storage. In these various ways, cash resources are being channelled to the countries in question in an effort to increase their absorptive capacity. The amount spent by the Programme in respect of defrayment of these costs was \$2.8 million at the end of 1978; it was estimated at \$6.4 million at the end of 1979 and the forecast for 1980 is \$5.0 million.

3. In the case of local operating costs for project implementation, the least developed countries are exempted from any payment in this regard, while other recipient countries are required to share with the Programme up to 50 per cent of such costs.

4. A table showing the amount and proportion of WFP commitments made in respect of development projects and emergency operations in least developed countries for the years 1977, 1978 and 1979 is given below:

Proportion of WFP commitments to least developed
 countries for 1977-1979
 (Millions of US dollars)

I. Development projects

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total WFP commitments for new development projects</u>		<u>Commitments for least developed countries</u>	
		<u>Percentage</u>		<u>Percentage</u>
1977	311.6	100	92.5	29.7
1978	342.3	100	148.9	43.5
1979	462.9	100	228.9	49.4

II. Emergency operations

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total WFP commitments for emergency operations</u>		<u>Commitments for least developed countries</u>	
		<u>Percentage</u>		<u>Percentage</u>
1977	85.5	100	44.8	52.0
1978	90.0	100	45.8	51.0
1979	119.2	100	61.8	52.0

9. International Labour Organisation 14/

In conformity with resolutions adopted by UNCTAD, the World Employment Conference (1976) and the International Labour Conference of 1979, and with the support of UNDP, ILO has been providing technical assistance and advisory services to its member States, which include the least developed countries, with a view to creating employment opportunities, combating poverty and satisfying basic needs. ILO has assisted least developed countries in conducting negotiations with bilateral and multilateral financial institutions for the purpose of securing resources in terms of cash, equipment and other materials to be used in labour-intensive public works programmes. For example, ILO is providing assistance to Botswana and Ethiopia in studying the most appropriate mix of resources for the construction and maintenance of roads. In the United Republic of Tanzania and Nepal, ILO has been studying the factors affecting the use of government services for the provision of education, health care, sanitation and housing. In Mali and Benin, ILO is assisting the authorities in defining employment targets to be attained through raw material processing and export promotion measures. The ILO Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion has advised the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on questions concerning the training and employment of manpower in that country.

10. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 15/

1. The representatives of FAO working in the field have been requested to urge upon the Governments of the least developed countries in which they are stationed the importance of giving high priority to food and agricultural development in their programmes. FAO is ready to provide, on request and subject to the availability of funds, any technical assistance which these Governments may need for this purpose.

2. FAO is preparing for the United Nations Conference a document entitled "Food and agriculture in the least developed countries in the 1980s: problems and prospects".

11. World Health Organization

1. While WHO has no express policy of concentrating its resources in particular on the least developed countries, assistance to the neediest countries receives priority in the allocation of the resources at the Organization's disposal. WHO recognizes, and urges both donors and recipient countries to recognize the importance of health as an integral part of development.

14/ See also TD/B/AC.17/16.

15/ Reproduced from A/CONF.104/PC.12. See also TD/B/AC.17/16/Add.1.

2. In conformity with the Declaration of Alma Ata of September 1978 on primary health care, the programmes of WHO - many of which are undertaken in conjunction with other international organizations - stress health education, nutrition, water supply and sanitation, maternal and child health care, immunization against major infectious diseases, disease control, treatment of common diseases, and the provision of essential drugs. The least developed countries that have received or are currently receiving assistance from WHO for the purpose of training health workers, planning health services, controlling malaria, and other health-related purposes include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic Yemen, Haiti, Maldives, Nepal, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Samoa, Somalia and the Sudan.

3. So far as the African region is concerned, an amount of \$US 17.3 million has been allocated in the WHO regular budget for 1980-1981 for supporting projects in the health sector of the least developed countries in that region. In addition, voluntary contributions totalling (by the end of 1979) almost \$US 5.8 million have been received in the special account of the Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion for assistance to least developed countries. Procedures have been worked out in WHO for selecting the least developed countries which are to benefit from the flow of the resources to be devoted to health projects.

12. World Bank 16/

1. In recent years, World Bank (and IDA) policy has focused increasingly on the needs of its poorest member countries, and on the poorest sections of the population within countries. Since the least developed countries are generally hampered by their limited capacity to borrow on other than highly concessional terms, the Bank's emphasis on this group is largely reflected through its allocation of IDA credits, which increased from \$813 million in fiscal year (FY) 1979 to an estimated \$1,154 million in FY 1981. In FY 1980, some 80 per cent of all IDA credits went to countries whose per capita GNP did not exceed \$360 (in 1978 dollars). Total IDA-IBRD commitments for 1979, 1980 and 1981 (estimated) amounted to \$US 858 million, \$US 980 million and \$US 1,186 million respectively. Tentative projections for the 1980-1984 period indicate an average annual outlay of IDA credits to the least developed countries of about \$1,357 million, compared with \$679 million during the FY 1975-1979 period.

2. The IDA local cost financing commitments to least developed countries, members of the World Bank, for FY/1979 amounted to \$156.4 million. To be eligible for local cost financing, the borrowing country must first satisfy the normal eligibility requirements for World Bank/IDA lending. A finding must then be made either that the funds to be committed to the country cannot reasonably be provided in adequate amounts by financing only foreign exchange requirements of suitable development projects (i.e., there are insufficient investment opportunities of this kind or this might involve an impractically large number of small projects), or that the World Bank/IDA could have a greater beneficial influence on the country's development if it directed its financing toward projects of key importance but with

16/ For the full text of the reply, see A/CONF.104/PC/2 and A/CONF.104/PC/13.

foreign exchange components below the minimum level constituting a reasonable World Bank/IDA contribution towards their financing.

3. Historically, the Bank has not normally financed recurrent cost of projects. However, greater emphasis on alleviating poverty and meeting basic needs, especially, has tended to influence the Bank's procedures in the area of financing operating and recurrent costs in particular.
4. The additional recurrent operating costs of a project will always be carefully reviewed to ensure that they are justified and do not impose an unacceptable burden on the borrower. Of critical importance to the effective use of financial resources in the least developed countries is the improvement in their absorptive, planning and institutional capacity. For this reason, the Bank is giving high priority to human development in its lending and technical assistance. Furthermore, under UNDP technical assistance programmes, the Bank is now executing 24 projects in 14 separate least developed countries, as well as several regional programmes, particularly in Africa, in order to accelerate the development of this group. Bank economic and sector analyses, within the framework of national development plans, also provide an important dialogue through which the World Bank lending strategy in these countries is determined. It might also be mentioned that the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank gives special attention to the training needs of the least developed countries.

13. International Monetary Fund 17/

1. The main financial activity of the International Monetary Fund is the provision of assistance to a member country in balance-of-payments difficulty in support of an economic and financial programme that is designed to overcome the difficulty. Various facilities have been set up in the last few years which take into account the special nature of the economic problems in the developing countries.
2. The Compensatory Financing Facility provides assistance to members, notably those exporting primary products, which experience balance-of-payments difficulties arising from export shortfalls, provided the latter are temporary and largely attributable to circumstances beyond the members' control. During the four-year period 1976-1979 SDR 322 million were provided to the least developed countries.
3. The Extended Fund Facility established in 1974 provides medium-term assistance to members to meet balance-of-payments deficits for longer periods and in amounts larger in relation to quotas than under normal tranche policies.
4. The Oil Facility set up in 1974 and 1975 assists member countries in coping with impact on the balance of payments of the increase in oil prices.

17/ For the full text of the reply, see A/CONF.104/PC/2 and A/CONF.104/PC/13.

5. The Fund is in the final year of a four-year gold sales programme in the course of which 50 million ounces, or one third of the Fund's gold holdings, are being sold. During the first three years of the gold sales, a total of 19.7 million ounces of gold were sold for the benefit of the developing countries and the profits totalled \$US 2.5 billion. Of this, \$56 million was distributed to least developed countries. In addition, SDR 1.4 billion was made available to developing countries in the form of loans from the Trust Fund. Of this total, SDR 325 million were lent to the least developed countries. It should be noted that the current terms of loans from the Trust Fund result in a grant element of about 50 per cent.

6. The following is the summary of the facilities that have been offered by the Fund to the least developed countries during the period 1979-1981:

(a) Credit tranches: In 1979 and 1980, IMF concluded arrangements with seven least developed countries to use their tranche, amounting to SDR 135.0 million in 1979 and SDR 277.3 million in 1980.

(b) Extended facility: In 1979 and 1980, one least developed country concluded arrangements under the extended facility for SDR 200 million and SDR 800 million.

(c) Compensatory financing facility: In 1979, six least developed countries concluded arrangements amounting to SDR 125.8 million and, in 1980, five least developed countries concluded arrangements amounting to SDR 77.4 million.

(d) Buffer stock financing facility: No least developed country made purchases under this facility in 1979 or 1980.

(e) Supplementary financing facility: In 1979, arrangements were concluded with one least developed country for SDR 13.8 million and, in 1980, for SDR 653.9 million.

(f) The oil facility funds were completely disbursed prior to 1979. In 1979, repurchases were made by 12 least developed countries, amounting to SDR 65.66 million, and, in 1980 by 11 least developed countries, amounting to SDR 63.63 million.

(g) The direct distribution of profits to least developed countries from the IMF gold auctions rose from \$30.7 million in 1979 to \$41.1 million in 1980.

(h) The payments to least developed countries from the interest subsidy account (1975 oil facility) amounted to SDR 8.9 million in 1979 and SDR 4.4 million in 1980.

