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Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and
rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/38/50.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The plight of the Sudano-Sahelian countries has been under continuous consideration by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies since 1971. The Assembly has repeatedly expressed its support for the drought-related medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation efforts of the Sudano-Sahelian countries, at both national and regional levels, urging, inter alia, all States members of the United Nations and other potential contributing sources, as well as United Nations organs, agencies and programmes, to help solve the pressing problems posed by the severity of droughts in the region. In this connection, the General Assembly adopted, in particular, the following resolutions: 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973, 3253 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974, 3512 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, 31/180 of 21 December 1976, 32/159 of 19 December 1977, 33/133 of 19 December 1978, 34/16 of 9 November 1979, 35/86 of 5 December 1980, 36/203 of 17 December 1981 and 37/165 of 17 December 1982. The Economic and Social Council adopted, in particular, the following resolutions: 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, 1797 (LV) of 11 July 1973, 1834 (LVI) of 14 May 1974, 1874 (LVII) of 16 July 1974, 1918 (LVIII) of 5 May 1975, 2103 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, 1978/37 of 21 July 1978, 1979/51 of 2 August 1979, 1980/51 of 23 July 1980, 1981/55 of 22 July 1981 and 1982/49 of 28 July 1982.

2. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 37/165, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to report to it, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term drought recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

3. The report deals mainly with the activities which the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) carried out in 1982 under the mandate enjoining it to support the drought-related medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the eight countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region which are members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), namely, Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta. In order to provide a comprehensive description of the situation, the report also refers to some of the more important and directly relevant activities undertaken in those eight countries - on a national or regional basis - by UNSO, under its mandate to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/CONF.74/36, Chap. I); 1/ UNSO carries out this mandate on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and under a joint venture of UNDP and UNEP.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

4. The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twenty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 and the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session considered the

report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme (A/37/209 and Add.1) and adopted, respectively, Governing Council decision 82/27 of 18 July 1982, Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/49 of 28 July 1982 and General Assembly resolution 37/165 of 17 December 1982.

5. The General Assembly also adopted a number of other resolutions which relate closely to the activities of UNSO in medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programmes, including resolutions 37/140 of 17 December 1982 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; 37/216 of 20 December 1982 on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; 37/217 on international co-operation in the field of the environment; 37/224 of 20 December 1982 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the the Least Developed Countries; 37/230 of 20 December 1982 on the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries; 37/245 of 21 December 1982 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa; 37/246 of 21 December 1982 on an international year for the mobilization of financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa; 37/250 of 21 December 1982 on the immediate implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy; and 37/251 of 21 December 1982 on development of the energy resources of developing countries. The General Assembly also adopted resolutions 37/155 of 17 December 1982 on special economic assistance to Chad (see para. 43 below), 37/152 of 17 December 1982 on assistance to Cape Verde (see para. 37 below), and 37/159 of 17 December 1982 on assistance to the Gambia (see para. 48 below).

III. FUNCTIONS AND "MODUS OPERANDI" OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUDANO-SAHELIAN OFFICE; THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR SUDANO-SAHELIAN ACTIVITIES AND MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

6. The functions and modus operandi of UNSO, the background and circumstances leading to its establishment, as well as information on the methods and modalities of the resource mobilization activities of UNSO and on the operations of the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities, 2/ have been elaborated in detail in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session (A/36/208, paras. 12-28), and will not be repeated in the present report.

7. Moreover, during 1982, the structure, functions, operations and overall performance of UNSO were reviewed in detail by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), whose resulting report, which should be read in conjunction with the present document, will be before the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

8. As a result of the expanding operational capability of UNSO and the dynamics of project planning and implementation, the number of UNSO-supported projects under the mandate of drought-related recovery and rehabilitation has increased since 1975 from 52 (21 regional and 31 national), costed at approximately \$153 million, 3/ to 129 (32 regional and 97 national), requiring a total financing of some \$701 million.

By early 1983, some \$431 million had become available from various quarters, including bilateral and multilateral sources; more than \$60 million of that amount was contributed by and through the Trust Fund.

9. In 1982, UNSO mobilized \$14.7 million to finance priority drought-related recovery and rehabilitation projects of the Governments of the States members of CILSS; in addition, UNSO mobilized \$13.4 million for desertification-control projects of the CILSS member States, making a total of \$28.1 million. That figure does not include the resources provided by the Governments of the Sahelian countries.

IV. NEW UNSO-SUPPORTED REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PRIORITY ACTIVITIES
IN THE AREA OF DROUGHT-RELATED MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM
RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

10. The overall background and sectoral profile of UNSO-supported projects in the States members of CILSS has been elaborated in detail in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session (A/37/209, paras. 16-22) and will not be repeated in the present report.

A. Regional projects

1. Construction, improvement and maintenance of a region-wide system of all-weather feeder roads

11. Of special prominence among UNSO-supported regional activities is the programme for the construction, improvement and maintenance of a region-wide system of all-weather secondary roads in the Sahel, executed by the Office for Projects Execution (OPE) of UNDP. The estimated cost of the programme, comprising more than 5,000 kilometres of roads, is over \$203 million (at 1982 prices).

12. Of this amount, \$123 million have already been secured for the realization of more than 3,000 km of roads, either through direct bilateral or multilateral arrangements - an option which has already resulted in the construction of more than 400 km of roads - or through contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities. In this latter instance, \$82.6 million has been received for projects for which UNSO is directly responsible; these resources will permit the construction of 2,140 km of roads.

13. As at January 1983, almost 1,300 km of this total had been completed by UNSO with OPE as executing agency. The financing still available will make it possible, during the coming months, to construct the remaining 850 km envisaged.

14. The results achieved during the last five years have demonstrated the efficiency of the operational structures established with the support of UNSO in each of the CILSS countries with a view to achieving the programme's objectives at the lowest possible cost. Up to now, the average cost per kilometre has varied

between \$25,000 and \$35,000, depending on local conditions, for an all-year road six metres wide. However, the price increases for goods and services, which are likely to be felt during the next two years, will affect the above unit cost considerably; the budgets of ongoing projects include provision for such inflationary pressures.

15. The construction programme is being carried out for the most part by national public works departments and provides for road-building and maintenance equipment and spare parts, construction and operating costs, and technical co-operation components. Particular attention is being paid, in implementing the programme, to the widest possible participation by the national services in constructing the roads and to questions relating to the establishment of continuous and systematic feeder-road maintenance practices, sustained training activities and, in general, the strengthening of the responsible governmental services.

