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## CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 November 1982, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/17 on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, by which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General to submit to the thirty-eighth session a report on the state of co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. By that resolution, the Assembly endorsed the proposal to hold in June 1983, at the headquarters of the League of Arab States, a Meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and representatives of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations. The specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system as well as the competent departments of the United Nations Secretariat were requested to give careful consideration to the suggestions presented in document A/37/536 for strengthening and expanding areas of co-operation with the League of Arab States and to indicate which of the suggestions could be dealt with more appropriately either at the bilateral or multilateral level.

## II. PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS

2. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 37/17, several meetings took place between the representatives of the Secretary-General and the representatives of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to finalize arrangements for the organization of the Meeting as well as its agenda and documentation. All concerned were kept informed of the results of the discussions. The United Nations side was invited to elaborate on its proposals, either in writing or in statements at the Meeting, for strengthening and expanding co-operation with the League of Arab States. In addition, they were asked to provide an updated summary of current co-operation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations.

## III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

3. The meetings were presided over jointly by representatives of the Secretary-General and of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. Each co-chairman was assisted by a rapporteur.

4. All meetings were held in plenary session. Proposals emanating from discussions were referred to ad hoc working groups composed of representatives of the departments, agencies and programmes directly concerned. To facilitate the task of the working groups and of the Chairmen, two liaison officers from each side were appointed to assist in the drafting and recording of all proposals dealing with matters relating to political and social affairs as well as those relating to economic, financial and technical co-operation issues.

5. In its deliberations, the Meeting was guided by the fact that participating organizations, agencies and programmes were each governed by their respective charters, statutes and relevant procedures, and that proposals and recommendations which emanated from the Meeting could not commit any of them to a course of action

which required approval of their respective governing bodies. However, it was understood that such proposals and recommendations would be brought to the attention of the competent bodies of each side for early consideration and appropriate action.

6. The agenda for the meeting consisted of six major items:

(a) Proposals relating to the strengthening of co-operation in the field of international peace and security;

(b) Proposals relating to the strengthening of co-operation in the field of financial, economic and technical co-operation for development;

(c) Proposals relating to the strengthening of co-operation in the field of food and agriculture;

(d) Proposals relating to the strengthening of co-operation in the field of social development, labour matters, human resources and cultural affairs;

(e) Proposals relating to refugees, disaster prevention and emergency relief, and the promotion of respect for human rights;

(f) Information and communication.

7. The Meeting also had before it an annotated agenda containing suggestions for strengthening and expanding co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

8. The League of Arab States presented documents, entitled "Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Development" (A/37/638) and "Proposals on principles relating to co-operation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations and its specialized agencies, submitted by the League of Arab States" (annex I), for consideration by the Meeting.

9. On the United Nations side, the Meeting was attended by senior representatives of several departments of the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and various organizations and programmes of the United Nations system. The Arab side was represented by all departments of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and by senior representatives of its specialized organizations. A list of all participating organizations and agencies is contained in annex II.

#### IV. MEETING

##### A. General

10. The Meeting took place at the Palais des Congrès at Tunis from 28 June to 1 July 1983.

11. The inaugural session was confined to the opening statements by Mr. Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations and by

Mr. Chedli Klibi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. In view of the importance of the two statements, and the fact that they covered matters which were of direct relevance to the agenda of the Meeting, it was decided to make them available in extenso to participants in the Meeting.

12. The remaining sessions of the Meeting were devoted to the consideration of suggestions received from the representatives of the United Nations system and of the League of Arab States for strengthening and expanding existing areas of co-operation, as well as to statements made in elaboration of those suggestions.

B. Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations

13. At the inaugural meeting, on 28 June, the Secretary-General of the United Nations made the following statement:

"It is a great pleasure for me to open this first Meeting of representatives of the United Nations system and of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations. As you are all aware, the Meeting is being held in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 37/17 regarding co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. I am very glad that we have been able to meet, as planned in the Assembly resolution, in the lovely city of Tunis and I am sure that your deliberations will benefit greatly from the enlightened guidance of the Secretary-General of the League, His Excellency, Mr. Chedli Klibi.

"Regional organizations such as the League of Arab States have an important place in the scheme envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and social and economic development. In the political field, the Charter lists resort to regional agencies or arrangements as one of the means of pacific settlement of disputes. Given the degree of political cohesion deriving from a unity of ultimate purpose among the members of regional organizations, local disputes are especially appropriate for regional action and the Charter requires that such action should be encouraged. In the economic sphere, the necessity of regional plans for development and their implementation through the co-operation of all the States of a region is self-evident in this age of rapid social and technological change.

"As a regional organization, the League of Arab States has several distinctions all its own. Your organization came into being even before the establishment of the United Nations. Your member States share strong affinities deriving from a common cultural tradition and shared social attitudes. You have had similar experiences of suffering through alien subjugation or domination during the colonial age. You have a common civilization and language which, besides its wealth of literature and philosophy, has maintained its place as a vital and dynamic medium of cultural growth. The region which you cover has played an important - at times a pivotal - role in world history.

"In our age, peace in this region has become a matter of central concern to the entire international community. I am deeply convinced that there is a common Arab interest in peace and development which transcends, and should overcome, the differences which sometimes appear to divide and distract the Arab world. There is no exaggeration in the claim that the League is an embodiment of a genuine organic relationship among its member States.

"In its Article 3, the Pact of the League of Arab States stipulated means of co-operation 'with international bodies ... in order to guarantee security and peace and regulate economic and social relations'. For its part, the United Nations, as far back as 1950, instituted the practice of inviting the League to attend sessions of the General Assembly as an observer. Ten years later, agreed procedures were evolved for co-operation between the United Nations and the League through mutual consultation, exchange of information and documentation, representation and liaison. Since then considerable progress has been made in this co-operation through a number of agreements with the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations. The League participates actively in discussions at major meetings of United Nations bodies.

"This Meeting has been convened with the purpose of devising ways and means for strengthening and expanding this co-operation. I would urge all participants to go beyond abstractions and generalities and focus attention on what can practically be done to make this co-operation more pertinent to the Charter aims of peace and development. While wishing you all success in this endeavour, I would take this opportunity to mention some matters of vital concern for our two organizations.

#### The situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine

"Among the foremost of these issues are, of course the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. No other international problem has claimed more time or attention of the United Nations and the 36-year history of efforts made under its auspices to resolve these issues peaceably is quite familiar to us.

"During these 36 turbulent years there have been six deadly wars and countless incidents and victims. The United Nations has mounted five peace-keeping operations in order to contain the conflict and has undertaken intensive efforts to seek a just solution to the political problem. But none of these has been successful and the situation remains extremely unstable and precarious.

"The invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli forces in June 1982, to which I immediately drew the attention of the Security Council, has had serious consequences not only for the settlement of the political problem, but also for the very principle of United Nations peace-keeping operations. It is important to note here that, lacking enforcement means, these operations can be effective only if all the parties concerned co-operate with them, in

accordance with the spirit of the Charter and with the resolutions of the Security Council. Events in the Middle East during the last 12 months have demonstrated the imperative and urgent need to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the conflict as a whole.

"I note that the League of Arab States is aware of this need, for at its summit meeting last September, in Fez, it formulated important proposals on the subject. I had occasion to point out at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly that the Fez plan deserved very careful attention on the part of the United Nations. Unfortunately, little progress has been made so far in that connection.

"My views on the components of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement are well known, as are the Security Council resolutions which could serve as a basis for negotiating it. But it also seems to me that a wide measure of agreement has emerged as to the conditions which must be met in order to achieve a settlement: the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from territories occupied since June 1967; respect for an acknowledgement of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force; and, lastly, a just settlement of the Palestinian problem based on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination. In this context, the question of Jerusalem also remains of primary importance and must be resolved in a satisfactory manner.