(i) The Trust Fund loan disbursements to certain least developed countries amounted to SDR 141.5 million in 1979 and SDR 174.3 million in 1980.

(j) The SDR allocations to least developed countries was SDR 82.8 million in 1980 and SDR 81.2 million in 1981.

7. In addition to financial assistance, the Fund also provides substantial technical assistance and training to developing countries.

14. Universal Postal Union

1. Pursuant to resolutions adopted by the Universal Postal Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1979 and to earlier policies, UPU gives priority attention to the postal administrations of the least developed countries, both in its regional programmes supported by UNDP and in its own technical assistance programme. The annual budget of UPU makes provision for a 50 per cent increase in the appropriation in respect of the services of consultants who are sent to developing countries (including the least developed among them) and in respect of fellowships awarded to nationals of these countries. In the light of sectoral studies, UPU makes proposals to UNDP for the financing of regional projects, in particular projects benefiting the least developed countries, relating, *inter alia*, to transfer of technology, the establishment of research centres and the promotion of workshops for the manufacture of postal material. Action also taken at the 1979 Congress had the effect of raising substantially the receipts of certain least developed countries from postal services.

2. The assistance granted by UPU, in some cases with the financial support of UNDP and in others through the use of the resources of its own special fund, has included:

- (i) The sending of experts in postal tariffs to Cape Verde; the award of fellowships to nationals of the country enabling them to participate in a seminar on postal legislation and regulation; support for Cape Verde's participation in certain regional and subregional projects financed by UNDP concerned with postal services;
- (ii) Support for the participation of Chad in some of these regional and subregional projects and the award of fellowships to nationals of Chad;
- (iii) Support for the participation of Uganda in a regional project, consultant services aimed at the improved operation of postal sorting centres in Uganda; and the award of fellowships to Ugandan nationals enabling them to attend training courses;
- (iv) The award of fellowships to nationals of Botswana to enable them to attend training courses and a seminar on postal regulations;
- (v) The financing of the participation of the Comoros in certain regional projects; the services of a consultant to advise this country's postal administration on steps for improving its international postal traffic; and the award of a fellowship to enable a national of the country to attend a training course;

- (vi) Support for the participation of Lesotho in two regional projects; the services of an expert in postal accounts; and the award of two fellowships to enable nationals of Lesotho to attend training courses in postal matters.

15. International Telecommunication Union 18/

ITU depends mainly on UNDP for the financing of its technical co-operation activities. Having considered a special report entitled "Review of the state of telecommunication services in the least developed countries and concrete measures for telecommunication development" submitted to the Administrative Council of ITU at its session in May 1980, the Council decided that the report should be circulated to all member administrations prior to the decision to be taken by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 1982 concerning the action to be taken and the additional financial resources for that purpose. Meanwhile steps are being taken, within available resources and in the framework of UNDP-financed projects, particularly with regard to development planning and the improvement of training schemes. Special efforts are being made to develop projects in least developed countries of Africa and to obtain financing from UNDP and from bilateral and multilateral sources for activities which will help these countries to attain some of the objectives of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. This action has resulted in an increase of development assistance in the following areas:

- (i) Development and extension of networks through their integration in the Pan-African Telecommunication Network;
- (ii) Multinational training schemes;
- (iii) Setting up of efficient organizations for operations and maintenance of telecommunications;
- (iv) Integrated development of rural telecommunications.

16. Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization

1. IMCO has been providing technical assistance to a number of least developed countries at the request of the Governments of the countries concerned.

Bangladesh

2. With assistance provided by UNDP, fellowships have been awarded to nationals of Bangladesh, in particular persons in the service of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, for training as ship's officers. In addition, two experts recruited by IMCO are assisting the authorities of Bangladesh in establishing a Marine Safety

18/ See also TD/B/AC.17/16/Add.7.

Administration. Another project sponsored jointly by UNDP and IMCO has as its object the improvement and updating of the facilities available at the Marine Academy at Chittagong for the training of nautical and marine engineering cadets and for the training of instructors. A consultant recruited by IMCO has carried out a study of existing facilities in Bangladesh for conducting hydrographic surveys. IMCO has also prepared a proposal for developing the dry dock and heavy steel structure works at Chittagong. Since 1978, regional and interregional consultants of IMCO have visited Bangladesh regularly and have offered advice regarding maritime legislation, maritime safety, training, pollution and other matters.

Cape Verde

3. With assistance provided by Norway, two experts employed by IMCO have begun the execution of a project for the reorganization and equipping of the shipyard on Cape Verde. Other projects undertaken by IMCO with Norwegian assistance concern the training of nationals of Cape Verde as maritime administrators and shipping inspectors, the installation or improvement of navigational aids on Cape Verde, measures for pollution control along the coast of Cape Verde, assistance to the coastal navigation school of Cape Verde, and other related matters.

Ethiopia

4. Interregional consultants of IMCO have studied the development, operations and management of Ethiopian ports, the training of port personnel, cargo-handling in Ethiopian ports, etc. Another consultant of IMCO has advised the government of Ethiopia on questions of maritime law, and a specialist expert has drafted recommendations concerning maritime safety measures to be taken by the Government.

Guinea

5. An adviser of IMCO has drafted recommendations concerning Guinea's merchant marine services, navigational aids, maritime law, the training of technical and administrative personnel, etc., and prepared a preliminary assistance scheme, to be financed by UNDP, with provision for fellowships for senior and middle-level managerial staff and the assignment of experts in maritime matters.

Haiti

6. Advisers of IMCO have visited Haiti and made recommendations to the Government concerning maritime law and port operations.

Malawi

7. The regional adviser of IMCO has assisted in the preparations of a project, to be supported by UNDP, for the establishment of a maritime training centre on Lake Malawi.

Maldives

8. IMCO has submitted to the authorities of Maldives proposals concerning the provision of the services of an adviser on maritime safety and concerning the training of ship's officers.

Nepal

9. An adviser has given advice to the Government of Nepal on the feasibility of establishing a Nepalese merchant marine.

Samoa

10. The regional adviser of IMCO has made recommendations to the Samoan authorities concerning uniform maritime standards, maritime training, maritime law, safety, navigational aids, etc. Samoa participates in the UNDP/IMCO-assisted regional maritime training project in the South Pacific.

Somalia

11. An adviser of IMCO has proposed recommendations for the enactment in Somalia of laws and regulations concerning safety at sea and in ports and giving effect to certain international instruments. In addition, consultants recruited by IMCO have studied questions relating to marine engineering in Somalia.

United Republic of Tanzania

12. An adviser of IMCO has made recommendations to the Tanzania authorities concerning maritime regulatory policy, the amendment of legislation on merchant shipping, the control of marine pollution, and related matters.

Yemen Arab Republic

13. Consultants recruited jointly by UNCTAD and IMCO have studied the feasibility of the establishment of a national shipping company in this country.

Democratic Yemen

14. A joint IMCO/UNCTAD mission has studied this country's needs in the field of shipping and ports and has recommended that the services of experts should be made available to advise the Government on maritime safety, port operations, the management of the shipping company, and related questions. Another consultant of IMCO has made recommendations concerning measures for pollution control, disposal of petroleum spillage and waste, etc.

17. World Intellectual Property Organization

The Director-General of WIPO is authorized to defray the travel expenses of representatives of least developed countries who attend the meetings of the two standing committees dealing, respectively, with industrial property rights and with copyright and related rights, and who are thus enabled to participate in the deliberations which determine the policy of WIPO and the guidelines for technical assistance programmes. In 1980, WIPO awarded 43 fellowships for training courses or study courses to nationals of least developed countries. A number of such countries have applied to WIPO for assistance in drafting or revising national legislation concerning intellectual property rights. In the African region, WIPO is assisting, with financial support from UNDP, two regional bodies in establishing documentation and information centres concerned with patents; the beneficial countries include 16 least developed countries in Africa. In addition, WIPO organizes annual regional and interregional meetings and seminars on subjects within its competence in which the least developed countries of the region concerned are invited to participate; several such countries were represented at a seminar held in Bissau in May 1980.

18. International Fund for Agricultural Development 19/

1. Out of the total assistance amounting to \$US 892 million provided by IFAD in the first three years of its operations, that is, from December 1977 to December 1980, \$US 306.45 million, representing around 35 per cent, was committed for projects in countries classified by the United Nations as least developed. To date almost all those countries have been covered by IFAD loans and technical assistance operations, with some countries receiving more than one IFAD loan.
2. All commitments by IFAD to least developed countries were development loans on highly concessional terms and grants for technical assistance and research. Highly concessional loans are for 50 years, with 10-year grace periods and a service charge of 1 per cent. These loan commitments amounted to \$US 107.4 million in 1979 and to \$US 129.45 million in 1980. The likely loan commitment in 1981 is expected to be about \$US 150 million. Technical assistance grants for project preparation and as components of IFAD-financed projects to these countries were \$US 1.5 million in 1979 and \$US 3.4 million in 1980.
3. Since disbursements of loans are very small in the first year or so, it is too early to provide meaningful country-specific disbursement data. However, the total disbursement in respect of loans to least developed countries for the years 1979 and 1980 are expected to be \$US 20 million. The figure is expected to increase sharply in 1981.
4. IFAD leading policies do not impose any restrictions on local-cost financing. Most of the IFAD loans to least developed countries have therefore financed a substantial part of local costs. IFAD has also financed a portion of the recurrent

19/ Reproduced from B/CONF.104/PC/12.

costs during project implementation. Because of co-financing arrangements with other institutions, it is difficult to provide exact figures on a country basis for many of the projects.

19. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

1. The implementation of the Tokyo Round tariff and non-tariff measures agreements is designed to further the objective of an open and fair international trading system to the benefit of all countries, including the least developed countries. In the field of tariffs, certain developed countries have implemented concessions on products of interest to the least developed countries in advance of the staging provided for in their respective schedules. A number of non-tariff measures agreements, which entered into force on 1 January 1980, also provide for special and differential treatment and technical assistance to developing countries, including the least developed among them. The Agreement on Government Procurement which entered into force on 1 January 1981 states, for example, that special treatment shall be granted to the least developed country members and to suppliers in those countries with respect to products originating in those countries, in the context of any general or specific measures in favour of developing country members. Furthermore, the Agreement provides that members may grant the benefits of the Agreement to suppliers in the least developed countries that are not members, with respect to products originating in those countries. The same Agreement emphasizes that developed countries shall, upon request, provide assistance to potential tenderers in the least developed countries in submitting their tenders and selecting the products which are likely to be of interest to entities of developed countries, as well as to suppliers in the least developed countries that are not members with respect to products originating in those countries.

2. Least developed countries are regularly represented at annual courses in commercial policy organized by the GATT secretariat in Geneva. Two additional courses, funded by Finland, Norway and Sweden, were organized in 1980 specifically for least developed countries in order to assist them in assessing the benefits stemming from the Tokyo Round.

B. Multilateral donor agencies (intergovernmental organizations)

1. African Development Bank 20/

1. Since it began operations in 1966, the African Development Bank Group (including the African Development Fund and the Nigerian Trust Fund) has always made special efforts on behalf of the least developed African countries. Acting as a catalyst, it also tries to mobilize capital by co-financing various projects in the least developed countries.

20/ For the full text of the reply, see A/CONF.104/PC/2 and A/CONF.104/PC/13.

2. By a decision of 19 December 1978, the Board of Directors of the African Development Fund adopted a "lending policy" by virtue of which 25 member countries are given absolute priority over the other members of the Bank Group. These are the countries whose per capita GNP was less than \$US 280 according to 1976 data. This group of countries receives about 85 per cent of the loans granted by the African Development Fund and 65 per cent of those granted by the Nigerian Trust Fund.

3. During 1979, the gross disbursements of loans by the Bank Group to the least developed countries amounted to \$US 75.8 million. For the first half of 1980 the figures is \$US 49.9 million.

2. Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)

1. The Bank concentrated 60.5 per cent of its commitments in 1979 and 77 per cent of its aggregate aid in the period 1975-1979 on the least developed countries in Africa. Among the projects supported by the Bank in these countries are projects for promoting irrigation, livestock production, fisheries, crop protection, animal health, rural development, and rice cultivation, as well as projects for relief in cases of natural disaster, locust control and pest control.

2. Data concerning the Bank's loans and emergency aid are given in tables 2 and 3 below. 21/

3. Asian Development Bank 22/

1. The Asian Development Fund's lending is limited to the poorer member countries of the Bank; the criteria used for determining the eligibility of developing member countries emphasize the relevant country considerations and focus primarily on per capita GDP.

2. The Bank's policy is to provide only concessional loans, that is, loans with a repayment period of 40 years, including a 10-year grace period, interest-free, but with service charge of 1 per cent per annum.

21/ The data in Table 1 cover all African countries that have received or are receiving assistance from the Bank. These countries include most of those in the African region which are classed as "least developed" by the United Nations.

22/ For the full text of the reply, see A/CONF.104/PC/2 and A/CONF.104/PC/13.

Table 2. Total cost of projects and BADEA contribution, 1975-1980
(Millions of US dollars)

Beneficiary country or organization	Project	Total cost of project	BADEA contribution	Participation of BADEA (Percentage)
Benin	Cement factory	10	8	80.0
Congo	Railway	255	10	3.9
Ghana	Cocoa rehabilitation	29	5	17.2
Madagascar	Highway	36	5	13.9
Niger	Highway	37	7	18.9
Senegal	Livestock	13	1.6	12.3
United Republic of Cameroon	Douala port	112	10	8.9
United Republic of Tanzania	Maize production	49	5	12.5
Zaire	Water supply	70	10	14.3
Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast	Cement factory	<u>284</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3.5</u>
	Total 1975	<u>886</u>	<u>71.6</u>	<u>8.1</u>
Burundi	Sewerage	10	4	40
Gambia	Agricultural development	12	3.3	27.5
Kenya	Rural development	36	5	13.9
Mali	Selingue dam	142	15	10.6
Mauritius	Power stations	41	10	24.4
Rwanda	Rural development	23	5	27.7
Sierra Leone	Electrification	15	5	33.3
Upper Volta	Rural development	16	4.5	28.1
Zambia	Highway	19	10	52.6
PANAFTTEL	Seminar on telecommunications	<u>0.15</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>66.6</u>
	Total 1976	<u>314.15</u>	<u>61.9</u>	<u>19.7</u>
Ghana	Kpong Dam	237	10	4.2
Guinea	Cement factory	16	4.84	30.3
Liberia	Industrial free zone	11	3.2	29.1
Madagascar	Hydroelectric plant	114	10	8.8
Mali	Rural development	45	5	11.1
Rwanda	Electric power	34	6	17.6
Senegal	Fishing port	21	7.2	34.3
United Republic of Cameroon	Pulp mill	235	10	4.3
United Republic of Tanzania	Brick and tiles industry	<u>36</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>27.8</u>
	Total 1977	<u>749</u>	<u>66.24</u>	<u>8.8</u>

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Table 2 (continued)

Beneficiary country or organization	Project	Total cost of project	BADEA contribution	Participation of BADEA (Percentage)
Benin	Port of Contonou	46	4.6	10
Botswana	Livestock	7	2.2	31.4
Burundi	Highway	24	6	25
Chad	Rural development	23	7.8	33.9
Guinea-Bissau	Study on sugar industry	0.1	0.1	100
Lesotho	Airport	46	6	13
Liberia	Power-station	32	3.92	12.3
Niger	Power-station	136	7	5.1
Uganda	Textile mill rehabilitation	19	4.7	24.7
Uganda	Study on poultry and fisheries	0.15	0.15	100
Zaire	Oil palm rehabilitation	47	4.4	9.4
BDEAC	Line of credit	5	5	100
PANAFTEL	Study on telecommunications	1	1	100
1 country and 3 organizations	Emergency aid programme	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>100</u>
	Total 1978	<u>401.25</u>	<u>67.87</u>	<u>16.9</u>
Angola	Railway	55	10	18.2
Cape Verde	Fisheries development	6	2.4	40
Comoros	Telecommunications	5	1.57	31.4
Gambia	Yandum airport	13	5.2	40
Guinea	Highway	29	6	20.7
Kenya	Line of credit	5	5	100
Lesotho	Highway	9	3.9	43.3
Mali	Highway	<u>120</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8.3</u>
	Total 1979	<u>242</u>	<u>44.07</u>	<u>18.2</u>
Botswana	Airport	49	7.25	14.8
Burundi	Sugar complex	68	10	14.7
Comoros	Mustamudu port	33	8	24.2
Mozambique	Wood factory	40	10	25
Senegal	Chemical industry	290	10	3.4
Seychelles	Power-station	4	1.2	30
Sierra Leone	Agricultural development	26	8.5	32.7
United Republic of Cameroon	Highway	28	9	32.1
United Republic of Tanzania	Highway	<u>37</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>21.6</u>
	Total 1980	<u>575</u>	<u>71.95</u>	<u>12.5</u>
	GRAND TOTAL	<u>3 167.4</u>	<u>383.63</u>	<u>12.1</u>

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Table 3. BADEA assistance for least developed countries, 1975-1980
(Millions of U.S. dollars)

Beneficiary country	BADEA loans						Emergency aid	Total
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1973-1979	
Benin	8	-	-	4.6	-	-	2.400	15.000
Botswana	-	-	-	2.2	-	7.25	5.400	14.850
Burundi	-	4	-	6	-	10	2.000	22.000
Cape Verde	-	-	-	-	2.4	-	11.464	13.864
Central African Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.400	2.400
Chad	-	-	-	7.8	-	-	10.702	18.502
Comoros	-	-	-	-	1.57	8	10.500	20.070
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.740	14.740
Gambia	-	3.3	-	-	5.2	-	1.298	9.798
Guinea	-	-	4.84	-	6	-	1.029	11.869
Lesotho	-	-	-	6	3.9	-	2.800	12.700
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	-	15	5	-	10	-	9.660	39.660
Niger	7	-	-	7	-	-	4.568	18.568
Rwanda	-	5	6	-	-	-	2.000	13.000
Uganda	-	-	-	4.85	-	-	11.300	16.150
United Republic of Tanzania	5	-	10	-	-	8	14.200	37.200
Upper Volta	-	4.5	-	-	-	-	4.579	9.079
Total	<u>20.0</u>	<u>31.8</u>	<u>25.84</u>	<u>38.45</u>	<u>29.07</u>	<u>33.25</u>	<u>111.040</u>	<u>289.450</u>

3. Operations in the least developed countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal and Samoa) include both the Fund's lending and technical assistance. The six countries had received a total of 49 loans, amounting to \$529.1 million and 59 technical assistance grants totalling \$13.7 million during 1974-1978. In 1979, 11 loans amounting to \$176.5 million were extended to them. The latter amount accounted for 42.4 per cent of the Fund's loans, which totalled \$416.3 million. Bangladesh and Nepal were the two countries that were given the largest share. The total technical assistance grants provided to the six least developed countries amounted to \$1.9 million during the same year, with Bangladesh and Nepal receiving the major share of it. For 1980 and 1981, the total Fund's lending to the six least developed countries is estimated at \$US 204 million and \$US 282 million respectively (i.e., 43 per cent and 41 per cent of the total Fund's lending during these years), and would provide financing for 41 development projects. For the years 1980 and 1981 a total of 49 technical assistance activities are also programmed for these countries, involving assistance grants of \$2.1 million and \$1.8 million respectively.