16. As mentioned previously, the secondary-road programme has become an important element of the overall development process in the Sahel, in that the roads constructed have already acquired the character of a permanent transport infrastructure in the countries concerned and in the region as a whole.

17. Considering the substantial progress made by the feeder-roads programme since its inception, and the increasing need to protect and preserve this important investment, UNSO looked carefully into the maintenance needs of the programme in 1982. In January 1982, UNSO fielded, for this purpose, an appraisal mission composed of independent, high-level road engineers and transport economists. The mission, in which the International Labour Organisation (ILO) participated in view of its experience with labour-intensive road-building and maintenance techniques, visited the Gambia, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta in order to:

- (a) Assess the quality of the work performed;
- (b) Appraise the current conditions of the roads, one to three years after their completion;
- (c) Assess, in a preliminary fashion, the socio-economic impact on the regions concerned resulting from the opening of the roads;
- (d) Draw up, in the light of the above considerations, a practical scheme for the medium-term and long-term maintenance of the roads.

18. The report, which was made available after completion of the mission, gives a very positive assessment of the achievement of the road construction and maintenance programme, not only because of the efficiency with which the roads have been built, but also because of the manifestly positive socio-economic impact which the opening of these roads has had on the regions which they link or traverse. The report was approved by the Governments of the countries concerned in June-July 1982.

19. Within the above context and considering the urgent and reiterated requests addressed to UNSO by CILSS and its member States, it was decided to give a new

impetus to resource mobilization efforts in order to continue and expand the programme.

20. To this end, a meeting of present and future partners of the programme took place on 16 and 17 November 1982 at Geneva. The purpose of the meeting was to review the results attained to date and, on the basis of new proposals for the extension of the programme, which cover both the construction of new roads and the maintenance of already constructed ones, to plan the activities and work required to ensure the programme's momentum over the next three years.

21. In preparation for the meeting, an updating of the country programmes was conducted in 1982, leading to the elaboration of additional national project proposals, which all included an in-depth socio-economic analysis of the likely impact of the construction of these roads. Those project proposals, or feasibility studies, concern seven of the eight States members of CILSS; Chad was covered in February 1983 by a special mission. At the joint request of the Governments of Mali and Mauritania, UNSO also financed, in 1982, a feasibility study for the construction of the road Nara (Mali)-Nema (Mauritania), 185 km (see also para. 70 below). The construction of that road will be of vital importance for the region, as it will make road transportation between the capitals of Nouakchott and Bamako possible on a year-round basis and will greatly enhance commerce and trade between the coastal zone and the hinterlands. UNSO is now using those documents to mobilize additional resources for the implementation of the road programme in the Sahel.

22. Because of its importance, the problem of road maintenance was treated in depth during the Geneva meeting and the assessment report mentioned in paragraph 17 above was tabled as a working document. Favourable responses received from several donors during that meeting will be followed by specific consultations scheduled for early 1983. Indications of interest already received are encouraging and it is hoped that the financial requirements of the maintenance programme, for at least the first two years, will be fully accommodated.

23. Finally, in 1982, important negotiations with bilateral donors were conducted which will lead to a further significant expansion of the road programme for the whole region. The total amount of additional resources mobilized by UNSO during 1982 for the feeder-road construction and maintenance purposes was \$12.7 million; the details of those additional contributions are outlined under the individual country presentations.

2. Programme of strengthening agro-meteorological and hydrological services

24. This ongoing programme, which has entered its second phase (1982-1986), aims principally at (a) strengthening the communication system for the utilization of the data gathered through the meteorological and hydrological observation network in the region, in order to make the network fully operational; (b) continuing the training of national personnel in order to operate the programme satisfactorily;

(c) developing means whereby the hydrometeorological data processed by the programme is put to effective, practical use by the farmers of the Sahel.

25. It is, therefore, envisaged that, during its second phase, the programme will intensify applied research activities and develop collaboration with other agricultural research institutions, as well as with related CISS and UNSO activities. Continuing UNSO support of agro-hydrological and meteorological (AGRHYMET) activities in the CISS member States constitutes an element in the ongoing AGRHYMET programme which, at both regional and national levels, also benefits from the support of UNDP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and receives important contributions from a number of donors.

26. It is expected that AGRHYMET-supported activities will, in the foreseeable future, be resumed in Chad; for that purpose a representative of WMO has taken an active part in the UNSO programming and planning mission to Chad which was fielded in February/March 1983.

3. Restoration and integrated biological development of the Fouta-Djallon massif

27. In 1982, UNSO continued to support, under its desertification-control mandate, the programme for the ecological rehabilitation of the Fouta-Djallon massif. While recognizing that the Fouta-Djallon massif is outside the geographical scope of the present report, reference is again made to that activity because the massif is the watershed for all the main rivers of West Africa. Indeed, the rains which fall abundantly on the massif under the Atlantic monsoon cycle have a critical effect on the flow of, inter alia, the Gambia, the Niger and Senegal Rivers.

28. During the year, additional meetings were held with officials from the Government of Guinea, UNDP, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to bring up to date and finalize a project aimed at the agro-sylvo-pastoral development of the massif and the rehabilitation and enhancement of its natural resources. The contributions to the project are \$500,000 from UNDP, \$500,000 by UNSO from Trust Fund general resources, \$700,000 from the Government of Guinea and \$400,000 from OAU.

4. Design, development and production of fuel-efficient cooking stoves

29. Within the framework of its desertification-control mandate, UNSO continues to support the regional programme of the States members of CISS, aimed at promoting the production and wide-spread use of energy-efficient stoves, which would result in a significant reduction in the demand for ligneous resources, with major and positive implications for the ecology of the region, as well as for the recovery and future protection of threatened forest resources. With an earmarked contribution of \$210,000 from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities, UNSO is providing

institutional support to the CILSS executive secretariat to enable it to co-ordinate the various national improved stoves projects in the States members of CILSS, and to facilitate the exchange of experience between them. UNSO also took part in a regional seminar on the technical and socio-economic aspects of improved wood-stoves development, held in Bamako from 1 to 8 December 1982; the seminar was organized by the CILSS secretariat and funded by the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

30. On a national level, and within the framework of the regional programme, UNSO also plans to increase its support of the fuel-efficient cooking stoves project in the Gambia, initially financed through a \$398,000 contribution from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA); the project became operational in 1982. In Senegal, implementation has commenced of a related project, also supported by DANIDA, involving the development and marketing of fuels made from agricultural wastes, peat and other sources. In the Upper Volta, a project essentially similar to the one developed in the Gambia will become operational in early 1983. It is funded by a \$238,600 contribution of SIDA to the Trust Fund and by a government contribution equivalent to \$169,750.