"I am deeply conscious of the formidable difficulties which still lie on the way to the attainment of a comprehensive settlement. The parties to the conflict continue to be divided by extreme distrust and fear and, as in any situation of such deeply rooted antagonism, it is often easier for the parties to adopt rigid positions than flexible policies, thus negotiations remain deadlocked and there is the ever-present danger that hostilities may be renewed. A peaceful settlement would require from the Governments and authorities concerned, an extraordinary measure of understanding, compassion, courage and statesmanship. Only in this manner can an end be put to the strife, hatred and recurrent violence that are destroying the lives, homelands and hope of the peoples of the Middle East. I am sure that the League of Arab States will play a constructive and forward-looking role in support of these aims.

#### Palestine refugees

"A situation of deep human distress and concern that has arisen from the Arab-Israeli conflict is that of the Palestine refugees. The safety of some refugees and the events which are taking place in the occupied territories are causing great anxiety. It is now more than 35 years since the original refugees fled their homes in Palestine. At that time, the General Assembly resolved that they should either be permitted to return to their homes or be suitably compensated for their losses. Unfortunately, as is well known, that

resolution has not been implemented. Pending a political solution, the General Assembly established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to provide them the necessary humanitarian assistance.

"I believe that UNRWA has a record of achievement in its own sphere of which it can be proud. Today, its assistance to the almost 2 million refugees registered with it consists principally of education to some 340,000 children, health services concentrating on the needs of mothers and young children and relief services to those in need, including those suffering from the aftermath of the war in Lebanon. These are services of a basic nature to which all people are entitled. For the Palestine refugees, however, the continuation of these services is dependent on voluntary contributions from the international community. Regrettably, UNRWA has been beset by chronic financial difficulties. I would like to emphasize the serious consequences for stability in the region should this Agency be forced, through lack of resources, to cease its operations prematurely, or to alter them radically, not to mention the additional suffering that this would inflict on the refugees.

"I have a special concern in this regard because of its obvious bearing on the maintenance of international peace and security. Since a negotiated settlement among the parties concerned assuring a just and lasting solution of the refugee problem cannot be expected to be achieved quickly, the need for assistance to the refugees will remain. I, therefore, believe that there is ample scope for increased co-operation between the United Nations, as represented by UNRWA, together with its UNESCO and WHO component elements, and the League of Arab States in order to improve existing services and to ensure that the necessary resources are maintained and, if necessary, suitably augmented.

#### Disarmament and development

"In the political sphere, I would also like to mention the question of disarmament which is included in your agenda and which is, and should be, a top priority for the United Nations as well as all regional organizations. I believe that regional organizations of developing countries are especially qualified to make clear for their member States the relationship between disarmament and development. The realization is growing now that resources, howsoever defined, are far from infinite and that the world simply cannot sustain the present levels of military consumption of these resources without making development a casualty of armaments. From a global perspective, both the arms race and underdevelopment pose dangers for the security and well-being of nations. The removal of these dangers demands a change in attitudes and a diversion of resources, now expended on military pursuits, to social and economic development. I am confident that your organization will wish to strengthen the efforts of the United Nations to halt the senseless drive for security at ever higher levels of armaments. We have all to face the fact that the present pervasive armaments culture aggravates the



insecurity of nations and encourages the tendency to resort to force. The key to disarmament lies in reviving the system of collective security envisaged in the United Nations Charter which was specifically conceived as the alternative to the arms race and to war.

#### Human rights

"Another matter to which I attach the greatest importance is the promotion and protection of human rights. Despite a proclaimed general adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all too often we witness in various parts of the world racial discrimination, summary executions, torture, and persecution for religious and political reasons. It is not enough to condemn these acts and policies. The United Nations as well as all regional organizations have the duty to harmonize international efforts to end such affronts to human dignity.

"The General Assembly in 1977, and the Commission on Human Rights in 1978, proposed the establishment of regional arrangements for the protection and promotion of human rights in areas where there were no regional commissions. The General Assembly has also requested me to compile and update reports on the status of these regional arrangements and to include therein a review of the relevant exchanges of experience and information between the United Nations and regional organs and organizations.

"I am pleased to note that this topic is on your agenda. I would welcome a strengthening of the links between the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the regional bodies, such as the Permanent Arab Regional Commission which was established in 1968 and the Arab Standing Committee on Human Rights. Such regional co-operation can enhance the prospects of progress towards the Charter goal of better standards of life in larger freedom.

#### Economic development

"The last few years have witnessed considerable economic development in many Arab countries due largely to the substantial funds generated by oil revenues. Through its various departments, specialized agencies and institutions, the United Nations system has contributed to the efforts of the Arab Governments and co-operated very closely with the League of Arab States in the economic and social development of the region. In this context, the United Nations has sought not only to strengthen national and regional institutions, and provide training for the nationals of the different countries, but also to make available and promote in the Arab region the latest and most appropriate technologies. In doing so, the United Nations system has concentrated its resources on the least developed countries in the region and has also relied on the contributions of other Arab countries to develop projects and programmes for their benefit. A number of agreements have already been concluded between the League and the United Nations specialized agencies and a number of programmes and projects have been implemented.

"I am sure that there is room for further development in this area of co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. This Meeting should provide the opportunity for an exchange of views between the representatives of our agencies, leading to greater collaboration. Let me assure you that the United Nations, its technical departments and specialized agencies will be ready to provide appropriate support to your institutions and programmes for technical co-operation for the social and economic advance of the Arab peoples.

"I would now like to turn to the current world economic situation which is fraught with great difficulties and is necessarily of concern both to your organization and the United Nations. For the developing countries particularly, this situation has caused balance-of-payment crises, falling terms of trade and serious difficulties in meeting debt-servicing obligations. At the same time, the prices of primary commodities have been, and continue to be, depressed, and for many developing countries there is a chronic food deficit which has led to increasing food imports. Overall, there has been a marked instability of exchange rates between major currencies. There has, in short, been a severe world economic recession. The most severely affected have been the oil-importing developing countries which include some that are the least developed.

"It is evident that for the attainment of full recovery, substantial resources need to be injected into the world economy, thereby getting the major sectors moving again. There is also a need for proper planning and management of these resources and, in many developing countries, for policy adjustments, both monetary and fiscal, in order for their economies to receive the necessary stimulus for the desired recovery. Productivity has to be improved, adjustment to changing economic conditions speeded up, and capacity over the long run expanded.

"I have had occasion recently at the sixth session of UNCTAD to set forth some suggestions as to what needs to be done to arrest economic decline and to ensure that the pace of development recovers its previous vigour. The measures I have spelt out should be taken as an integral part of the efforts to revive the global economy. Moreover, it is imperative to make sure that they are supplemented by appropriate domestic policies to fight inflation, to encourage efficient investment and structural adjustment and maintain fiscal and monetary balance. While the institutions that have supported economic growth and development in the last few decades have indeed served the international community well, their functioning needs to be adapted and reformed to enable them to cope with the challenges of a perpetually evolving world situation. The necessity for working out a consensus for action between developed and developing countries therefore remains urgent. On this occasion I would also like to stress the need to enhance economic co-operation among developing countries. Such co-operation, it is now recognized, has a vast potential which has not yet been fully explored. While interdependence between the North and the South has been strikingly brought to the fore recently and is bound to increase, the developing countries can evolve effective regional approaches to such matters as, for example, medium- and

long-term food policies and strategies, balanced efforts directed to import substitution, the correction of the imbalance between rural and urban areas, and the efforts to promote greater economic self-reliance in a region. Member States of your organization can make a great contribution, indeed set an example, in this regard, and the United Nations system can assist.