4. The Asian Development Bank decided in mid-1974 that it would provide foreign exchange financing for a portion of the local currency expenditures to be incurred on projects financed by the Bank. In considering proposals for local expenditure financing, the primary emphasis is on country considerations. Priority for such financing will be given to the member countries classified by the United Nations as "least developed" or "most seriously affected". Local cost financing should normally not exceed 60 per cent of total local expenditures of a project. During 1979, for local cost financing, \$US 18.7 million was provided to the six least developed countries mentioned above. This amount increased to \$US 38.7 million in 1980.

5. For recurrent cost financing, the Bank can consider on a case-by-case basis the inclusion of such costs in its loans during the initial years of operation of investment projects.

4. Commission of the European Communities 23/

1. The aid policy in favour of the least developed countries is implemented by the Commission of the European Communities essentially through the Lomé Convention signed by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) and the European Economic Community (see A/AC.17/7), the programme for the non-associated countries, food aid, and the co-financing of projects with non-governmental organizations. In addition, the least developed countries benefit from special actions, such as the Community's contribution to the Special Action Programme of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation. In the trade field, the Communities's generalized system of preferences (GSP) scheme contains special provisions for the least developed countries.

^{23/} For the full text of the reply, see A/CONF.104/PC/2/Add.1 and A/CONF.104/PC/13.

2. It should be noted that under the Lomé Conventions, the concept of "least developed country" is broader than that of the United Nations. Under the first Convention (Lomé I), covering the period 1976-1980, least developed ACP countries received approximately 65 per cent of total resources for national and 60 per cent of total resources for regional purposes. In absolute terms this equals EUA 1,278 million out of a total of EUA 1,945 million for national programmes and EUA 180 million out of a total of EUA 300 million for regional co-operation. Grants represent, overall, 91 per cent of the aid received by the least developed countries, as compared to 65 per cent in the case of the remaining ACP countries. With regard to European Investment Bank financing in the form of risk capital, 63.9 per cent has been channelled to the poorest ACP countries.

3. During 1979, the least developed countries (on the United Nations list) received total EEC assistance of \$US 336.7 million (net disbursements) through the European Development Fund and the European Investment Bank. This figure excludes assistance not allocable by country, such as assistance for regional projects (grants totalling \$80.8 million for all developing countries) or assistance channelled through other organizations (grants to the value of \$132.9 million).

4. The least developed, land-locked and island ACP States have also been granted a more favourable treatment under the Stabex scheme. The conditions for benefiting from the scheme (i.e., the dependence and the trigger thresholds) are more favourable for the least developed countries. Moreover, they receive transfers in the form of grants, while all other ACP countries receive interest-free loans. In the period 1975-1979, the least developed ACP countries have benefited from approximately 67 per cent of total Stabex transfers.

5. Under the financial and technical co-operation provisions of the second convention (Lomé II) covering the period 1981-1985, the amounts earmarked for national indicative programmes in favour of the least developed countries are in the range of EUS 1,482 million to 1,693 million, out of a total of EUA 2,246 million to 2,632 million, that is, an increase of between 16 and 32 per cent over Lomé I.

6. Aid under the Lomé Conventions has a higher degree of untying than in many other cases. Invitations to tender and contracts are in fact not only open to all firms in member States of EEC but also to firms in ACP countries. Even a third-country firm may, under certain conditions, be authorized to participate.

7. Lomé II also provides greater opportunities for action in the fields of industrial and energy co-operation and agricultural and rural development. In the field of technical co-operation, least developed States can request priority assistance.

8. Emergency aid has been provided for in Lomé I and II. The appropriation of the second Convention, initially fixed at EUA 60 million, is to be restored to its initial level at the end of each year. The total amount for the duration of the Convention may not exceed EUA 200 million. The Community's food aid is given in the form of donations directly to States or through international organizations. In emergency situations, the Community takes responsibility for supplying the

goods, the cost of transport and free distribution to the affected population. The 1979 food aid budget amounted to EUA 287 million. For its 1980 programme, the poorest and most needy countries (per capita income of less than \$325 and or precarious external financial situation) should receive 80 to 90 per cent of total aid.

9. With regard to commercial policy measures, Lomé I guaranteed free access to the Community market for 99.5 per cent of ACP exports, the remainder being mainly products covered by the Common Agricultural Policy. The new Convention has therefore built on past achievements, making further improvements.

10. With regard to its GSP scheme the Community started in 1977 to liberalize progressively the arrangements for the importation of products originating from the least developed countries (see the United Nations list), so that today nearly all their exports of products included in the scheme can enter into the Community both duty-free and exempt from the operation of quantitative preferential limits.

11. The Community's aid programme for the non-associated developing countries started in 1976. For 1977, 1978 and 1979, commitments have been EUA 45 million, EUA 70 million and EUA 110 million respectively. For 1980, commitments totalling up to EUA 138 million were foreseen. The least developed countries have received so far between 20 and 25 per cent of total commitments.

5. Inter-American Development Bank

1. The only least developed country in the region with which the Bank is concerned is Haiti. Loans by the Bank to Haiti approved with concessional funds totalled \$US 4.1 million in 1979 and \$US 9.1 million in 1980. For 1981 an amount of \$US 7 million of such loans is programmed.

2. There were no loans from ordinary-type resources to Haiti in 1979. A loan of this (non-concessional) type was made in the amount of \$US 1 million in 1980, and for 1981 loans of \$US 8.7 million are programmed.

3. As regards technical co-operation, \$US 1.3 million were approved in 1979 and \$US 2.9 million in 1980. For 1981, a range of \$1.91 million to \$3.7 million is programmed.

4. The amount of concessional funds disbursed totalled \$US 15.6 million in 1979 and \$US 8.2 million in 1980. No disbursements were made from ordinary-type resources in any of these years. Within the technical co-operation programme, \$US 1.5 million was disbursed in 1979.

5. The amount of convertible currency financed in 1979 was \$US 4.1 million; no amount in local currency was financed in that year. In 1980, an amount equivalent to \$US 9.1 million was financed in convertible currencies and the equivalent of \$US 1 million in local currency.

6. Islamic Development Bank

1. The Islamic Development Bank, established in 1973, commenced operations in 1975. Its purpose is to foster the economic development and social progress of its member countries and of Muslim communities individually as well as jointly in accordance with the principles of Shariah. At present the Bank has a membership of 56 countries.
2. Tables 4 and 5 below give data concerning assistance granted or approved for certain least developed countries in 1979 and 1980.
3. All Bank financing is interest-free. Its lending and technical assistance operations bear a nominal service charge of 2.5 to 3 per cent.

7. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development 24/

1. In the field of trade policy, particular attention is paid on a continuous basis to the needs of the least developed countries, notably as regards specific measures in their favour under the generalized system of preferences (GSP). In June 1980, the OECD Council, at ministerial level, adopted a declaration strengthening trade relations with developing countries, with emphasis on the special needs of the poorer among them.
2. In the context of its members' development co-operation efforts and policies, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) regularly devotes special attention to the needs of the least developed countries. The revised DAC Terms Recommendation states, inter alia, that "a group of least-developed countries has been identified by the United Nations for which, apart from any other special measures, the softest possible terms of aid are appropriate. Official development assistance to these countries should be essentially in the form of grants".
3. The OECD Development Centre, in its research activity on developing countries and North-South relationships, has produced several documents of special interest for least developed countries. These include studies on rural development, food aid, self-help and popular participation. In December 1979, a workshop attended by some 40 representatives from least developed countries on "the prospects for the least developed countries in the 1980s" was held.

24/ For the full text of the reply, see A/CONF.104/PC/2.

25/ For the full text of the reply, see A/CONF.104/PC/2 and A/CONF.104/PC/13.

Table 4. Islamic Development Bank development assistance approved for least developed member countries during 1979 and 1980

(Millions of Islamic dinars)

Country	Loan		Technical assistance		Leasing		Equity		Foreign trade	
	1979	1980	1979	1980	1979	1980	1979	1980	1979	1980
Bangladesh	-	7.890	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	30.90	46.53
Comoros	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.88
Democratic Yemen	4.408	4.231	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.10	24.66
Gambia	-	-	-	0.327	-	-	-	-	-	3.01
Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	-	4.67	20.39
Maldives	-	-	-	-	-	5.340	-	-	-	4.62
Mali	6.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.11	5.52
Niger	-	-	1.250	-	-	-	-	-	19.11	27.18
Somalia	-	-	0.450	-	5.60	-	-	4.00	19.59	21.72
Sudan	5.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.950	45.05	68.05
Uganda	-	-	0.31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upper Volta	-	-	0.075	-	-	-	-	3.307	3.25	6.09
Yemen	-	5.000	-	-	-	-	1.701	-	-	19.13
Total	16.208	17.121	2.085	0.327	5.60	13.340	6.701	11.257	138.78	248.78

Table 5. Islamic Development Bank financing approved and disbursed up to November 1980 (least developed member countries)

(Millions of US dollars)