31. Finally, UNSO, together with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, has provided initial support to Mali and the Niger essentially to finance preparatory activities aiming at raising popular consciousness of the technical financial and social advantages inherent in the utilization of fuel-efficient cooking stoves, prior to the launching of full-fledged national programmes for which UNSO is currently mobilizing resources. UNSO has also financed a project formulation mission to Mauritania to facilitate the extension of the programme to that country, probably with support from the West African Economic Community (CEAO).

5. Institute of the Sahel

32. The Institute of the Sahel, or Sahel Institute, created in 1977 as an agency of CILSS, continued to benefit from UNSO support in 1982, in the carrying out its operational activities. The environmental and ecological research unit, which was established in 1981 within the research department of the Institute through an UNSO contribution of \$309,000, is now fully operational. Both the unit co-ordinator and the specialist in pastoral development posts, which are funded from the UNSO contribution, were filled in 1982.

33. The highly promising project for the post-graduate training in management and conservation of pasture lands at the Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaire of Dakar, organized by the Sahel Institute with the support of UNSO, UNDP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), continues to make satisfactory progress. The second class of senior Sahelian professionals completed their multidisciplinary training in June 1982 and another class commenced their training in September 1982.

34. In April 1982, the project was reformulated by a joint UNSO/UNESCO/Sahel Institute mission with a view to extending ongoing project activities and to instituting a training programme for middle-level technicians. In this regard, UNSO has allocated an additional \$120,000 which, together with an input of \$800,000 from UNDP, will cover project activities up to the end of 1983. Furthermore, UNDP has confirmed an additional contribution of \$678,000 to cover personnel, equipment and operating costs for the project for the period 1984-1985, subject to the provision of funds for scholarships which cannot be financed from regional IPF resources. UNSO is vigorously pursuing its efforts to mobilize the resources needed to cover the fellowship costs for both the post-graduate and middle-level training programmes during this period.

6. Training activities

35. In October 1982, a regional workshop on combating desertification in Africa was held at Khartoum under the auspices of and with joint financing from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNSO, UNEP and the programme Environmental Training and Management in Africa (ETMA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The workshop, in which member States of CISS participated, discussed various aspects of desertification control and the effects of drought, including the major drought of 1968-1973 in the Sahel. The recurrence of drought and climatological factors involved were also the subject of extensive discussions by the participants from CISS and the representative of UNSO and WMO.

36. The direct exchange of experience and information on the impact of the drought and the desertification processes, as well as on ways and means of dealing with resulting problems, by government officials whose responsibility it is to handle such matters, proved very useful. In future, UNSO intends to promote the holding of similar problem-oriented meetings for the responsible government officials concerned of CISS and other Sudano-Sahelian countries.

B. National projects

1. Cape Verde

37. In resolution 37/152 of 17 December 1982, the General Assembly, inter alia, noted that Cape Verde is a least developed country and a small archipelago, and acknowledged the difficulties inherent in its fragile economy, aggravated by a permanent and severe drought situation; expressed its grave concern that the expected harvest for 1983 had been lost as a result of the failure of the season rains and the recurrence of drought; recognized the strenuous efforts deployed by the Government and people of Cape Verde in the process of their socio-economic development despite existing constraints; urged Governments and international, regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to extend and intensify substantially their assistance with a view to implementing the programme of assistance to Cape Verde as soon as possible; and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for implementing the programme of development assistance to Cape Verde.

38. In June 1982, UNSO took part in a round-table meeting of Cape Verde's development partners organized jointly by the Government of Cape Verde and UNDP. The meeting carried out a concrete and detailed analysis of the development priorities of Cape Verde and of the level of resources needed for the implementation of the Five-Year Plan. The donor community expressed at this occasion its high satisfaction with the exercise, which resulted in a serious improvement of co-ordination of support for Cape Verde efforts in promoting socio-economic development. As a result of the round-table meeting, every partner of the Government of Cape Verde, including UNSO, was able to adapt its own programme support for the implementation of the country's first National Development Plan (1982-1985).

39. At the request of the Government, UNSO focused its resource mobilization activities on behalf of Cape Verde, during 1982, on the programme for the construction of priority feeder-roads and the rehabilitation of the airstrips of the two islands of Maio and Boa Vista. Following clear indications from several donors of their willingness to contribute to that programme, UNSO is now finalizing the technical and financial documents required to concretize this interest, in order to be in a position to start rehabilitation of the air strips before the end of 1983.

40. In the area of desertification-control activities, UNSO continued, in 1982, to support a major programme aimed at strengthening Cape Verde's national capabilities in the management, exploration and utilization of underground and surface-water resources. The preparatory phase of the programme involving the recruitment of the technical expertise and the procurement of equipment and materials came to an end in late 1981 and the project became fully operational in early 1982. The construction phase, which includes the building of small earth dams, stone dikes and underground water-catchment works, will start in July 1983 after the preparation of detailed topographical and geotechnical studies, as well as of final engineering drawings, have been completed. The project, which now has a total earmarking of \$1.1 million with major financial support from the Government of Italy, is being carried out in close co-operation with UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), which are financing complementary programmes in the same field of activities.

41. During 1982, the four-year project for the development and utilization of wind energy, initiated by UNSO in late 1981, became fully operational. It involves the installation of wind turbines in urban, village and sparsely populated rural areas of Cape Verde, which have prevailing winds of an intensity and regularity that are favourable for harnessing energy through windmills. During the period under review, the programme developed a detailed training plan for national technicians which is now under implementation. In addition, complementary data for wind characteristics have been compiled and the workshop of the programme is being completed. The purchase and installation of large, test wind turbines is being carried out. The very positive results already achieved by the programme are likely to lead to its possible extension to other islands. Discussions with DANIDA, which has funded the major part of the programme to date through a contribution to the Trust Fund, are now under way to this effect.

42. Between October 1979 and December 1982, UNSO financed a government-executed project, with FAO as co-operating agency, for the development of the Ribeira Seca, Picos San Domingos and Sao Joao Baptista Valleys on the island of Santiago. In 1982, follow-up activities were developed and an additional contribution of \$200,000 by AGFUND will permit the extension of the project until December 1984. One of the project's prominent features is the strong participation of women resident in the valley in its activities. In view of this, UNSO also secured, in 1982, additional resources to match a financing from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women), which agreed to contribute an amount of \$300,000 to the project.