"Finally, in the economic context, I would like to mention the four-year regional programme for the Arab States - the first such programme for the region - which has been a product of extensive consultations between the United Nations Development Programme and the Governments and the organizations concerned. I note the priority goals identified in the region - development and utilization of Arab human resources, achievement of greater regional co-operation in development, promotion of energy planning and research, implementation of a regionally formulated and supported industrialization plan, promotion of social, cultural, environmental and health aspects of development and of scientific and technological skills. I would urge that these goals be constantly borne in mind and inspire national policies appropriate for their pursuit. The implementation of the projects involved will require close co-operation between the United Nations agencies, regional institutions and the specialized agencies and the League.

#### Conclusion

"You have an extensive agenda for this Meeting which, as I said before, requires that emphasis be placed on what can concretely be done to promote co-operation between your organization and the United Nations for the peace and development of this region. May I, in conclusion, assure you that I regard this co-operation to be a matter of great importance and I will be personally interested in seeing it grow for the benefit of the Arab world which is a vital sector of the global society. I hope and trust that this Meeting will lead to a better understanding of our common interests in the social, technical and economic progress of the Arab peoples and of how our respective efforts in this regard can become mutually supportive and complementary. Duplication, overlapping and a confusion of spheres of responsibilities need to be avoided. The clarity of aims should be matched with a precision in the direction of the efforts made for their fulfilment. The formulation of goals and guidelines is, of course, the first essential of any endeavour, but equally necessary is a studied, carefully considered and pragmatic approach for their realization. I would urge all participants in this Meeting to keep this consideration in the forefront of their minds."

#### C. Statement by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

14. At the inaugural meeting, on 28 June, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States made the following statement:

"I would like to welcome you to the headquarters of the League of Arab States and hope that your stay here will be a most pleasant one.

"We are happy to have this opportunity to consult together concerning the major issues which concern us all, and we seek to lay the carefully designed foundation for joint action that will fulfil our aspirations and be equal to the challenges which face the international community in general and the Arab nation in particular, challenges which demand wisdom and a sense of responsibility.

1. Co-operation with the United Nations

"This Meeting will allow us to reconsider the form and substance we wish to give to our future co-operation, convinced as we are, in the light of our experience since the 1940s, that we can open up new horizons in our co-operation and co-ordination and make them more responsive to the concerns of our contemporary societies.

"And if this Meeting represents the culmination of nearly four decades of ever closer relations, and if it ushers in a new era of co-operation and co-ordination, then we can say that, as the first meeting of its type, it constitutes a truly historic encounter.

"Our Meeting is also a reaffirmation by the Arab nation and its League of their determination to support the United Nations and strengthen its role, and an expression of their belief in the need to observe the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

"In welcoming you, Mr. Secretary-General, to the headquarters of the League Secretariat, we are confident that your long experience in public affairs and diplomatic service, as well as your outstanding personal qualities and the global and comprehensive vision which you hold of international affairs, will help put our deliberations on the course towards the objectives spelled out by the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly concerning co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, particularly resolution 37/17, adopted on 16 November 1982.

"In this connection, one must recall Your Excellency's efforts to render United Nations bodies more dynamic and equip them with resources for facilitating and strengthening the work of the Secretariat and the specialized agencies; more specifically, one must recall the steps you have taken to enable the United Nations to overcome the difficulties facing the Organization, and which you discussed in your annual report, which was received with great interest by our countries and by many sectors of world opinion. The League of Arab States, the oldest regional and international organization of the contemporary world - since it was established before the end of the Second World War - was founded to achieve complementarity and stability in a region whose peoples are united by a common language, a single civilization and shared objectives. This organization has withstood the successive storms that have swept the region, cold and hot alike.

## 2. The Arab world

"The Arab world, which comprises 170 million inhabitants living in an area of 134 million square kilometres, is considered to be one of the most sensitive regions by virtue of its unique position at the junction of the East and the West. It has its own specific economic and social problems, not all of which are of its own making; on the contrary, most result from the intervention of external forces which have unceasingly sought to profit from its strategic position and natural resources.

"Since being liberated from colonial control, the Arab States have followed courses in line with United Nations objectives; they have worked to rebuild their countries and alleviate the difficulties that have led to the backwardness of their peoples, so that they could resume their role in the building of human civilization. But these efforts have had only limited success. The entire region has become a permanent centre of tension and instability because of the Israeli aggression which, in successive wars, has drained Arab potential that could have been used for development.

"For the Arab States as a whole do not constitute a rich community, as some believe; the average annual individual income barely exceeds \$2,000, and a major share of this revenue comes from non-renewable resources, the most important being oil, which, as we all know, exists in limited supply and whose prices today are closer to collapsing than to increasing; this has an effect on the volume of income and, consequently, on the rate of development. This is clearly the current situation in the wake of the drop in oil prices. The development process has in fact slowed down and the majority of Arab oil States have for the first time experienced a budget deficit, which in 1982 reached approximately \$23 billion for these countries alone out of a total of approximately \$31 billion for all Arab States.

## 3. Arab strategy for development

"The Arab States have become aware of the need to co-ordinate their development efforts and to achieve complementarity with regard to them. To this end, the Amman Summit Conference held in 1980 adopted the Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Action, which maps out the course of development until the end of the century. The Summit Conference provided the Strategy with an accompanying national charter to regulate economic relationships and agreed on the amounts to be provided over 10 years to the least developed Arab States.

"This Strategy holds the view that man is the basis for and the *raison d'être* of all economic and social development. Four principles have been adopted: joint action to prevent fragmentation; economic and social development, to conquer underdevelopment; total liberation, to put an end to colonial occupation through the establishment of settlements; and emphasis on Arab authenticity and the revitalization of the Arab identity, to combat cultural incursion.

"There is no doubt that the views of the League secretariat and those of the United Nations Secretariat converge on more than one point in so far as their conception of the social dimensions of the development process in third world countries is concerned. We are convinced that the third decade of the International Development Strategy must include a period for consideration and evaluation of the international development strategies implemented during the two preceding decades, strategies based on the premise that economic growth constitutes a primary objective of development efforts and leads to a solution to social problems. However, follow-up of those strategies has proved that, during the past 20 years, social problems have increased alarmingly in the countries of the third world, as demonstrated by the decline in income levels, the occurrence of famines and the spread of illiteracy and epidemics.

"For our part, we are following the efforts of the United Nations and its specialized organizations to formulate development concepts for third-world countries based on the principle of meeting essential social needs, both material and moral. For our part, we are making every effort through strategies for joint Arab development action, and the achievement of Arab development based on collective self-reliance and a South-South co-operation, in order to ensure the strongest possible negotiating position for the North-South dialogue and to find development formulas that will ensure the social well-being of all population groups in the Arab world.

"Moreover, we share your vision of the future and endorse the alternatives which you propose for the development of the social sectors, such as those relating to 'health for all by the year 2000', compulsory education and the eradication of illiteracy and the satisfaction of the drinking water requirements of the least developed countries, in addition to the efforts made in the fields of habitat, employment, family planning, etc. We appreciate also United Nations efforts to accord special attention to the least privileged and the most destitute social categories through work in such areas as the promotion of women and the welfare of children, youth, the elderly and the disabled.

"That is why I may affirm that the points of view of both our organizations accord fully with respect, in particular to social activities and areas within their respective various institutions. This facilitates co-operation and highlights the need to broaden its horizons.

"I must stress, on this occasion, that the secretariat of the League of Arab States feels that the foremost of its principal concerns today is to lay solid foundations for the achievement of global social development. It is currently working on the elaboration of an Arab strategy for social development, in the hope that it will be approved by the Arab Summit Conference with a view to the implementation of the measures prepared and approved within the framework of the Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Action and so that new formulas and programmes to meet the essential needs of the Arab people and to raise their social level may be drawn up.