Country	Projects			Foreign trade financing		
	Number	Approved amount	Disbursed amount	Number	Approved amount	Disbursed
Bangladesh	4	29.25	11.398	6	92.32	72.320
Chad	1	6.10	-	-	-	-
Comoros	-	-	-	1	2.50	-
Democratic Yemen	3	13.00	0.585	2	28.00	12.191
Gambia	2	0.43	-	1	4.00	-
Guinea	4	13.29	4.620	5	43.80	22.512
Maldives	1	7.00	-	1	3.0	-
Mali	1	8.00	-	4	14.97	4.781
Niger	4	18.08	15.653	3	39.35	21.556
Somalia	6	23.45	2.634	5	53.20	34.974
Sudan	5	16.00	5.442	10	136.00	108.024
Uganda	5	6.76	-	1	1.76	-
Upper Volta	2	4.30	-	2	11.26	1.224
Yemen	3	8.84	1.758	2	25.00	16.370
Total	41	154.50	42.09	43	455.16	293.952

8. The OPEC Fund 25/

1. Since the commencement of its operations, the OPEC Fund has placed special emphasis on assisting the least developed countries.
2. Almost all the least developed countries have benefited from the OPEC Fund's assistance programme. Disbursements increased rapidly during 1979 and 1980, from \$US 32.8 million to \$US 60.8 million (an increase of almost 100 per cent). Total loans granted during the 1977-1980 period amounted to \$US 347 million.
3. OPEC Member countries have contributed through the Fund to the initial resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and are now considering a substantial participation in the replenishment of the resources of IFAD. About \$64 million so far has also been made available to the Trust Fund administered by the International Monetary Fund. A pledge has also been made to commit, through the OPEC Fund, up to \$100 million to the UNCTAD-sponsored Common Fund for Commodities.
4. The OPEC Fund provides local and recurrent cost financing through the project lending programme and through the local counterpart funds arrangement. In 1979 and 1980, the utilization of the equivalent of \$42.7 million in local currency to finance the local costs of various projects and programmes was approved.

Part Two

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Background

1. The United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to which the Government of France was host, was held at UNESCO headquarters and at the Bon Conseil Building in Paris between 1 and 14 September 1981. 1/ The Conference, in which 142 Governments participated, 2/ adopted without dissent wide-ranging programme of measures designed to reverse the unacceptably poor economic trends in the 31 economically most vulnerable and poorest developing countries: the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries.

2. The very fact that it was possible to agree on a comprehensive set of policy measures that 31 sovereign States will strive to implement with complementary support by the international community is an important achievement, particularly in the context of a very unfavourable international economic environment. Among the most important results of the Conference was the commitment of most donors to devote 0.15 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) to the least developed countries, while other donors undertook to double their ODA to them. Another essential decision was that to establish arrangements for implementation, follow-up and monitoring at the national, regional and global levels. This will ensure that the momentum achieved at Paris will be maintained and that the effectiveness of measures taken under the Substantial New Programme of Action can be constantly improved. All this undoubtedly reflects an increasing awareness by the international community of the nature and scope of the plight of the least developed countries, a political will to help and, therefore, a heightened sense of international solidarity.

3. An important aspect of this manifestation of international solidarity lies in the full support of the Substantial New Programme of Action by the other developing countries, all of which share similar problems in varying degrees.

A. The steps leading up to the negotiations

4. The Conference had been meticulously prepared in spite of a very tight time-table. The Preparatory Committee met three times, from 4 to 15 February 1980,

1/ For the report of the Conference, see A/CONF.104/22 and Add.1.

2/ The Conference was closely followed by some 80 non-governmental organizations.

from 9 to 17 October 1980 and from 29 June to 10 July 1981. 3/ Above all, each least developed country prepared a country presentation describing its economic situation, its prospects and plans for the 1980s, and the needs for international support arising from them. These were reviewed by each least developed country with its aid partners at a series of clustered meetings held from April to June 1981. 4/ The country presentations were of a generally high standard and will certainly play a further useful role in guiding and monitoring the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the country level in the 1980s. 5/ The importance the least developed countries attached to these meetings had been underlined by the high level of their representation; in most cases delegations were led by a minister.

5. Other events also confirmed the importance attached to the problems of the least developed countries by other countries as well as by the former themselves. A ministerial meeting of African least developed countries was held at Addis Ababa from 27 to 30 July 1981, 6/ and a ministerial meeting on the least developed countries of the ESCAP and ECWA regions was held at Bangkok on 10 and 11 August 1981. 7/

6. The arrangements made by the Government of France and the particular attention which it devoted to the Conference contributed greatly to the success of the event. The President of France, His Excellency Mr. François Mitterand, addressed a special inaugural session.

7. In addition, the Conference itself was addressed by four Heads of State. Of these, the King of Nepal spoke on behalf of the least developed countries of the ESCAP and ECWA regions; the President of Cape Verde spoke on behalf of the least developed countries of the ECA region, and the President of Kenya spoke in his capacity as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity. The Conference was also addressed by the President of Rwanda.

3/ For the reports of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on its first two sessions (4-16 February and 9-17 October 1980) see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/35/45), parts one and two. For the report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/36/45).

4/ For the reports of these meetings, see A/CONF.104/3-6. The country presentations have been issued in a series under the symbol LDC/CP/1-31.

5/ Circumstances prevented Chad from participating in the clustered meetings. However, in Paris on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, it held a meeting at which it presented a memorandum on its emergency assistance needs.

6/ For the report, see ST/ECA/LDCs.I/II.

7/ For the report see A/CONF.104/12.

8. Mr. Jean-Pierre Cot, Minister for Co-operation and Development of France, was elected President of the Conference.

B. The Substantial New Programme of Action: Over-all structure

9. The Substantial New Programme of Action opens by recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order ^{8/} and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. ^{9/} Both of these start from the principle of the sovereign equality of States. In the same spirit, the preamble to the Programme explicitly recognizes that primary responsibility for their development rests with the least developed countries themselves.

10. The Substantial New Programme of Action is thus divided into three chapters. Chapter I (General situation and national measures) focuses on the measures the least developed countries will take themselves to promote their own over-all development. Chapter II (International support measures) details the international measures which will be taken to support the least developed countries in their development efforts. They include, in particular, increased financial resource transfers and policies; programmes affecting the modalities of assistance, technical assistance and transfer of technology; commercial policy and co-operation between developing countries. The Substantial New Programme of Action recognizes that international measures of support must be flexible and appropriate to the situation in each country. In addition, they should be seen as reinforcing, not replacing, efforts at the national level. Chapter III details the Arrangements for implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Substantial New Programme of Action.

11. The present assessment follows the structure of the Substantial New Programme of Action in general, but it considers both national measures and international support of them together whenever this makes it easier to analyse the conclusions of the Conference.

12. In the Substantial New Programme of Action, the least developed countries have accepted a number of specific targets and committed themselves to specific actions rooted in the realities described in their individual plans and programmes for the 1980s. These plans benefited from close scrutiny on several occasions during the Conference's preparatory phases, that is, at individual review meetings with the aid partners of least developed countries, specialized agencies and multilateral financing institutions, as well as at the regional ministerial meetings.

C. Food, agriculture and rural development

13. In the agricultural sector, least developed countries aim to progress towards, and if possible surpass, the 4 per cent annual target set in the International

^{8/} General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974.

^{9/} General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974.

Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980) for all developing countries so that food production in each country increases faster than population growth, with a view to guaranteeing food security. One of the first objectives is to improve the nutritional situation of the populations in the least developed countries, especially the most vulnerable groups. Indeed the ambitious aim of eliminating hunger and malnutrition at the latest by 1990 has been set.

14. Every least developed country agreed to take important initiatives to reduce dependence on food imports, more particularly because of the changes they entail in food consumption patterns and the various dislocations they may lead to in the food sector of the developing countries and the need to reduce foreign exchange outlays.

15. The Substantial New Programme of Action stresses the need for appropriate food strategies, national food security policies and increased local processing of agricultural products. It also represents a significant and welcome shift of emphasis towards food production to meet local needs. In the same spirit, the least developed countries will pay particular attention to the development of indigenous farming techniques and, to the greatest extent possible, reduction of the dependence of the rural sector on imported inputs.

16. The Substantial New Programme of Action recognizes that there cannot be real social and economic development in the least developed countries unless the standard of living of the rural population improves.

17. Objectives for rural development programmes are specified in such a way that it will be possible in the course of the national monitoring process to ascertain the degree to which the Substantial New Programme is being implemented in each least developed country: the programmes and projects will cover strengthening of rural institutions and upgrading of skills, primary and vocational education and functional literacy, planning and implementation of local projects, and promotion of rural industries and service centres.

D. Human resources and social development

18. The need to mobilize fully the human resources of least developed countries for development is recognized, and certain targets which can be effectively monitored are set. In particular, efforts should be made in the least developed countries during the 1980s to reduce the absolute numbers of illiterates and out-of-school children, and these countries should aim at making primary education free and compulsory by 1990 at the latest. Programmes for training and skills improvement will have to be undertaken to respond to the quantitative and qualitative requirements of the economies of the least developed countries for skills of all kinds.

19. Ensuring the preservation and enhancement of cultural identity and values as an essential part of national development is an ambitious goal when seen against the background of the growing uniformity throughout the world of consumption and production patterns. To have accepted this goal is a step towards self-reliance.

20. The Substantial New Programme of Action is forthright with respect to population policy, stating that countries will take appropriate measures for family planning and population control.

E. Natural resources and energy

21. With respect to natural resources, the Substantial New Programme of Action states that least developed countries should be adequately assisted towards completing geological surveys and mapping mineral and energy resources of their countries by 1990.

22. The Substantial New Programme of Action recognizes that a major effort will be needed to increase domestic energy supplies. For this purpose, the least developed countries are invited to consider integrating a comprehensive energy strategy into their over-all development plans.

F. Manufacturing

23. Concerning manufacturing, the least developed countries aim to increase their rate of manufacturing growth to an over-all annual rate of 9 per cent or more. The emphasis is on agro-industry, production of consumer goods and the encouragement of small-scale and cottage industries, apart from, where feasible, basic industries using indigenous resources.