2. Chad

43. In resolution 37/155 of 17 December 1982, the General Assembly, inter alia, noted with satisfaction that the stability of the situation in Chad had enabled the Secretary-General to organize an international conference on assistance to Chad at Geneva in late November 1982, in close co-operation with OAU and the Government of Chad; recognized that serious destruction of property and extensive damage to the economic and social infrastructure of Chad over more than 15 years, together with the effects of natural disasters, had placed the country in a situation of dire need; renewed its appeal to all States, the appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations, regional and international organizations and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the international financial institutions to contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Chad through bilateral or multilateral channels, as appropriate; and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Chad and to keep the situation in the country under constant review.

44. Progressive stabilization of the situation in the country enabled UNSO to take steps towards resuming its drought-related recovery and rehabilitation activities in the country, as well as to initiate desertification-control activities.

45. In November 1982, UNSO participated in the above-mentioned international conference on assistance to Chad and announced that, subject to the fielding of a technical mission, the UNSO secondary-road construction, rehabilitation and maintenance programme in Chad, which had been interrupted as a result of the civil disorders, would resume operations as soon as possible. The mission took place in January 1983 and proposals for new, strengthened activities were finalized in March 1983. Allowing time for final negotiations with the Government and interested donors, it was expected that the actual road construction and rehabilitation activities would resume by mid-1983.

46. In January 1983, a joint CIISS/UNSO/Club du Sahel mission proceeded to Chad to discuss with the Government its overall strategy to rehabilitate its economy and to facilitate its recovery from the effects of persistent, recurrent periods of drought, the negative impact of which had been, of course, compounded by the long period of civil strife. In the course of the mission, and in order to assist the

Government in coping with some of the most acute problems it is facing, UNSO agreed to co-operate with the FAO Office of Special Relief Operations (OSRO) and other donors to finance an emergency programme of rinder pest control in the northern part of the country, where the epizotic disease was spreading rapidly. The contribution of UNSO to this effort was \$US 250,000 from Trust Fund resources. In addition, UNSO contributed \$US 50,000 for the reactivation of the N'Djamena tree nursery, to assist the Government in renewing its reforestation and desertification-control activities.

47. Pursuant to the above CISS/UNSO/Club du Sahel initial information mission, a multidisciplinary technical mission, responding to desertification-control mandate of UNSO, proceeded to Chad for a period of three weeks, to assist the Government in elaborating a highly specific and pragmatic programme of desertification control centring primarily on the semi-desert, arid and semi-arid zones of the country.

3. Gambia

48. In resolution 37/159 of 17 December 1982, the General Assembly, inter alia, noted that the Gambia was a least developed country with acute economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure and that it also suffered from many of the serious problems common to countries of the Sahelian region, notably drought; noted that the economy of the Gambia was vulnerable to several factors that were entirely beyond the Government's control, such as the fall in prices and the volume of its exports; noted also that declining revenues and rising costs had caused serious budgetary difficulties for the Government and that budget deficits continued to persist; renewed its urgent appeal to all Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international development and financial institutions, to contribute generously, through bilateral or multilateral channels, to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Gambia; called upon regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as international development and financial institutions, to provide financial, technical and material assistance for the implementation of the projects and programmes, and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to the Gambia.

49. In 1982, the secondary-road construction programme in the Gambia faced recurrent difficulties because of shortages of funds. Despite major joint resource-mobilization efforts on the part of the Government and UNSO, the financing required to keep the programme at peak efficiency did not materialize, even though strong interest had been indicated by several potential donors.

50. In this context, and in order not to let the programme lose its momentum, the Government of the Gambia, in spite of the severe economic and financial constraints it currently faces, made a contribution equivalent to \$240,000 to the project, while UNSO decided to temporarily allocate additional resources to allow the national brigade to continue operating until the onset of the rainy season.

As a result, the activities of the project were maintained and more than 94 km of roads were completed during 1982 at an average cost of less than \$21,000 per kilometre.

51. Because of the financial constraint faced by the project, the resource-mobilization activities of UNSO have continued on an intensified level, in close collaboration with the Government of the Gambia. It is expected that those efforts will allow the programme to resume construction activities after the forthcoming rainy season in the country comes to an end in September 1983.

52. Following the completion of the UNSO-financed project for the development of the watering points programme, under which 28 deep boreholes have been drilled and equipped with manual and electric pumps, the Government requested UNSO to provide assistance in developing and strengthening the department in charge of their maintenance and repair. The cost of the project, which started in early 1982 and is still ongoing, is over \$270,000, of which UNSO is providing over \$100,000 from the resources of the Trust Fund and the Government \$170,000; by means of those funds, logistical support is being provided by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat to build up a mobile field unit, with backstopping facilities, to maintain the stations and keep them in operation. It is expected that, at the close of the project in mid-1983, the unit will be able to service the boreholes and pumps without additional external technical assistance. In December 1982, an additional phase of the project, financed by a \$400,600 contribution from AGFUND was approved, as part of UNSO-supported desertification-control activities. The project's activities centre on integrated pasture development and protection of lands around livestock watering points. The project thus represents the third phase of activities in the borehole development programme referred to above and is to include land use and management planning to establish effective patterns of utilization and protection of the sites. The project is Government executed and aims at mobilizing the active participation, in both planning and management activities, of the livestock owners' associations, which are the primary beneficiaries of its activities.

53. Under its desertification-control mandate, UNSO has also extended assistance to the Gambia in drawing up three major national plans, namely, the Energy Survey and Energy Master Plan, the National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and the national plan for the ecologically sound management and use of the country's ground-water resources potential.

54. Work on the Energy Survey and Energy Master Plan for the Gambia started in March 1981 and the Plan was finalized in the latter part of 1982. The total cost of the project, executed by the World Bank, was \$310,000, of which \$250,000 was provided by UNSO from the resources of the Trust Fund, and \$60,000, as a contribution in kind, by the Government. The project has provided the Government with an analysis of the energy requirements of the country for the next 10 years, including renewable energy, and a proposed strategy to meet that demand. Since 80 per cent of the total energy used in the Gambia derives from wood and wood by-products, this project is particularly important from the point of view of the Gambia's policies for the rational utilization and conservation of its forest and other natural resources.