"The League of Arab States, which believes in the lofty ideals on which the United Nations was founded, has earnestly endeavoured to establish links with that Organization and to develop its relations with it in order to achieve the noble purposes for which the United Nations was created. This endeavour was given concrete expression in 1961 in an exchange of notes between the two organizations defining the modes and extent of this co-operation on matters of common interest and determining the machinery for programme implementation. The Arab specialized organizations followed the example of the secretariat of the League of Arab States and signed with the counterpart specialized organizations of the United Nations agreements laying the foundations for close and balanced bilateral relations.

"The League of Arab States attaches the utmost importance to the need for functional complementarity between the two organizations in the legal area and for the establishment of normal relations between their respective technical commissions, inasmuch as the League is a regional organization composed of States whose peoples have influenced the history of law through their heritage, which bears the hallmark of their cultural identity. For this reason, the League established the Arab Commission for International Law to support the work of the United Nations International Law Commission with the aim of unifying legal opinion and promoting consensus in many branches of international law.

"The League of Arab States is particularly interested in the co-operation established between its Permanent Committee on Human Rights and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and also has a firm desire to develop its co-operative ties with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We believe that the League is duty-bound to strengthen the role of the United Nations in combating racial discrimination and to eliminate the stratification which prevails at the international level because of the enormous social and economic gaps which separate the various peoples of the world. To that end, the League has always participated in a positive spirit in all the conferences and meetings organized for the realization of this humanitarian goal.

"It should be noted that the League of Arab States accords considerable attention to private international law. It has succeeded, over two decades, in laying and strengthening the foundations for this branch of law through agreements concluded between its members on legal notifications, the execution of judgements and the extradition of offenders. This too serves the goals for which the United Nations was founded.

"The international community has, very clearly and on more than one occasion, proclaimed within the United Nations - the main political forum in the world - its conviction that international problems cannot be resolved without international solidarity and complementarity and interdependence among all parts of the world and all nations, large and small, North and South. Believing in this vision, which is the spirit of the United Nations Charter and one of the fundamental tenets of the Pact of the League of Arab States, the Arab oil States, despite the backwardness of the Arab world and its lack of technical potentials and cadres, have not grudged the other States in the

world their oil and left it underground to put off for as long as possible, but, on the contrary, they have developed extraction to meet the needs of all, even enough to allow the industrialized States to build up large stocks in order to meet any contingency. Similarly, the income derived from the - partial - readjustment of oil prices has been channelled towards the building of an industrial base in the oil States, the provision of assistance to other developing countries or the injection of funds into the money market to alleviate the liquidity shortage. In this connection, it should be recalled that, whenever problems relating to oil, raw materials and the contrast between their prices and those of industrial products have been raised, the Arab States have associated themselves with the developing countries as a whole in calling for changes in the existing international economic order and its replacement by one which would be less unfair to those countries and would guarantee greater stability in international economic relations.

"Moreover, the Arab States have been concerned with finding a basis for agreement with the European States, within the framework of the North-South dialogue. This initiative is known as the Arab-European dialogue, which, for various reasons, is still proceeding very slowly. The results of the recent Williamsburg Summit are possibly the best proof that the main concern of the major Powers is to safeguard their own interests and to solve their own problems, not realizing that the solution of the developing countries' problems might be a starting-point for solution of the world's problems and, in the final analysis, of the problems with which those Powers are themselves confronted.

"It is clear that these Arab efforts converge with the role played by the United Nations and its organizations, which are activities of a more general and universal nature; since the international Organization endeavours to ensure the harmonious assembly of different nations, poor and rich, advanced and underdeveloped, in order to find a formula for peaceful coexistence, far from the roar of guns and the impact of bombs.

"Co-operation between our League and the United Nations and its organizations remains one of our fundamental principles, despite the obstacles which we see facing the international Organization, preventing it from achieving the great objectives set for it, particularly with respect to the establishment of peace, the elimination of sources of tension and the safeguarding of the security of States and peoples.

#### 4. The situation in the Middle East

"Since the Zionist invasion of Lebanon last summer, the situation in the Middle East has presented an ever-increasing threat to the Arab States and to all the neighbouring countries and, consequently, a threat to international security. The cause of true peace, that is, universal peace based on justice and recognition of the inalienable rights of peoples, is in no way served by the continued occupation of the other Arab territories and disregard for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. By closing their eyes, the



major Powers, which bear the primary responsibility for international security, are simply giving Israel a free hand and encouraging it to continue its aggression and to expand at the expense of the Arab territories. That is, indeed, what happened with the invasion of Lebanon, the destruction and carnage to which it gave rise and the slaughter at Sabra and Shatila.

"It would be inadmissible, both morally and from the standpoint of the maintenance of peace, for the international community to accept that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon must be achieved at a price that was oppressive for the Lebanese people and fraught with hazards for the region. By so doing, the international community would be endorsing the law of the jungle and sanctioning the rule of force.

"It is therefore necessary to hold fast to international legality, as represented in Security Council resolutions 508 (1982) and 509 (1982).

"Furthermore, the question of Lebanon cannot be resolved in isolation from the question of the Palestinian people and the question of the Middle East generally.

"Any genuine solution to the question of the Middle East must stem from the implementation of United Nations decisions on the Lebanese question and the question of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and from the commitment of all States without exception to submit to international law.

"We believe that it is necessary to renounce the logic of force in dealing with questions relating to the rights of peoples and to respect law and morality, in order to maintain peace in the region.

"The Arab peace plan adopted by the Fez Summit Conference, whose outlines derive from international legality, constitutes an appropriate basis for the resolution of the problem of the Middle East. It is not by chance that it is highly regarded on a broad international scale and was adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement at its recent summit in New Delhi. The chief obstacle is that the Zionist entity does not want peace until it has achieved all its expansionist ambitions. We believe that our joint efforts must be directed towards support for the Arab peace plan, which alone can free the Middle East region from the dangers which beset it and enable the States of the League to devote themselves to their development responsibilities.

##### 5. The question of Palestine

"Co-operation between the League and the United Nations and co-ordination of the work of the two organizations in this regard can facilitate the attainment of this objective, and the International Conference for the revival of the Palestinian State and recognition of the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian people and of their inalienable rights to their land, scheduled to be held at the end of August 1983, is a wise initiative inspired by the Charter of the United Nations.

"We believe that the continued ignoring of the political, social and cultural identity of the Palestinian people is incompatible with the demands of international political conduct in twentieth century society. We believe also that the acceleration of efforts to enable the Palestinian people to build their independent State on their own land is the only way to save the region from instability, entrapment in a vortex of explosive violence and further suffering and disasters which might gravely endanger peace and security.

"We call upon the major Powers not to turn their back on history and to assume their full responsibilities and act in accordance with the dictates of international legality and respect for the Charter of the United Nations and its provisions relating to the rights of a people which, like all the other peoples of the world, is composed of human beings who need freedom and aspire to dignity.

#### 6. Disarmament and development

"Less than two generations after the end of the Second World War, the world seems to be moving towards conflicts which threaten to exceed in horror all that mankind has known hitherto.

"In spite of the efforts and endeavours that were made after the two World Wars to organize international society, the inescapable conclusion is that mankind has made but modest progress in its efforts to limit nuclear and conventional weapons and has taken no step in the field of disarmament.

"There are three aspects of current international relations which present a particular threat:

"(a) There are, in the world, large quantities of sophisticated weapons with vast destructive capacities;

"(b) There are enough nuclear weapons to end life on this planet several times over;

"(c) The majority of the world's inhabitants still suffer poverty and want.

"There is no justification for this situation from the viewpoint of technological progress and available resources. It is clear, however, that the trend is towards the employment of wealth for the development of weapons, instead of to meet the needs of the overwhelming majority of mankind.

"The United Nations has held two special sessions of the General Assembly to consider ways and means of achieving the goals of peace and security. These are mankind's highest goals, but no one today would contest the statement that no progress has been made towards reaching them. Mankind, therefore, today faces unprecedented dangers, because of the frantic competition in the fields of conventional and nuclear weapons.