G. Foreign trade

24. In the field of foreign trade, a number of targets which can be quantitatively monitored have also been set. They include a more substantial share of world trade and export earnings, increased through increased production of both traditional and modern sectors of the economy, through diversification of the commodity structure and direction of trade, securing remunerative prices of export commodities as well as expansion of trade among developing countries. The least developed countries have agreed to undertake a variety of specific measures, with international assistance, to expand their export markets.

H. Other issues

25. The importance of a number of other issues is underlined, although specific targets are not set. The particular problems of the 15 land-locked and 5 island least developed countries are taken up in a special section of the Substantial New Programme of Action. Separate sections are also devoted to the environment, physical and institutional infrastructure and disaster assistance. The value of appropriate policies concerning education and training, human settlements, women and technical co-operation between developing countries is stressed (see A/CONF.104/22, part one).

I. Programme and project preparation as a preliminary to action

26. In other cases, the need to establish programmes or projects the progress of which can then be followed up and monitored is explicitly mentioned. Thus, the least developed countries will prepare strategies, plans and policies for the agricultural sector - giving particular attention to food production and distribution - which will provide a framework for the identification and preparation of investment projects. Each least developed country has also recognized that it should design a transport strategy in the light of its own specific circumstances. The least developed countries agree to draw up plans to initiate or strengthen training institutions on a national or regional basis. In this, they could be supported in particular by other developing countries which are, or have been, confronted with comparable problems.

27. Another area in which project preparation is explicitly called for as a first step is that of transformational investments: very large projects which can by themselves transform the economies from a low level of operation to a substantially higher level. The least developed countries, with assistance from multilateral organizations, should seek to identify such major investment projects for leading the way to the substantial transformations that are necessary if ambitious growth and welfare targets are to be realized.

J. Relationship between the Substantial New Programme of Action and other international programmes of action

28. The importance of continuing to work within the framework of existing arrangements was agreed from the early stages of preparations for the Conference. That the Conference kept this intention in mind is reflected in the extent to which the Substantial New Programme of Action has incorporated the programmes and objectives of other international conferences. Thus, measures included in the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development 10/ are taken up in the Substantial New Programme of Action; national policies, strategies and plans of action in the field of health are to be formulated and implemented as part of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 adopted unanimously by member States of the World Health Organization; 11/ the issue of food security is set against the background of the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security. 12/ With reference to the Nairobi Programme of Action on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 13/ the Substantial

10/ See Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

11/ World Health Assembly resolution 34.36.

12/ FAO Council resolution 1/75, annex.

13/ See the report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (A/CONF.100/11), chap. I.

New Programme of Action goes one valuable step further in urging that special consideration should be given to the implementation of the specific measures which are recommended therein for priority action with particular reference to the least developed countries.

K. Official development assistance

29. The Conference was well aware that in order to achieve the objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action action by the least developed countries themselves must be complemented by measures of international support both through increased financial resource transfers and through policies and programmes affecting the modalities of assistance, technical assistance, commercial policy and co-operation among developing countries.

30. The Substantial New Programme of Action recognizes that only a substantial increase in official development assistance in real terms during this decade will enable the least developed countries to achieve the objectives of their country programmes within the framework of the Programme. In it, all donor countries reaffirm their commitment to the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for over-all ODA as envisaged in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Within the framework of the general increase in ODA which this implies, flows will increasingly be directed towards the least developed countries. More specifically, there is a commitment by most donors to reach a level of 0.15 of GNP as ODA for the least developed countries. Other donors have agreed to double their ODA to these countries. Some Governments stated at the closing session of the Conference, after the Substantial New Programme of Action had been adopted, that they did not regard these targets as applying to them, or that other obligations prevented them from meeting these targets, or indeed that they disagreed with the idea of setting specific targets. Nevertheless, as a result of the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action, ODA flows to least developed countries should increase significantly.

31. Calculations made by the Secretariat on the basis both of what was agreed in the Substantial New Programme of Action and of announcements made during the plenary meetings of the Conference suggest that ODA flows to least developed countries may increase in real terms by 33 to 63 per cent between 1979 and 1985. In other words, total external assistance to least developed countries in 1980 prices may rise from \$US 6.6 billion in 1979 to between \$8.8 billion and \$10.8 billion in 1985. This can be compared to net capital flows required, which the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference to the Conference estimated at between \$8.1 billion and \$14.7 billion in 1985 (A/CONF.104/2/Add.2, table III.10), depending on the rates of growth assumed for the economies of the least developed countries; or to the \$12.3 billion which is implied by the country presentations of the least developed countries taken together (A/CONF.104/2/Add.2, table III.4).

32. It was agreed that as large a proportion as possible of these increased transfers of resources should be disbursed urgently and effectively in order to meet immediate needs and to provide the necessary momentum in the development efforts of the least developed countries.

33. In Paris, several countries announced increased contributions to the UNDP Special Measures Fund and the United Nations Capital Development Fund for financing projects in least developed countries. The Substantial New Programme of Action urges multilateral assistance agencies generally to direct to the least developed countries a substantial and increasing volume of concessional assistance.

L. Aid modalities

34. The recognition by the aid-giving countries of the urgent need to improve the quality of assistance to least developed countries by adapting resource transfers modalities to the particular needs and weaknesses of least developed countries was another significant development in Paris. Many developed market-economy countries reiterated their intention to make aid practices and procedures more flexible. In approving the Substantial New Programme of Action, donors agreed to make their best efforts in the areas of local and recurrent cost financing, appropriate balance-of-payments and budgetary support, less tying of aid, provision of aid as a general rule in the form of grants, debt relief, speed-up of disbursement procedures, and programming their assistance programmes over longer periods. The need for the least developed countries to improve their own capacity to administer aid received was recognized as was therefore the need to assist them in strengthening their capacity to do so.

M. Technical assistance

35. With regard to technical assistance, the Conference recognized that the least developed countries would need an increasing number of experts, at least in the immediate future. Donors were urged to make special efforts to speedily provide experts, highly qualified not only in general but also for their specific tasks. The valuable role that middle-level experts and non-governmental organizations can play in this perspective is recognized. It is made explicit that these tasks include training local personnel. The least developed countries, for their part, undertake to make such local personnel available to projects. Particular emphasis was given to the need for assistance in carrying out pre-feasibility studies and project preparation, including building up local capacities for carrying out such studies and effectively implementing them. Donors were urged to finance technical co-operation among developing countries activities in developing countries. In these respects, the Conference recognized that the subject-matter of post-Conference monitoring should include aid terms, conditions and modalities including technical assistance. These should be reviewed at the individual country level as an integral part of the implementation, follow-up and monitoring process.

N. Commercial policy and trade promotion

36. The Conference provided many developed countries with the opportunity to announce various supportive measures in favour of the exports of least developed countries, notably through more preferential access to their markets and the promotion of the goods of least developed countries therein. The Substantial New

Programme of Action itself includes recommendations for giving least developed countries improved access to markets by providing their products with the fullest possible duty-free treatment and reducing non-tariff barriers. The Substantial New Programme of Action points out that the GATT Enabling Clause contains provisions designed to benefit the least developed countries in particular. It states that allowance should be made for the special needs of these countries in accordance with the Codes agreed during the multilateral trade negotiations. Easier access to technology by the least developed countries is also called for.

37. The Substantial New Programme of Action recognizes that, if the formal advantages offered to the least developed countries are to be beneficial in fact, positive measures to make them effective will have to be taken. Thus, for instance, it suggests that least developed countries might be given special encouragement to make use of the consultative mechanism existing within UNCTAD regarding schemes of general preferences, if they wish to raise particular problems.

38. The importance of promoting exports from least developed countries is reflected in the call by the Substantial New Programme of Action for a strengthened role for the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT), as for UNIDO, in this field. The dependence of many of the least developed countries on the exports of commodities was also recognized, and the Conference recommended that consideration should be given to granting special treatment to least developed countries in the context of international commodity agreements.

39. In their statements to the Conference, the representatives of a number of developed countries expressed interest in finding measures for compensating the least developed countries for shortfalls in their earnings from exports of primary commodities. As a result, the Substantial New Programme of Action invited developed countries trading in primary commodities with least developed countries to study the question so that a report on their findings could be submitted at the sixth session of UNCTAD.

40. Another matter on which the Conference focused was the role of multi-country schemes in supporting the Substantial New Programme of Action. In this context, co-operation among developing countries was strongly supported, and developed countries and international institutions were encouraged to give added assistance to regional co-operation arrangements and multi-country investment schemes which include benefits to least developed countries.

O. Arrangements for implementation, monitoring and follow-up

41. In its concluding section, the Substantial New Programme of Action rightly states that review of progress at national, regional and global levels is essential for the Programme's successful implementation. The bulk of this work will occur at the national level and will depend upon the initiatives of the least developed countries themselves. Consultative arrangements at this level should be broad and include all trade and aid partners, international and intergovernmental organizations concerned, and representatives of neighbouring countries, as appropriate, in order to facilitate the search for solutions and to mobiize

additional resources. The Conference emphasized that regular and periodic consultations between each least developed country and its partners are an important component of the development process of the least developed countries. This is one of the most important results of the Paris Conference.

42. It has agreed that the first round of country review meetings should take place as soon as possible and preferably by 1983. This date is important, as it would permit scrutiny during the sixth session of UNCTAD of the results of that first round. The Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD will have an opportunity to examine beforehand how this matter can best be handled on that occasion.