55. The Government's efforts to prepare its National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, which is to be based in part on the country's second Five-Year Plan 1982-1986, have centred on the elaboration of a dual strategy in the country combining a drought-related recovery and rehabilitation as well as desertification control. The project was approved in late 1981 and its implementation began in November 1982, with the assistance and financial support of UNSO and with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat as executing agency. The first part of the project is now completed and a report has been submitted to the Government. After consideration and approval of the report by the Government, it is planned that a national seminar will be organized, grouping representatives of all the technical services concerned, to draw up guidelines for national policies dealing with drought and desertification control, as well as to identify a series of interrelated priority projects and programmes addressing some of the major problems at hand in a realistic and pragmatic fashion.

56. The national plan for the ecologically sound management and use of the country's ground-water resource potential was formulated by a mission fielded by UNSO in October 1982. The plan's main objectives are to satisfy the expanding water requirements, in quantity and quality, of domestic, agricultural and industrial users, and to minimize or eliminate undesirable environmental consequences of more intense use of ground water. It thus addresses a key ecological and development problem of the country which will become ever more acute as demographic and land-use pressures increase. UNSO has already initiated resource mobilization activities on behalf of the project, which has an overall cost of \$1,893,315.

57. In May 1981, UNSO initiated discussions with the Government with a view to developing a project for the construction of small dams along tributaries of the Gambia River; in mid-1982, an UNSO technical mission reviewed and updated the proposals. The total cost of the project is over \$840,000, of which the Government is contributing close to \$100,000. UNSO is now engaged in resource-mobilization activities for the full financing of the project and has received indications from the Government of Australia that it might participate in financing the project.

58. Given the increasingly serious and negative impact which both the processes of drought and desertification are having on the essentially agricultural economy of the country, UNSO, since mid-1982, has also been co-operating closely with the Government and UNDP in the preparation of the donors' round-table conference, which is to be held in Banjul late in 1983, and will take an active part in its proceedings.

4. Mali

59. During 1982, the secondary-road programme in Mali continued on schedule. In 1982, 45 km of roads were completed, after resumption of the activities in July of the same year on the Kati-Kolokani Link.

60. Proposals for extension of the programme were submitted by the Government of Mali to UNSO concerning the construction of the Gao-Ansongo road (100 km). A feasibility study on the subject was prepared by UNSO, and efforts towards mobilization of the necessary additional resources are now under way.
61. In 1981, within its desertification-control mandate, and at the request of the Government, UNSO fielded a mission, which formulated an experimental project for the establishment of a multi-purpose village and industrial tree-plantation scheme in the Gao region. The project, which has a duration of three years and is being executed by the Government, began in the latter part of 1981 and became fully operational in 1982; its total cost is \$845,000, of which the Government is providing \$530,000 and UNSO \$315,000 from the resources of the Trust Fund. In 1982, UNSO consultants reviewed project operations and provided specialized technical advice to the national forestry services concerned on specific aspects of industrial plantation development in the project area. The mission visited Mali in May and October 1982 and the resulting reports have been submitted to the concerned services in Mali.
62. In 1982, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) began implementing a feasibility study for the establishment of a plant for the production of solar-energy equipment and materials, including pumps, cooking stoves and solar heaters financed by an UNSO contribution of \$90,000. The results of the study are expected to be available in the second half of 1983.
63. During 1982, UNSO, in collaboration with CILSS, finalized a project proposal for the construction, production and utilization of improved cooking stoves, involving local artisans and materials. As an initial step in the implementation of the project, UNSO, in a joint venture with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Women, contributed \$10,000 to finance preparatory activities. Meanwhile, UNSO is intensifying its efforts to mobilize resources to cover the total project cost of approximately \$800,000, half of which the Government of Mali will meet from its own resources.
64. In the area of ground-water resources development, UNSO carried out a joint mission with the Government of Yugoslavia to formulate a project aimed at strengthening the National Department for Natural Resources' operational capacity for hydrological exploration and exploitation. UNSO is now discussing with the Governments of Mali and Yugoslavia the modalities for the financing of this project.
65. As part of activities aimed at the protection and ecologically sound development of arid and semi-arid regions, an UNSO-supported project was formulated and approved in 1982 for the integrated agro-sylvo-pastoral development of the Niger River flood plain of Mali (zone lacustre). Implementation of the project, for which the Government is the executing agent and OPE the co-operating agency, started in July 1982, with a contribution of \$388,058 to the Trust Fund from the Government of Australia and an input by the Government of Mali in the amount of \$76,800. This project will dovetail with a bilateral project financed by the Federal Republic of Germany for an amount of \$1,600,000, under arrangements agreed upon during a joint mission of the Governments of Mali and the Federal Republic of Germany and also UNSO, which took place in December 1982.

66. At the invitation of the Government of Mali, UNSO actively participated in the International Conference of Donors for the Recovery and Development of Mali which took place in Bamako, under UNDP auspices from 11 to 16 December 1982. The Conference provided a forum for an exchange of views between the Government of Mali and its development partners on Mali's development objectives as well as on the priority projects formulated within the context of the 1981-85 National Development Plan. For its part, UNSO, in accordance with its mandates and the priorities defined by the Government of Mali, reiterated its willingness to assist in the mobilization of resources needed for

(a) The further development of land transport infrastructure aimed at ensuring the food security of isolated areas in case of droughts, and facilitate their economic development hitherto hindered by their isolation;

(b) The implementation of rural development projects for the development, management and protection of existing natural resources within the framework of fragile ecosystems.

5. Mauritania

67. In March 1982, construction started on the M'Bout-Selibaby road. This followed the negotiating of a financial agreement involving a contribution of \$2.8 million from UNCDF, \$1.5 million from UNSO and \$55,600 from the Government of Mauritania. By the end of 1982, 42 kilometres of roads had been completed on the M'Bout-Selibaby road under very difficult operating conditions.

68. During 1982, discussions between UNSO and USAID were conducted in order to define the modalities of co-operation for the continuation of the road-construction programme, on the basis of a joint UNSO/USAID venture. At the end of 1982, a basic agreement between USAID, the Government of Mauritania and UNSO had been reached. The additional contribution made available for the programme amounted to \$4,810,000. Additional funds, in local currency, will be forthcoming as proceeds from the sale of cereals provided by the United States Government become available (approximately equivalent to \$1,200,000). These additional contributions to the project will be available in May 1983, when the initial UNSO funds will be exhausted. It is expected that, at that time, 70 km of roads will have been completed.

69. Under this new venture, the management structure for the programme will remain essentially the same as in the past and OPE will continue to assume logistical, technical and monitoring responsibilities for its activities.