"The League of Arab States believes that disarmament and international security are directly linked and that together they represent the basic elements of the maintenance of peace, which is required by the Charter of the United Nations.

"It must be ensured that States refrain from the use or threat of force to violate the territorial integrity of other States or the use of force in a way which conflicts with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. In addition, it must be ensured that disputes between States are settled by the full implementation of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with the principles of international law.

"The League of Arab States, as a regional organization whose members are developing countries, considers that there is a firm relationship between armament expenditures and economic and social development.

"In this connection, I should like to comment on the valuable study prepared under the leadership of the representative of Sweden to the United Nations concerning the relationship between disarmament and development and to express the hope that the international community will adopt the recommendations contained in that study.

"Although all the Arab States are in favour of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, Israel, because it has the capacity to produce nuclear weapons and refuses international control, stands as a stumbling-block to the achievement of this objective.

"I need not remind you that Israel's record at the United Nations clearly confirms its refusal to comply with United Nations resolutions, particularly those calling for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that part of the world.

"The establishment of such a zone would be a major element in the reduction of tension and would, unquestionably, serve to enhance the potentials for the establishment of security throughout the world.

"Furthermore, the declaration of the Middle East and Africa as nuclear-weapon-free zones would remain meaningless so long as the prohibition of the exportation of weapons to the racist régimes in Israel and South Africa remained unimplemented and the co-operation between the two in the various fields, particularly in the field of the manufacture and testing of nuclear weapons, was not halted. Among the aspects most fraught with dire consequences are South Africa's supply of uranium to Israel and Israel's sharing of what is termed nuclear expertise with South Africa.

#### 7. Strengthening of international peace and security

"We hope that the growing co-operation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations, for the strengthening and further definition of which we are gathered here today, will result in support for the League in its defence of legitimate Arab rights and enhance the capacity of the United

Nations in finding just solutions for the most formidable crises, whether in the Middle East or southern Africa, where the people of Namibia and the people of South Africa are suffering under a racist colonialist régime, one of the most repugnant the world has known, or in other troubled areas.

"We in the League of Arab States would like to see United Nations potentials and technical expertise used to ensure a qualitative leap forward towards modernization in the States of the third world. Similarly, we are resolved that our presence at the United Nations will be oriented towards the strengthening of its machinery, ensuring universal respect for its Charter and making a serious contribution to the enhancement of its credibility as a world organization serving the aspirations of the world for peace and progress.

"Our affirmation of the commitment of the Arab nation to support of the United Nations means, in particular, that we continue to oppose all negative factors, racist entities and acts of aggression which seek to deny international legality and paralyse the world Organization, whether by disregard for its resolutions or by challenging its ability to cope with the issues of the time, as we have seen recently with the triumph of the law of the jungle over international legality as embodied in the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations.

#### 8. Conclusion

"We in the League of Arab States have the highest esteem for the efforts which the United Nations is making under your leadership, Mr. Secretary-General, to fulfil the provisions of the Charter with regard to the ensuring of peace, security and progress for all peoples. We are wholeheartedly committed to supporting and participating in the esteemed Organization over whose Secretariat you preside and to strengthening our co-operation with you to this end.

"I extend to you once again my personal welcome, Mr. Secretary-General, and to your colleagues and the officials from the various specialized organizations, hoping that our work may be successful in every way."

#### V. AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15. In the course of their deliberations, the representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system and of the League of Arab States were mindful of the need to consolidate and develop their existing ties in all areas relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, and to co-operate in every possible way in the implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East.

16. They shared the commitment to the eradication of apartheid and all other forms of racial discrimination, to the elimination of colonization and to the promotion of the right of self-determination and the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

17. They recognized the importance of continued close association between their organizations in order to promote social and economic development in the Arab region and to strengthen international co-operation in that vital field.

18. They took careful note of the statements made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States at the inaugural meeting held on 28 June 1983.

19. The following conclusions and recommendations were adopted by the Meeting.

A. International peace and security

20. The representatives of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States were of the view that the following action will contribute to the strengthening of co-operation in the field of international peace and security:

(a) To continue and intensify efforts aimed at promoting the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem, in accordance with the principles of the Charter and the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(b) To strengthen co-operation between the two organizations for the purpose of promoting greater international awareness of the dangers which might result from the disregard of the principles of the Charter and of United Nations resolutions and decisions concerning the maintenance of international peace and security.

21. The representatives of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States recognized the close relationship between disarmament and development and recommended the following measures:

(a) The United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs should exchange information on the relationship between disarmament and development with the competent department within the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States;

(b) Within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign initiated by the United Nations General Assembly, consideration should be given to the holding of a seminar in the Arab region, as is being done in other regions, for the purpose of informing, educating and generating public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitations and disarmament;

(c) The Department of Public Information, other competent departments of the United Nations Secretariat and UNESCO should consider promoting dissemination, in the Arabic language, of material on disarmament and development and/or on the economic consequences of the arms race. This could be done with the co-operation of, and assistance from, the countries of the region or the League of Arab States itself.

22. Attention was drawn to the importance of achieving a just and lasting settlement of the conflict between Iran and Iraq and of the urgent need of ending its ravaging effects on the people and the social and economic life in the area.

B. Economic, financial and technical co-operation for development

1. General

23. The Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Development should serve as the framework for the preparation and implementation, in the Arab region in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, of projects of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Consultations between the Secretariats of the two systems on priority issues will be carried out through the holding of joint annual meetings.

24. The United Nations and its organizations will provide all possible assistance in the preparation of Arab regional development projects of an integrational nature, through participation in the economic and technical feasibility studies of such projects.

25. The Arab States should be regarded by the United Nations system as a geographic and regional entity.

26. Co-operation between the two systems should be guided by complementarity. Efforts and resources of national and international organizations should be mobilized in order to ensure that their tasks are fulfilled and their common programmes developed in such a way as to strengthen the leading role of Arab organizations in the Arab region and increase their competence in their respective fields of activity.

27. Studies, research and inquiries relating to policies, programmes and projects relating to the Arab region should be entrusted, to the greatest possible extent, to Arab experts.

28. The United Nations system will assist in the establishment, within the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, of a centre to collect information and economic and social data relating to Arab States.

29. The United Nations system should provide assistance to the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations towards the implementation of their programmes and projects.

2. Trade and development

30. The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) agreed to promote co-operation in the following areas:

(a) Regular consultations;

(b) Joint studies in areas of common interest;

(c) Exchange of information on the work programmes of both organizations pertaining to the Arab region;

(d) Intensification of technical assistance, financed by UNDP and other sources, to the League of Arab States in the area of trade and development. UNCTAD stands ready and willing to execute, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, projects such as those related to: economic co-operation among developing countries; ports and multimodal transport; transfer of technology; access to markets of developed countries; trade between developing countries and socialist countries of eastern Europe; the Least Developed Arab Countries in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA); commodities in which the League countries are collectively important; insurance and reinsurance; trade facilitation.

### 3. Development financing

31. The first joint policy meeting of the World Bank and Arab Funds, to be convened in the near future, should be geared to the promotion of co-ordination between the Arab Funds and the World Bank Group, the timely exchange of information on project progress, and the ways to involve Arab Funds in the project cycle through their participation in the pre-appraisal and appraisal process, the standardization of communication on project supervision, and co-operation in training programmes and technical assistance.

32. UNDP is invited to explore the possibilities of jointly funding, with AFESD and Arab development funds, regional developmental projects in the Arab world.

33. UNDP and UNDTCD are also invited to consider prospects of co-operation with AFESD and other concerned Arab organizations in launching a regional survey of water resources and in preparing regional projects for the upgrading of development planning capabilities in the Arab world.