43. The Substantial New Programme of Action recognizes that there must be interaction between implementation of the programme at the country level on the one hand and the global monitoring of progress in least developed countries, in which UNCTAD should play the focal role, on the other. A mid-term global review is scheduled for 1985, and the Conference has recommended to the General Assembly that the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries should carry it out. This review will permit UNCTAD to make available information to the General Assembly so that the Substantial New Programme of Action is adequately taken into account in the process of review and appraisal of implementation of the International Development Strategy throughout the 1980s. This comprehensive review mechanism should provide for effective monitoring both of the over-all performance of the least developed countries and of the provision of development assistance to the least developed countries.

44. Given the diversity of least developed countries and the number of national reviews to occur in the next few years, global monitoring will not be an easy task; the secretariat of UNCTAD counts upon co-operation from donors and least developed countries alike in discharging its responsibilities. It goes without saying that, in this task as well as in monitoring and follow-up at the national level, the full involvement of the whole United Nations system is required. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation will continue to ensure the full mobilization and co-ordination of the United Nations system.

P. Conclusions

45. The United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries has ended with agreement on a number of issues of crucial importance to the over-all development of the least developed countries.

46. Furthermore, the Conference has agreed that there should now be an active and meaningful follow-up at national, regional and international levels. The international community has reaffirmed its commitment to assist the poorest of the poor. In this period of grave economic crisis, it is heartening that this Substantial New Programme of Action has been formulated and adopted. It constitutes a positive step not only for the least developed countries but also for developing countries as a whole and for international economic relations, and will contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the new international economic order.

ANNEX I

Bilateral ODA to least developed countries a/ from DAC member countries
(Net disbursements in millions of US dollars)

Recipient country	Donor country	(Net disbursements in millions of US dollars)								
		Australia	Austria	Belgium	Canada	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Italy
Afghanistan	1979	0.20	0.13	0.04	6.03	0.18	0.06	-	12.94	0.07
	1980	0.05	..	..	2.22	1.83	0.01	..	1.35	..
Bangladesh	1979	35.04	0.07	14.70	59.21	20.31	0.38	11.61	86.55	0.03
	1980	13.27	..	..	57.11	28.86	2.05	..	114.50	..
Benin	1979	-	-	0.52	4.85	5.28	-	18.53	10.35	0.08
	1980	-	..	..	1.50	1.59	-	..	10.27	..
Bhutan	1979	0.21	0.01	-	-	0.23	0.00	-	0.02	-
	1980	0.27	..	..	-	0.10	-	..	0.11	..
Botswana	1979	0.12	-	-	2.72	5.61	0.00	-	16.34	-
	1980	0.11	..	..	2.66	3.93	0.10	..	14.91	..
Burundi	1979	-	0.02	25.17	-	0.38	-	7.46	6.29	0.23
	1980	-	..	..	0.02	-	0.22	..	10.03	..
Cape Verde	1979	-	0.04	1.63	0.02	-	-	2.40	5.89	0.28
	1980	-	..	..	0.02	-	-	..	4.91	..
Central African Republic	1979	-	0.07	0.51	0.02	-	-	41.63	5.26	0.11
	1980	-	..	..	0.03	-	-	..	3.21	..
Chad	1979	-	-	0.16	0.19	-0.09	-	28.86	4.27	0.11
	1980	-	..	..	0.16	0.09	0.01	..	1.47	..
Comoros	1979	-	-	0.87	-	0.06	-	4.76	0.03	0.28
	1980	-	..	..	0.02	-	-	..	0.60	..
Democratic Yemen	1979	-	-	-	-	0.02	-	-	0.10	0.02
	1980	-	..	..	-	0.08	-	..	0.09	..
Ethiopia	1979	0.25	0.08	0.20	1.17	0.07	0.32	-	16.53	5.02
	1980	1.07	..	..	2.45	-	0.25	..	14.89	..
Gambia	1979	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.08	-	-	4.44	-
	1980	0.03	..	..	0.05	0.60	0.01	..	5.02	..
Guinea	1979	-	0.01	0.18	0.03	-	0.25	3.00	1.00	0.35
	1980	-	..	..	0.03	-	0.01	..	12.83	..
Haiti	1979	-	0.01	2.31	7.97	-	-	1.23	7.22	0.05
	1980	-	..	..	5.37	-	-	..	8.96	..
Leo People's Democratic Republic	1979	2.27	0.02	0.18	-	-	-	0.60	1.94	-
	1980	0.14	..	..	-	-	-	..	-0.25	..
Lesotho	1979	0.11	0.04	0.16	4.07	4.08	0.02	-	4.12	-
	1980	0.11	..	..	5.78	1.11	-	..	17.98	..
Malawi	1979	0.10	0.01	0.04	13.29	2.17	0.04	-	28.56	0.02
	1980	0.07	..	..	8.95	5.98	0.05	..	13.16	..
Maldives	1979	0.18	-	-	-	0.07	-	-	0.10	-
	1980	0.71	..	..	-	0.04	-	..	0.13	..
Mali	1979	-	0.02	2.93	8.00	-	-	30.53	27.66	0.03
	1980	-	..	..	12.81	-	0.00	..	27.01	..
Nepal	1979	0.90	0.11	0.05	5.17	0.26	0.01	-	17.11	0.01
	1980	1.40	..	..	4.26	0.69	0.06	..	16.79	..
Niger	1979	0.00	0.02	6.63	2.51	0.31	-	41.06	30.34	0.07
	1980	0.00	..	..	3.74	0.22	-	..	21.50	..
Rwanda	1979	-	0.05	35.48	4.78	-	-	11.69	17.24	0.03
	1980	-	..	..	5.72	-	-	..	16.81	..
Samoa	1979	5.34	-	-	-	0.05	-	-	7.43	-
	1980	3.76	..	..	-	0.05	0.05	..	-2.51	..
Somalia	1979	0.28	-	0.35	-	0.01	0.02	0.02	10.96	7.32
	1980	0.11	..	..	2.41	0.01	0.47	..	27.82	..
Sudan	1979	1.26	0.34	1.24	1.75	2.42	0.46	1.20	41.46	1.09
	1980	1.89	..	..	1.71	22.30	0.83	..	62.35	..
Uganda	1979	0.38	0.04	0.04	0.08	1.41	0.01	-	2.51	0.81
	1980	1.78	..	..	0.94	1.69	0.17	..	5.72	..
United Republic of Tanzania	1979	2.21	0.42	5.34	28.60	39.66	13.23	-	79.91	-0.38
	1980	5.55	..	..	19.36	32.01	17.65	..	74.43	..
Upper Volta	1979	-	1.31	2.16	13.34	0.64	-	35.68	27.73	0.09
	1980	-	..	..	8.14	3.36	-	..	31.24	..
Yemen	1979	0.00	-	-	-	-	0.06	2.60	16.45	1.04
	1980	-	..	..	-	0.02	-	..	20.27	..
All least developed countries	1979	48.9	2.8	100.9	163.8 ^a / 177.6 ^b	83.0	14.9	242.9 ^c / 312.6 ^d	490.8	16.8
	1980	30.3	5.6	95.7	145.6 ^e / 165.1 ^f	104.6	21.9	359.2 ^g	542.6	37.1

For source and notes see end of table.

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ANNEX I (continued)

Bilateral ODA to least developed countries a/ from DAC member countries

(Net disbursements in millions of US dollars)