70. At the request of the Government of Mauritania, UNSO undertook, in August 1982, a feasibility study for the construction and rehabilitation of the Kaedi-M'Bout-Kiffa roads (308 km). On the basis of another request made by both the Governments of Mauritania and Mali, and as mentioned in paragraph 21 above, UNSO also carried out a similar study for the key road-link between the Mauritanian town of Nema and the town of Nara in Mali. In 1983, UNSO will actively pursue its resource-mobilization efforts in order to assist the Government in locating the resources required for the construction of the above-mentioned roads.

71. In early March 1982, the implementation of a large-scale project in agricultural statistics began. The main objective of the project is to provide the Ministry of Rural Development with the means to collect, process and use, for planning purposes, primary data on agricultural production, as well as on Mauritania's fauna; the project should thus provide the Government with the statistical inputs necessary for planning the utilization of renewable, natural resources and the development of the rural sector, as well as to define a medium-range and long-range programme for the protection of threatened species. The project, which extends over a period of three years and is jointly executed by FAO and OPE, is costed at \$1,242,259, with inputs from the Government of Mauritania amounting to \$173,745, \$619,140 from UNDP, \$70,000 from the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and \$379,374 from UNSO, of which \$350,000 was provided by the Government of Italy through a contribution to the Trust Fund. An extension of the project to cover the key livestock sub-sector is under elaboration. The Government of Italy has indicated its tentative interest in supporting this additional dimension of the project which is of paramount important for the economy of the country and for the ecologically sound management of its range and livestock resources.

72. In January 1982, under the desertification control mandate of UNSO, the implementation started of a large-scale programme of earth dam construction and rehabilitation in the Assaba region in south-western Mauritania. UNSO had played a leading role in mobilizing resources amounting to \$4,695,910 required for its implementation. The project is jointly financed by contributions from UNDP in an amount of \$822,810, \$145,100 in kind from the Government of Mauritania, \$2,286,000 from UNCDF, \$474,000 from the United Nations Office of Emergency Operations, \$10,000 from UNEP, \$558,000 from an AGFUND contribution to the Trust Fund and \$400,000 from UNSO. The objectives of the project are to repair 15 earth dams and to construct four new ones over a period of three years; the activities foreseen under the project are designed, inter alia, to ensure, with the full participation of the population concerned, that the use of the region's available natural resources is compatible with existing ecological constraints in the area. The project is being executed by OPE.

73. In 1981, as reported earlier, UNSO financed the formulation of a comprehensive medium-term and long-term programme of sand-dune fixation. This initial phase of the programme included a significant research element, focusing on the scientific analysis of the nature and extent of sand movement, which led to the development of an operational approach for the stabilization of moving sands in Mauritania. As a follow-up, a major project for the control of sand movements in six pilot areas was devised and approved by the national authorities of Mauritania in August 1981, and financing for its implementation was secured by UNSO in 1982. This major project involves an earmarked contribution by DANIDA to the Trust Fund of \$2,300,000, \$450,000 from UNDP, \$1,372,140 from UNCDF and \$219,487 from the Government of Mauritania. The Government of Algeria has agreed to finance the comprehensive training programme built into the project. The total resources utilized for the first three years of operation of this major undertaking currently stands approximately at \$4,400,000.

6. Niger

74. During 1982, the secondary-road construction programme registered high performances, both in terms of number of kilometres constructed (70 km) and expenses (less than \$25,000 per kilometre). Based on those results, UNSO, at the request of the Government of the Niger, has entered into complementary negotiations with interested donors for additional contributions, in order to expand the programme by creating a second mechanized brigade. The new phase of the programme will concern the construction of 306 km of secondary roads. The finalization of the ongoing negotiations is scheduled for the end of the actual phase, which is to be in June 1983.

75. In 1982, a joint mission of the Government of the Netherlands and UNSO evaluated the first two phases of the ongoing project for the local manufacture of agricultural tools and equipment, and promotion of local craftsmanship, for which UNSO has to date provided a total of \$2,090,000 through a contribution of the Government of the Netherlands to the Trust Fund. As a result of the positive findings of the mission, it was agreed to embark on a third phase designed (a) to support supplementary research on the kind of equipment most appropriate for local soils and conditions, (b) to promote a better understanding and hence use of this equipment by the rural population, and (c) to continue production and the training of nationals in the manufacture and utilization of this adapted agricultural material and equipment. The total cost of the proposed third phase of the project is in excess of \$3 million, of which the Government has agreed to contribute \$300,000. Tripartite discussions involving the Governments of the Niger, the Netherlands and UNSO, were carried out to review the possibility of an additional contribution by the Government of the Netherlands to this project, so that the implementation of follow-up activities envisaged under the third phase could start in 1983.

76. In the area of desertification control, the project for the establishment of a green belt around Niamey, which is executed by the Government with OPE acting as co-operating agency and which makes full use of the experience gained in a similar undertaking carried out in the peri-urban area of Niamey with bilateral financing, was extended by an additional contribution of \$572,535, of which \$500,000 is being provided by a contribution of the Government of Finland to the Trust Fund and \$72,535 by UNSO. Field operations financed from those additional contributions commenced in March 1982 and an additional 250 hectares are expected to be planted over the next two years.

77. As a result of resource-mobilization activities launched for a programme aiming at establishing green belts around eight of the major towns of the country, UNSO received an earmarked contribution of \$480,335 from the Government of the Netherlands for the development of a green belt around Tahoua. The project aims at providing the Niger's forestry services with the equipment and materials, as well as the operating costs, required for the creation of 500 hectares of green belt around the city of Tahoua. The relevant project document was finalized by a joint Netherlands/UNSO mission to the Niger in July 1982.

78. Following a final, joint SIDA/UNSO formulation mission to Niamey in February 1982, the detailed project document for project "Operation Gao" in the region of Dosso was agreed upon with the Government of the Niger. The project aims, over a period of five years and with extensive popular participation, to protect and foster the natural regeneration of 300,000 soil-enriching gao trees (faidherbia albida) in an area of 4,000 to 6,000 hectares, and to establish 600 hectares of new plantations. The gao tree, which is leguminous and drought resistant, contributes to the fertility of the soil, produces fodder for livestock and will also be used to create shelter belts. SIDA has confirmed its contribution of \$1,101,000, which is to be used jointly with a \$227,000 contribution from the Government of the Niger, for the implementation of the project by the Ministry of Rural Development of the Niger, supported by OPE as co-operating agency.