34. Taking into consideration the rules and regulations of each institution, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) are invited to co-ordinate their lending activities to individual Arab countries, and to intensify exchange of information in their fields of competence.

35. IMF should give consideration to its participation in intra-regional studies or individual country studies which any specialized organization of the League of Arab States may wish to undertake, as well as to the provision of assistance in training programmes to the League and its specialized organizations.

36. The Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation attaches great importance to co-operation with IMF in training on balance-of-payment issues, with the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre in training programmes in export promotion, with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) and with the World Bank Centre of Investment Disputes, in investment negotiations, and with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in investment promotion.

#### 4. Transnational corporations

37. The League of Arab States and UNCTC should gear their co-operation towards the following:

(a) Setting-up of a focal point within the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for liaison with UNCTC, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on matters relating to transnational corporations;

(b) Joint organization of seminars and training workshops in order to increase the negotiating capacity of Arab countries in their dealings with transnational corporations;

(c) Exchange of information and documentation between the League of Arab States and UNCTC;

(d) Co-ordinated collection of information as well as research on transnational corporation activities of particular interest to the Arab countries.

#### 5. Technical co-operation

38. Greater emphasis should be placed on technical co-operation. Additional funds should be made available through special arrangements agreed upon by the concerned parties, including third party cost-sharing.

39. In order to meet the priorities in the Arab region, as defined in the Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Development, greater effort should be deployed to increase consultations between UNDP, concerned Governments, ECWA, ECA and competent United Nations departments and specialized agencies, and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in selecting, formulating and implementing regional projects.

40. Priority should be given to projects which enhance economic integration in the Arab world and have an evident socio-economic impact in the region.

41. Favourable consideration should be given to proposals for the establishment of a regional water management institute, a regional training centre in land and hydrographic surveys, a regional centre for training in informatics and computer sciences, an umbrella project for training and exchange of rosters of experts, and other regional project proposals of interest to the Arab countries.

42. Further co-operation should be established between the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and ECWA in the areas of country and sectoral studies, and also between the Arab Fund and UNDTCD, UNIDO, FAO, UNESCO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

43. All institutions participating in the meeting and wishing to unify standards are encouraged to have their requests included in the programme of work of the Arab



Organization for Standardization and Metrology, which is ready to provide information and training in the area of standardization.

44. Ways and means should be found to ensure the enhancement of the efficiency of technical assistance provided to Arab countries by the United Nations system and by the Arab organizations.

6. Co-operation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations regional economic commissions

45. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the existing co-operation between ECWA and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, and recommended the intensification of such co-operation.

46. Along the same lines, it also agreed that co-operation with ECA should be established in the following areas:

- (a) Exchange of information and experts;
- (b) Participation in seminars, workshops and study groups;
- (c) Attendance of representatives of the League of Arab States at ECA meetings as observers;
- (d) Joint studies on matters of mutual interest.

7. Energy

47. The Meeting recommended:

- (a) Exchange of information on energy programmes relating to conventional as well as new and renewable sources of energy;
- (b) Co-operation in the organization of meetings within the framework established by the Arab Energy Conference, and in conformity with the principles underlying economic co-operation among developing countries and technical co-operation among developing countries.

8. Minerals

48. The following areas of possible co-operation between the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat and the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources (AOMR) were identified:

- (a) Sectoral studies on copper, lead, zinc, phosphates and other minerals;
- (b) Organization of a seminar on the upgrading of oil shale;

- (c) Creation of a data bank for Arab mineral resources in respect of which AOMR has undertaken preparatory work;
- (d) Training of executive staff through AOMR annual refresher courses and seminars, and through provision of assistance in the teaching of scientific techniques;
- (e) Studies on ores for the Arab Congress on Mineral Resources to be held at Khartoum in 1984;
- (f) Technical assistance in the field of prospecting and surveying of minerals, and preparation of economic feasibility studies;
- (g) Promotion of interest in solid fuels such as oil shale and coal.

#### 9. Industrial development

49. The Meeting stressed the following as priority areas for joint action by UNIDO and the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO):

- (a) Pursuance and development of co-ordination, and preparation, as much as possible, of joint programmes with a view to avoiding overlapping and duplication towards the rationalization of human and financial resources;
- (b) Appropriate measures to be taken to evolve the necessary ways and means to assure such co-operation within the framework of the joint UNIDO/AIDO committee;
- (c) Other specific joint actions could include:
  - (i) Identification and preparation of regional and subregional programmes and projects;
  - (ii) Country and regional studies;
  - (iii) Sectoral studies;
  - (iv) Industrial training and other activities for human resources development;
  - (v) Upgrading of industrial management and administrative capabilities, and improvement of industrial performance;
  - (vi) Establishment and development of an information data bank and exchange of information on industry;
  - (vii) Development of local technological capabilities;
  - (viii) Arab and UNIDO industrial development conferences.

50. The Meeting also noted the favourable prospects for co-operation between UNIDO and AOMR, which include the following:

- (a) The Fifth Arab Conference for Mineral Resources;
- (b) The seminar on transformation of phosphate;
- (c) Sectoral studies on major minerals and their processing.

51. There are prospects of co-operation in this sector between AIDO and UNCTAD which relate to:

- (a) Regular consultations between both organizations;
- (b) Joint studies in areas of common interest;
- (c) Exchange of information on the work programme of both organizations relating to the Arab region;
- (d) Intensification of technical assistance to AIDO, financed by UNDP and other sources, in the following areas: transfer of technology; access to markets of developed countries; the Least Developed Arab Countries in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and the development of data bank.

#### 10. Human settlements

52. The Meeting noted that a draft agreement on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the League of Arab States is under consideration, and recommended that:

- (a) The Council of Arab Housing Ministers should take appropriate action concerning its contributions to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987);
- (b) Consideration should be given by the League of Arab States in assisting the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in meeting the operating expenses of its information office in Amman, Jordan;
- (c) All member countries of the League of Arab States should make annual contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

#### 11. Environment

53. The Meeting considered the possibility of co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the League of Arab States General Secretariat and the concerned Arab organizations in the following areas:

- (a) Incorporation of environmental considerations in development planning with a view to ensuring rational utilization of renewable and non-renewable natural resources;
- (b) Environmental education and training as well as environmental awareness;
- (c) Environmental considerations in agricultural development including combating desertification, in industrial development including rational utilization of natural resources, and in planning human settlements;
- (d) Protection of regional seas;
- (e) Exchange of information and invitations to technical meetings;
- (f) Exchange of experts, including access of UNEP to the expertise in the Arab specialized organizations, for UNEP's projects in the region.

#### 11. Population activities

54. The Meeting recommended that:

- (a) The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) should continue and strengthen the already existing project for the establishment of a Population Research and Training Unit in the Department of Social Affairs of the League of Arab States, financed by UNFPA and executed by DTCD; 1/
- (b) Support to the ongoing project on population information and education through the Arab States Broadcasting Union and its training programmes should be continued;
- (c) UNFPA share its experience with the Arab organizations through provision of technical assistance to developing countries in all population activities, and in particular it should support programmes for women, maternal and child health, and family planning;
- (d) Arab countries may carry out consultations within the League of Arab States structure, to review their achievements and propose improvements and changes in the strategy which will be discussed during the 1984 World Population Conference.

#### 12. Civil aviation

55. The following fields were identified for co-operation between the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO):

- (a) Co-ordination, to the extent possible, of the plans and programmes of both organizations in the Arab countries, to avoid duplication and arrange, where appropriate, joint action;

(b) Development of civil aviation infrastructures, including those listed in the Regional Air Navigation Plans for the Arab countries;

(c) Exchange of technical information and documentation;

(d) Planning, formulation and implementation of joint regional programmes, projects and studies in the Arab countries;

(e) Joint evaluation of civil aviation facilities, particularly civil aviation training institutes;

(f) Joint technical seminars and symposia;

(g) Consultations, as required, on all matters of joint concern;

(h) Attendance at each other's relevant meetings as observers.