Japan	Netherlands	New Zealand	Norway ^{c/}	Sweden ^{c/}	Switzerland	United Kingdom	United States	Total DAC member countries ^{d/}	Donor country	Recipient country
11.89	0.20	-	-	-	0.58	2.86	12.00	47.0	1979	Afghanistan
-0.21	0.18	-	-	-	..	1.13	..	11.4	1980	
206.33	45.86	0.19	22.35	27.99	3.05	71.36	157.00	775.0	1979	Bangladesh
153.69	53.16	0.20	22.19	30.74	..	99.18	..	850.2	1980	
0.01	1.00	-	-	-	0.81	0.11	3.00	48.6	1979	Benin
-	1.01	-	-	-	..	0.15	..	43.1	1980	
0.10	-	0.01	-	-	0.46	0.05	-	1.2	1979	Bhutan
-	-	-	-	-	..	0.15	..	1.7	1980	
0.21	2.80	-	3.78	14.00	-	15.86	6.00	73.6	1979	Botswana
-	3.38	0.02	4.86	15.37	..	19.49	..	83.4	1980	
-	0.91	-	-	-	0.74	0.04	2.00	44.1	1979	Burundi
2.19	0.69	-	-	-	..	0.05	..	65.7	1980	
-	5.19	-	-	5.36	0.81	-	4.00	27.2	1979	Cape Verde
1.76	11.64	-	-	7.09	..	1.49	..	38.9	1980	
2.05	0.26	-	-	-	0.10	-	1.00	51.2	1979	Central African Republic
0.24	0.58	-	-	-	..	-	..	95.4	1980	
-	0.38	-	-	-	1.04	0.10	11.00	49.4	1979	Chad
-	0.69	-	-	-	..	0.06	..	32.6	1980	
-	-	-	-	-	0.33	-	-	6.3	1979	Comoros
-	-	-	-	-	..	-	..	13.4	1980	
0.98	0.03	-	-	-	-	3.53	-	4.7	1979	Democratic Yemen
-	0.01	-	-	-	..	3.11	..	4.1	1980	
1.67	5.50	-	-	16.33	0.59	5.95	12.00	70.5	1979	Ethiopia
0.48	3.82	-	-	17.73	..	4.36	..	91.3	1980	
-	2.11	-	-	-	0.08	4.40	2.00	13.2	1979	Gambia
-	0.61	-	-	-	..	4.67	..	16.5	1980	
2.91	1.46	-	-	-	0.03	-	5.00	14.2	1979	Guinea
0.10	0.29	-	-	-	..	-	..	32.5	1980	
0.01	1.47	-	-	-	0.17	0.01	20.00	48.5	1979	Haiti
2.21	1.93	-	-	-	..	0.06	..	63.0	1980	
2.78	6.07	0.01	-	10.50	0.09	0.06	-	26.4	1979	Laos People's Democratic Republic
0.69	2.56	-	-	11.82	..	0.03	..	16.7	1980	
0.02	2.16	-	-	3.27	0.52	13.97	9.00	43.7	1979	Lesotho
-	3.92	-	-	3.55	..	9.59	..	59.6	1980	
6.86	4.51	0.05	-	-	0.01	33.24	3.00	92.0	1979	Malawi
9.15	7.02	0.04	-	-	..	25.38	..	75.3	1980	
0.52	-	0.01	-	-	-	0.06	-	0.9	1979	Maldives
0.46	-	0.01	-	-	..	0.21	..	1.8	1980	
1.90	5.37	-	-	-	1.86	1.04	14.00	93.9	1979	Mali
2.94	12.54	-	-	-	..	0.54	..	147.1	1980	
19.66	4.25	0.35	-	-	5.54	23.45	5.00	82.4	1979	Nepal
20.40	1.49	0.62	-	-	..	15.61	..	83.4	1980	
16.50	4.00	-	-	-	1.15	1.97	11.00	116.7	1979	Niger
-	3.28	-	-	-	..	0.09	..	122.9	1980	
5.17	3.83	-	-	-	4.41	-	5.00	88.4	1979	Rwanda
4.86	4.61	-	-	-	..	0.01	..	102.3	1980	
2.69	0.27	4.84	-	-	-	0.05	-	20.7	1979	Saoao
1.32	0.76	3.99	-	-	..	0.22	..	9.6	1980	
0.16	2.75	-	-	3.50	0.16	2.78	20.00	49.8	1979	Somalia
-	3.15	-	-	3.55	..	6.69	..	139.4	1980	
21.54	19.23	-	-	-	0.52	27.12	23.00	149.3	1979	Sudan
9.57	45.61	-	-	-	..	49.78	..	271.4	1980	
0.31	3.12	-	-	-	0.45	4.69	-	16.1	1979	Uganda
-0.11	4.28	-	-	-	..	6.69	..	42.8	1980	
23.57	77.49	0.74	28.57	80.48	3.09	45.06	10.00	457.4	1979	United Republic of Tanzania
14.59	83.18	1.09	36.21	89.84	..	73.19	..	521.8	1980	
0.12	24.80	-	-	-	1.67	0.05	23.00	132.0	1979	Upper Volta
1.76	18.06	-	-	-	..	0.22	..	173.0	1980	
2.21	15.21	-	-	-	0.24	3.83	9.00	51.0	1979	Yemen
9.07	19.63	-	-	-	..	6.34	..	78.3	1980	
330.2	240.2	6.2	87.7	200.9	28.5	261.6	376.0	2696.1	1979	<u>all least developed countries</u>
343.6	288.1	6.0	94.5	183.0	57.1	228.5	544.0	3187.4	1980	

Source: Country replies and OECD/DAC estimates as of 1 September 1981.

a/ Excluding Guinea-Bissau, which was added to the list of the least developed countries on 8 May 1981 by Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/34.

b/ Including allowance for amounts reported as "Least developed countries unallocated".

c/ The amounts shown for individual recipient countries refer to programme assistance through country frames only.

d/ OECD/DAC secretariat estimates including amounts not shown for individual countries.

e/ Total of over-all donors' disbursements to all least developed countries. The total of individual least developed countries' receipts is overstated by \$107.8 million because 1979 data for French technical co-operation were used for individual countries (the geographical distribution of French technical co-operation in 1980 being not yet available).

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ANNEX II
Financial flows to individual least developed countries^{a/} from selected^{b/} multilateral agencies
(Net disbursements in millions of US dollars)

Recipient country	Donor agency	Concessional					Non-concessional			
		AfDF	AsDB	European Communities	IDA ^{c/}	IMF Trust Fund	OFEC Fund	AfDB	European Communities	IBRD ^{c/}
Afghanistan	1979	-	6.42	0.03	15.60	-	-	-	-	-
	1980	-	4.41	..	9.10	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	1979	-	41.55	22.28	152.50	48.94	5.33	-	-	-
	1980	-	57.69	..	152.10	41.65	3.27	-	-	-
Benin	1979	3.64	-	14.25	3.60	-	0.49	1.23	-	-
	1980	1.59	-	..	6.00	9.46	0.31	1.02	-	-
Bhutan	1979	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1980	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Botswana	1979	-	-	4.88	0.40	-	0.59	-	-	4.40
	1980	-	-	-	-	-	2.72	-	-	3.60
Burundi	1979	0.94	-	12.96	10.10	7.44	2.25	-0.17	-	-
	1980	1.06	-	..	9.90	6.33	2.25	-0.16	-	-
Cape Verde	1979	0.08	-	2.86	-	-	1.00	-	-	-
	1980	0.16	-	..	-	-	2.00	-	-	-
Central African Republic	1979	5.89	-	11.43	3.50	-	-	-0.07	-	-
	1980	2.18	-	..	10.60	9.46	-	-	-	-
Chad	1979	1.37	-	20.73	7.90	-	-	-	-	-
	1980	1.53	-	..	1.20	-	-	-	-	-
Comoros	1979	-	-	2.14	1.20	-	0.25	-	-	-
	1980	2.11	-	..	2.40	-	0.56	-	-	-
Democratic Yemen	1979	-	-	-	6.80	11.36	3.00	-	-	-
	1980	-	-	..	5.50	9.66	3.00	-	-	-
Ethiopia	1979	4.17	-	18.29	43.50	10.57	-	-	-	-3.20
	1980	1.11	-	..	35.10	8.99	-	1.41	-	-3.20
Gambia	1979	-	-	6.07	3.10	2.74	1.50	0.78	-	-
	1980	-	-	..	3.40	2.33	1.50	2.29	-	-
Guinea	1979	-	-	8.70	6.80	9.39	2.25	1.32	-	-2.70
	1980	-	-	..	7.40	7.99	2.00	-0.41	-	-2.90
Haiti	1979	-	-	0.35	7.90	7.44	-	-	-	-
	1980	-	-	..	11.30	6.33	-	-	-	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1979	-	1.78	-	0.10	5.09	4.22	-	-	-
	1980	-	0.52	..	3.00	4.32	0.68	-	-	-
Lesotho	1979	1.28	-	2.55	2.30	1.96	-	-	-	-
	1980	3.63	-	..	3.40	1.67	-	-	-	-
Malawi	1979	1.96	-	12.74	20.00	5.88	-	7.80	4.87	7.70
	1980	5.12	-	..	14.20	5.00	1.34	3.05	-	13.10
Nauru	1979	-	0.05	-	-	-	0.40	-	-	-
	1980	-	0.18	..	-	-	0.80	-	-	-
Mali	1979	6.78	-	31.47	15.50	8.62	-	1.60	-	-
	1980	2.33	-	..	19.50	7.33	6.00	0.72	-	-
Nepal	1979	-	6.72	0.02	18.20	5.48	-	-	-	-
	1980	-	8.52	..	22.60	4.66	-	-	-	-
Niger	1979	0.13	-	29.14	10.10	-	-	6.33	1.04	-
	1980	1.89	-	..	13.20	9.46	5.85	0.89	-	-
Rwanda	1979	5.10	-	24.09	9.30	7.44	-	-	-	-
	1980	0.56	-	..	10.70	6.33	5.63	-	-	-
Samoa	1979	-	3.80	2.51	0.70	0.79	0.50	-	-	-
	1980	-	3.35	..	1.00	0.66	0.75	-	-	-
Somalia	1979	1.47	-	18.23	8.30	-	2.50	-0.18	-	-
	1980	0.56	-	..	8.50	13.82	8.00	-	-	-
Sudan	1979	-	-	22.25	26.30	28.19	4.93	-	-	-3.80
	1980	-	-	..	32.00	23.99	3.51	-	-	-4.70
Uganda	1979	-	-	11.26	1.40	-	-	3.77	-	-0.30
	1980	-	-	..	0.90	29.10	-	0.90	-	-1.00
United Republic of Tanzania	1979	4.65	-	29.20	31.10	16.45	-	1.52	-	30.00
	1980	3.64	-	..	32.60	13.99	4.09	1.27	-	31.80
Upper Volta	1979	4.33	-	20.86	18.20	5.09	3.60	-0.44	-0.07	-
	1980	6.00	-	..	15.00	4.33	6.00	-0.43	-	-
Yemen	1979	-	-	1.80	17.10	-	-	-	-	-
	1980	-	-	..	15.00	-	0.60	-	-	-
All least developed countries	1979	42.8	60.3	330.9	441.5	182.9	32.8	23.5	5.8	32.1
	1980	33.6	74.7	..	443.6	226.9	60.9	10.6	..	36.7

Source: Replies from multilateral organizations and OECD secretariat estimates.

a/ Excluding Guinea-Bissau, which was added to the list of the least developed countries on 8 May 1981 by Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/34.

b/ In addition, in 1979 least developed countries also received loans and grants from the following multilateral agencies:

Concessional

Inter-American Development Bank : \$ 15.9 million
United Nations : \$464.4 million
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa : \$ 15.7 million
Islamic Development Bank : \$ 10.8 million

Non-concessional

International Finance Corporation : \$ 13.2 million
OFEC/Arab funds : \$101.9 million

c/ Fiscal years.