79. Pursuant to an UNSO-financed FAO mission at the end of 1981 and a follow-up mission by the UNSO Regional Office in August 1982, a detailed proposal has been formulated for a project for the control of sand encroachment in the palm groves of the Bilma region. UNSO is actively engaged in efforts to mobilize the resources needed for the implementation of this project with a total cost of \$1,646,000, of which the Government of the Niger will contribute \$168,500.

80. As reported earlier, an UNSO-financed World Bank reconnaissance mission visited the Niger in December 1981 to identify with the government major issues and options in the energy sector; the mission acted as the forerunner to a full-fledged World Bank energy-assessment mission which, with joint UNSO and UNDP Energy Account financing of \$123,000, worked in the Niger during the latter part of 1982. It is expected that the mission report will be submitted in the spring of 1983 and will include detailed terms of reference for the preparation of a plan of action relating to the main problems in the energy sector.

81. While awaiting the outcome of current UNSO efforts to mobilize resources needed to launch a large-scale project in the production and utilization of improved stoves, UNSO and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women are jointly contributing \$10,000 to finance selected preparatory activities in this field. Those preparatory activities will permit the Government of the Niger to put into operation a limited number of improved stoves and to collect data on their technical and socio-economic acceptability by the users, as well as on their thermal effectiveness.

7. Senegal

82. During 1982, the secondary-road construction programme in the Casamance region continued as planned and 58 kilometres of roads were completed. During the same period, the Federal Republic of Germany confirmed its contribution to the programme in an amount of DM 6 million (\$2.5 million). All necessary measures were taken by UNSO to ensure the continuation of the programme without any interruption.

83. During the same period UNSO, at the request of the Government, entered into further negotiations with interested donors for additional contributions to the

programme. In this context, it is now envisaged to expand the means of the programme by creating a second mechanized brigade, in order to reinforce the national capacity for construction of 181 additional kilometres of secondary roads. It is expected that the second brigade will start construction activities before the end of 1983 in the regions of Casamance and East Senegal.

84. For the maintenance of the secondary roads already constructed within the programme, UNSO initiated discussions with several donors (countries and international institutions) and it is expected that the necessary contributions will be secured in 1983. In the meantime, the maintenance of the roads will be performed by the existing construction brigade.

85. The desertification-control pilot project for the development of the Tobor Forest in the Casamance region continued during 1982. As reported earlier, the project aims at developing and testing a management plan which, in the long term, will protect the Casamance Forest, while permitting its rational utilization through (a) facilitating its natural regeneration by the selected felling of dead and degenerating trees; and (b) systematic reforestation, within productive zones, with commercial and indigenous varieties. During 1982, the project activities were centred on developing and testing a management plan which, in the long term, should establish the basis for a rational utilization of the forest. In 1982, a quadripartite mission carried out an in-depth evaluation of the project. It concluded, inter alia, that, in order to succeed in promoting the further development of the Tobor forest, greater care had to be taken to ensure that the people living in the area who are already using the forest's potential to meet a large amount of needs additional to those for firewood, be effectively integrated in such activities and asked to participate in their elaboration. In this connection, the mission's follow-up recommendations included, in addition to technical proposals, the creation of a "Section économique forestière" (SEF), or forestry economics unit in each village or group of villages; the SEF would organize participation in reforestation, would be responsible for the commercialization and/or distribution of forestry products, and would assist in ensuring the surveillance and protection of the forest.

86. The integrated programme for sand-dune fixation in the northern coastal area of the country, which includes the ecologically sound production of vegetable and other crops in the dune hollows, continued to progress both in terms of actual stabilization work, as well as in the development of new, more effective techniques for controlling sand movement. Major bilateral involvement will continue in this field in 1983. In view of the importance of the works envisaged, the Government requested UNSO to provide additional resources to undertake stabilization work in a large area adjacent, and ecologically similar, to the one already covered.

87. In 1982, a major project was formulated by a joint UNSO/Government of Yugoslavia mission for the establishment and operation of a centre for the production of grass seeds and other fodder crops to be used in the arid zones of the country. It is envisaged that the reseeded of rangelands with improved varieties will enhance their productivity and drought resistance. The cost of the project is estimated at \$2.8 million, of which over \$2.3 million are required from

external sources. Negotiations are under way with the Government of Yugoslavia, which has indicated an interest in providing substantial services and materials for the project.

8. Upper Volta

88. Based on a feasibility study prepared by UNSO in November 1982, concerning the construction of 233 km of secondary roads in the Sahelian part of the country, UNSO was able in 1982 to secure, through a special financing agreement between UNSO, the Federal Republic of Germany, Yugoslavia, UNCDF and the African Development Bank, the total financing of the programme, which amounts to \$12.4 million. Two national mechanized brigades will be involved in the new construction phase. The first one, which has been operational for several years and has been working on other road links previously financed by UNSO, will resume construction activities under this project early in 1983; the second brigade will start functioning in mid-1983. In addition, at the request of the Government, UNSO has financed a feasibility study for the next phase of the programme which envisages the construction of 173 additional km of roads in the Bogandé region.

89. Under its desertification control mandate, UNSO assisted the Government in the development or implementation of three forestry projects, as follows:

(a) Pursuant to an initial UNSO-financed project-identification mission carried out in 1981, UNSO provided an additional amount of \$20,000 to enable the Government of the Upper Volta to update and further develop a project for the development of Acacia senegal in the departments of the Sahel in the north. Acacia senegal is a multi-purpose tree which not only produces gum arabic, a cash crop, but also contributes to soil stabilization and produces fodder and fuelwood;

(b) Implementation has begun of a large-scale project for the creation of village and family woodlots in the department of Koudougou. This project, to which the Government of Sweden has made a contribution of \$2,010,000 through the Trust Fund, seeks to meet the needs for fuel and construction wood of the population in the region of Koudougou, the principal city of the west-central department of the Upper Volta. The project is Government executed and is built on the concept of full popular participation;

(c) Additional contributions of \$297,600 from AGFUND and \$413,500 from UNSO have been made to the ongoing project for studies and integrated village and family reforestation operations in the region of Saponé. This supplementary UNSO assistance will permit the expansion of the scope of the project's activities and will meet its operational costs for a further period of two years, thus ensuring attainment of project objectives.