### 13. Maritime transport

56. The Meeting considered favourably the establishment of improved procedures between IMO, the Arab Maritime Transport Academy and UNCTAD, which would enable IMO to provide advice and assistance in the following:

(a) Establishment of national maritime safety administrations;

(b) Formulation of national maritime legislation embodying the national or regional maritime policies of jurisdiction for foreign shipping within the ports, terminals and other areas of the States, in accordance with the applicable procedures laid down in international conventions and instruments;

(c) Preparation and implementation of maritime training programmes, in co-operation with the ILO and other interested agencies. Towards facilitating the training of maritime personnel to meet the requirements of the 1978 Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping of Sea-farers Convention, consideration should be given to providing AMTA with a suitable training ship. UNDP and other concerned organizations may consider funding such a project;

(d) Formulation of national or regional programmes for the training of high-level personnel in shipping and other maritime activity, utilizing, inter alia, the facilities of the World Maritime University;

(e) Establishment of national or regional programmes and arrangements for preventing marine pollution;

(f) Formulation of modalities for extending the benefits of IMO's technical assistance, advisory services and training to the Palestinian people, including appropriate ways of obtaining the necessary facilities for training and the funding required, as well as suitable opportunities for placing such personnel after their training.

57. The achievement of these objectives would require:

- (a) Signing of the Agreement of Co-operation between IMO and the League of Arab States;
- (b) Participation by IMO and the League of Arab States in their respective meetings;
- (c) Exchange of information and documentation on all matters of common interest;
- (d) Joint organization or co-sponsorship of seminars on subjects relating to maritime safety, prevention of pollution and maritime training.

58. UNCTAD should continue to provide training at the professional and managerial levels, and training courses in the economics and management of shipping, in co-operation with AMTA.

#### 14. Postal services

59. The Meeting agreed that co-operation between UPU and the Arab Postal Union (APU) be based on the following principles:

- (a) Expansion of the exchange of information and documentation;
- (b) Increase in the number of jointly organized seminars and training courses;
- (c) Increase in the participation of Arab specialists in activities carried out by the two Unions in Arab States;
- (d) Co-ordination of the technical assistance provided by UPU and APU to Arab States;
- (e) Co-ordination by UPU and APU, as regards the services and facilities provided by the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to Arab and African States and by UNDP;
- (f) Co-ordination of activities in order to develop and modernize the postal services in the Arab States;
- (g) Representation, at the highest possible level, in conferences and meetings organized by both Unions;
- (h) Strengthening of the role of Arabic to ensure that it occupies a central place among the working languages of UPU;
- (i) Implementation, to the greatest possible extent, through APU, of projects approved within the framework of technical co-operation, whether they are national, multinational or Arab regional projects.

**C. Food and agriculture**

60. The Meeting agreed that the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations and the United Nations system should jointly endeavour to strengthen co-operation and collaboration in the promotion of food and agriculture in the Arab world. In order to enhance such co-operation between the two parties, the following should be given consideration:

- (a) In the field of agriculture and food production:
  - (i) Exchange of periodicals, scientific publications, and information on agricultural documentation, at bilateral and multilateral levels;
  - (ii) Participation in the preparation of regional and subregional studies;
  - (iii) Participation as observer in the Near East Regional Conference, as well as in the meetings of the regional technical committees;
  - (iv) Participation in the preparation, financing and implementation of scientific seminars, workshops and training courses for the countries of the region;
  - (v) Promotion of co-operation between the countries of the region, bilaterally and multilaterally, and the FAO Centre for Remote Sensing;
  - (vi) Fielding of joint missions to identify agricultural projects especially in the least developed Arab countries, as well as to conduct economic and technical feasibility studies for investment and technical assistance projects;
- (b) In the field of agricultural financing for development:
  - (i) Co-operation in the organization of seminars and symposia on the role of agriculture in the economic and social development of the Arab countries and their economic integration;
  - (ii) Collaboration on issues dealing with food security requirements of Arab countries;
  - (iii) Promotion and strengthening of technical and economic co-operation among the Arab countries in the field of food production and related agricultural development;
  - (iv) Co-operation in the establishment of institutional infrastructure in the Arab world, particularly in the Arab least developed countries;
  - (v) Exchange of information, documentation and agricultural statistics;
  - (vi) Intensification of co-operation in the joint financing and implementation of agricultural projects in the Arab countries;

- (c) In the field of food supply:
- (i) Assistance of the League of Arab States in locating the technical expertise that can be utilized in the field of operations of WFP;
  - (ii) Provision of non-food assistance in equipment and material, in order to complement WFP inputs, for the successful realization of projects;
  - (iii) Exchange of information on, and collaboration in, project identification, appraisal and evaluation, and co-operation in training, project design, implementation and logistics;
  - (iv) Provision, when possible, of inputs from both sides for joint programming of activities in selected areas;
  - (v) Further exploration and development of possible co-operation opportunities between WFP and Arab development finance institutions;
  - (vi) Co-operation in a direct attack on hunger and malnutrition whenever it occurs and wherever it exists in the Arab world.

D. Social development, labour matters, human resources and cultural affairs

1. Social development and social defence

61. Co-operation will be carried out along the following guidelines:

- (a) Consultation on strategies and programmes;
- (b) Exchange of experts and consultants;
- (c) Exchange of data, studies and reports;
- (d) Co-operation in organizing meetings and seminars, and exchange of invitations to participate in such events on a reciprocal basis;
- (e) Making available, on a reciprocal basis, the existing potential for training of technical and administrative personnel and cadres;
- (f) Joint projects to be implemented in compliance with prior agreements.

62. The agreed priorities for co-operation and co-ordination are as follows:

- (a) In programmes and projects for the implementation of Arab social development strategies at the regional level, and in the various social sectors, the priorities are those set out by the Arab specialized ministerial councils and the Arab Organization for Social Defence against Crime, and compatible with the priorities of the United Nations system;



- (b) Complementary rural development projects;
- (c) Health care programmes to be carried out within the framework of the WHO overall policy of Health For All by the Year 2000;
- (d) Social care and integration of social categories into the development process, and in particular children, youth, women and other vulnerable groups;
- (e) Population activities and family planning, in collaboration with UNFPA;
- (f) Social defence and control of delinquency.

2. Co-operation between the International Labour Organisation, the Arab Labour Organization and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

63. The following areas have been singled out as priorities for co-operation:

- (a) Exchange of information, documentation and terminology:
  - (i) Access of the ILO data bases in the labour fields to ALO and exchange of information on experts between the two organizations;
  - (ii) Collaboration in the production of publications and training materials, mainly in Arabic, and in the compilation of Arabic terminology (labour terms);
- (b) Promotion of regional co-operation and access to world experience:
  - (i) Joint efforts to develop further and enhance co-operation, at the regional level, and to secure the availability of world experience for dissemination throughout the region;
  - (ii) Intensive and concerted efforts towards labour administration and manpower, employment promotion, vocational training, occupational safety and health, in collaboration with WHO, labour migration, and setting and application of standards, including those relating to human rights of workers;
  - (iii) UNDP to give favourable consideration to the funding of the two regional projects in the field of employment and labour administration marking the first joint action by the ILO and ALO;
- (c) Joint action in favour of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, in co-operation with other organizations concerned within the United Nations system:
  - (i) In aid of the disadvantaged groups, namely children, youth, the elderly and the handicapped;

- (ii) In the exchange of information and identification of the needs of these groups;
- (iii) In the formulation of protective and/or corrective measures;
- (iv) In the promotion of action related to assistance they require and need;
- (v) Towards the promotion of equality of opportunity for women in employment and access to training and welfare services;

(d) Investment and human resources: Closer collaboration between the Arab Investment Funds and the ILO to ensure adequate and timely attention to the human resources implications, especially vocational training and management, of investment decisions in both the economic and social sectors.