90. In the field of range management, UNSO is supporting a project, in the Sahelian region of the Upper Volta (Oudalan), aimed at the improvement of livestock management, with due regard to sound ecological considerations. The implementation of this project, financed by UNSO in the amount of \$104,000 from the resources of

the Trust Fund, started in December 1981 and is complementary to related activities being undertaken in the region with the support of Euro-Action Accord, a non-governmental organization. The objectives of the project are to develop proper range-management techniques and integrated activities in the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector, compatible with the ecological constraints of the region. Special attention is being paid to ensuring the widest possible participation by and involvement of the local population in all stages and components of the project. In late 1982, a mission proceeded to the project area to review project activities and their results, at field level, and to make recommendations for adjustments in the project design as well as for its continuation. A decision on those recommendations will be made by mid-1983.

91. In December 1982, work started, with the assistance of UNSO, on the updating of the country's national plan to combat desertification. UNESCO, the executing agency for the project, will provide expert back-up support to the Government of the Upper Volta to assist in the collection of all available data bearing on the problem of desertification and its control, and to prepare, on the basis of these data, a synthesis document, which will include the identification of potential priority projects. Experts from CILSS have been collaborating in this endeavour. The document will subsequently be discussed, amended as necessary, and approved at a national seminar to be attended by all the technical ministries concerned, thereby providing a foundation for all desertification-control activities of the Government for the forthcoming years.

V. CO-OPERATION WITH THE PERMANENT INTER-STATE COMMITTEE
ON DROUGHT CONTROL IN THE SAHEL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel

92. In carrying out its activities, UNSO works very closely with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), at all operational levels.

93. In January 1982, the Administration of UNDP and the Director of UNSO participated in the Biennial Conference of the Heads of State of CILSS. The Heads of State noted with satisfaction the close collaboration that existed with UNSO and agreed that arrangements governing the co-operation between UNSO and the CILSS member States worked effectively and should be further strengthened.

94. The following main events of 1982 serve as an illustration thereof:

(a) A major programming effort was conducted jointly with the CILSS secretariat to update the CILSS/UNSO feeder-road programme (see paras. 19 to 22 above);

(b) In October 1982, UNSO sponsored and financed a special session of the CILSS Ecology Unit in Banjul. The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of the UNSO/CILSS/Club du Sahel Plan of Action to Combat

Desertification in the Sahel, which was adopted by the CILSS Heads of State meeting in Ouagadougou in January 1980. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Planning and Rural Development, directors of forestry of each of the CILSS member States, as well as by representatives of the donor community and international organizations;

(c) UNSO also participated in the meetings of the CILSS Councils of Ministers held in 1982. The first one took place in Praia in January 1982 prior to the Conference of the Heads of State, and the second one took place in Rome in November 1982;

(d) UNSO, CILSS and the Club du Sahel have also jointly undertaken a high-level mission to Chad to discuss with the Government ways and means of resuming UNSO/CILSS/Club du Sahel efforts to assist the Government of Chad in its efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of its national rehabilitation and development programme (see paras. 46 and 47 above);

(e) UNSO, CILSS and Sahel Institute technical staff are increasingly collaborating in the preparation of programme activities addressing, in the CILSS countries, both drought-related and desertification-control problems. CILSS and UNSO experts have collaborated in this context in activities being carried out, inter alia, in Chad, the Upper Volta and Mali; the Director of Research of the Sahel Institute and his staff are now undertaking, under UNSO and UNEP sponsorship, a major study aiming at the preparation of (i) a survey of information and experience on desertification-control and the identification of material of value in other countries or similar ecological situations and of activities suitable for duplication in the region; and (ii) a directory of national and international institutions in Africa involved in research, training or implementation of desertification-control projects, as well as of scientists knowledgeable in the various aspects of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

(f) Finally, working contacts between CILSS staff and staff from the UNSO office in Ouagadougou have increased steadily and a thorough and effective collaboration now exists between the two offices.

B. Club du Sahel

95. During the period under review, senior staff from UNSO and the Club du Sahel had several working sessions, the purpose of which was to ensure a more effective co-ordination of activities of their respective organizations in their efforts to support CILSS and its member States. In 1982, as a result of those efforts, frequent meetings took place between staff members of UNSO and the Club du Sahel in fields such as transportation, ecology and forestry, recurrent costs and food security. It is expected that this closer collaboration will continue to develop in the future.

C. West African Economic Community (CEAO)

96. As a result of a series of meetings held between the Director of UNSO and the Secretary-General of CEAO on the joint programming and financing of activities and the strengthening of co-operative arrangements between the Community and UNSO, an agreement was worked out on several joint project undertakings at the subregional level, including programmes for the systematic use of Acacia senegal in development activities in the northern Sahelian belt, as well as the promotion of fuel-efficient cooking stoves. A joint programme for the development of village-level storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses, which will also serve, inter alia, to minimize the risks of famine connected with drought, was also discussed in detail and is likely to become operational, with CILSS participation, in 1983.

D. Co-operation with United Nations agencies and other organizations and institutions

97. In carrying out its functions and responsibilities, UNSO continued to maintain close working relationships with various United Nations agencies and institutions, in particular with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, UNIDO, UNEP, UNICEF, UNU, UNDP, WFP, the ILO, FAO, FAO/OSRO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, the World Bank and IFAD.

98. As in the past, the close working relationship which obtains between UNSO and the UNDP regional bureaux for Africa and for Arab States on all relevant programme and operational matters has continued during the period under review. The bureaux and UNSO closely co-operate and mutually relate their respective responsibilities at all stages of programme and project formulation and implementation, thus ensuring complementarity of all their efforts. In this connection, UNSO has, and will be co-operating closely with UNDP in the preparation of donors round-table meetings which already have, or will take place in 1983 and beyond. This will make it possible for due consideration being given to the growing pressures of drought and desertification-related problems both in the mobilization and allocation of scarce development resources by the countries concerned.

99. In July 1982, UNSO participated in the regional meeting of resident representatives of UNDP in Africa, which took place in Lomé. UNSO reviewed proposed and ongoing drought-related and desertification control projects with the resident representatives from the Sudano-Sahelian and related countries, including the relation of these projects to the country programmes of the Governments concerned.

Notes

1/ The activities of UNSO regarding the group of designated countries of the Sudano-Sahelian and adjacent regions, including the eight States members of CILSS, relating to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, are described in detail in the report of the Governing Council of UNEP to be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 37/216 of 20 December 1982. The present report should therefore be read in conjunction with the report of the Governing Council of UNEP.

2/ In 1982, the main contributors to the Trust Fund were the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND).

3/ All figures quoted are in United States dollars.