3. Co-operation between the International Labour Organisation and the Arab Maritime Transport Academy

64. The Meeting endorsed the proposal to put emphasis on the development and expansion of existing co-operation between the two organizations in the field of training and the availability of training facilities, including the proposed training ship, in human resources development and in the improvement of the conditions of sea workers.

4. Co-operation between the World Health Organization and the League of Arab States

65. The following proposals were approved:

- (a) Research in endemic diseases;
- (b) Special programmes for the promotion of primary health care (PHC) within the overall policy of WHO Health For All by the Year 2000;
- (c) Training in planning and programming of health services;
- (d) Broader exchange of information including:
  - (i) Reciprocal representation;
  - (ii) Co-ordination in channelling of funds made available by individual Arab countries for priority health programmes;
  - (iii) Cost-sharing and financing of health programmes relevant and acceptable to WHO and the subsidiary organs of the League of Arab States;
  - (iv) Joint surveys regarding dietary determinants of cardio-vascular diseases;

- (v) Joint workshops in member countries on primary health care implementation and issuance of a bulletin thereon;
  - (vi) Joint assessment of the health status of migrant workers in member countries;
  - (vii) Updating of occupational safety legislation, in collaboration with the ILO;
- (e) Closer liaison and collaboration with the Arab Board for Medical Specialization through:
- (i) Supplementing of its budget by a WHO grant;
  - (ii) Sponsoring the attachment of visiting professors as short-term consultants to training institutions for purposes of assessment and accreditation;
  - (iii) Provision of fellowships to enable candidates to pursue their post-graduate training in institutions accredited by the Board;
- (f) Co-operation in the quality control of drugs;
- (g) Co-operation in the production and translation into Arabic of health learning materials, particularly for auxiliary health personnel and community health workers;
- (h) Promotion of joint and intercountry pharmaceutical industries;
- (i) Control of zoonoses in the Mediterranean and Arab regions;
- (j) Improvement in the level of services in the supply of drinking water, in the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
- (k) Co-operation in the field of nutrition;
- (l) Co-operation in the campaign against smoking and its relation to health.

5. Co-operation between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands

66. The Meeting agreed that co-operation between the two organizations in the field of copyright should be enhanced and strengthened in particular through:

- (a) Holding of a meeting at the highest level between the responsible officials of both organizations;
- (b) Conclusion of a working agreement regulating the co-operation between the two organizations;

(c) Increased technical assistance by WIPO, in co-operation with ALECSO, to the Arab countries, in particular through training of staff, organization of the relevant administrations, holding of seminars, and publication of copyright studies in Arabic;

(d) Assistance to develop and modernize the copyright laws and regulations of the Arab countries;

(e) Encouraging the Arab States to accede to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, which is administered by WIPO.

6. Co-operation between the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands and the United Nations system

67. The Meeting endorsed the following proposals for future co-operation:

- (a) With UNESCO:
- (i) Establishment of joint projects to increase knowledge and understanding of Arab-Islamic civilization, its value, and its past and present achievements;
  - (ii) Preparation of a joint feasibility study for the promotion of cultural and educational industries in the Arab world with a view to ensuring Arab self-sufficiency in this area;
  - (iii) Joint efforts for the preservation of Arab and Islamic historical sites in the Arab world, and the preservation of Arab manuscripts;
  - (iv) Establishment of joint programmes and materials for the Arab satellite;
  - (v) Increased participation of UNESCO in ALECSO projects relating to the eradication of illiteracy and adult education;
  - (vi) Preparation of a joint study on matters related to communication within the Arab world and with other countries;
  - (vii) Preparation of joint studies on youth, culture and informational development;
  - (viii) Increased participation in major projects such as programmes on hydrology, oceanography, new energy sciences and technology;
  - (ix) Participation in studies and projects aimed at the promotion of the teaching of science and mathematics;
  - (x) Participation in the creation of data banks, in particular in the area of solar energy;

- (xi) Establishment of joint programmes for the preservation of the Palestinian people's Arab cultural identity and the protection of the Arab heritage in Jerusalem and other occupied Arab territories;
- (xii) Establishment of joint projects on educational innovations and networks;
- (xiii) Participation in programmes for the establishment of training and educational institutes for the handicapped;
  - (b) With UNICEF:
    - (i) Implementation of joint programmes for Arab children in various cultural areas;
    - (ii) Training of teachers;
    - (iii) Private and public education;
    - (iv) Pre-school education;
  - (c) With UNEP:
    - (i) In projects related to the green belt in north Africa and in the Syrian desert;
    - (ii) In projects sponsored by the Arab Council for Maritime Environment;
    - (iii) In the environment pollution control programme;
  - (d) With UNIDO: Joint programmes in the areas of bio-technology and electronics applications;
  - (e) With ECWA:
    - (i) Water resources;
    - (ii) Renewable energy;
    - (iii) Technological studies;
    - (iv) Illiteracy eradication;
    - (v) Adult education;
    - (vi) Economic and Social Council research studies;
  - (f) With ECA: Establishment of working and co-operation relations between both organizations in areas of common interest;
  - (g) With UNDP: Implementation of the Buenos Aires resolutions pertaining to the support of technical co-operation with developing countries.

E. Refugees, disaster prevention and emergency relief and promotion of respect for human rights

1. Refugees

68. In order to strengthen the existing co-operation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, it has been agreed:

- (a) To pursue regular exchange of information and visits;
- (b) To exchange invitations to attend meetings held by the two organizations;
- (c) To make all necessary efforts to ensure the success of the Seminar on international humanitarian responsibility towards refugees in the Arab world organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to be held in August 1983 at San Remo, Italy;
- (d) To pursue efforts with a view to concluding a co-operation agreement between the two organizations on questions of common concern.

69. The Meeting also recognized that the Palestine refugee problem is an international responsibility and that greater assistance should be provided to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the host countries to meet the needs of the refugees.

70. The Meeting noted with appreciation the appeal made by the UNRWA Commissioner-General to Governments and non-governmental organizations for adequate contributions to meet the pressing and urgent needs of UNRWA, and expressed the hope that, with additional funds made available, the Commissioner-General will implement the resolution of the General Assembly relating to the resumption of services of UNRWA in full.

71. The League of Arab States expressed the hope that necessary steps would be taken to enable it to participate in the meetings of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA.

2. Disaster prevention and emergency relief

72. The Meeting agreed on the following:

- (a) Designation of a permanent liaison officer with UNDRO within the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States;
- (b) Organization of a joint seminar on disaster preparedness by UNDRO and the League of Arab States;
- (c) Provision by UNDRO of assistance to member countries of the League in the elaboration of national disaster plans.

3. Emergency food aid to refugees and victims of natural disasters

73. The Meeting noted the role of WFP in providing and co-ordinating emergency food aid to refugees and victims of natural disasters and agreed that, in order to enable WFP and the League of Arab States to respond to possible requests from Governments for urgent assistance, both organizations will exchange information, as appropriate, on emergency food aid needs and related logistics.

4. Promotion of respect for human rights

74. The Meeting endorsed the following:

(a) To increase effective consultations between the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on all matters concerning human rights, in particular on matters pertaining to the establishment of regional instruments and institutions in the field of human rights;

(b) To intensify the exchange of information between the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on all matters concerning human rights, in particular on the experience gained by States regarding the implementation of international standards on human rights;

(c) To explore the possibility of developing, in co-operation with UNESCO, programmes and strategies for education, teaching, training and dissemination of information on human rights for the Arab region;

(d) To designate, on a regular basis, observers to meetings on human rights organized by either side;

(e) To co-operate on the holding of seminars on human rights matters.

F. Information and communication

1. Co-operation between the United Nations Department of Public Information and the League of Arab States

75. The Meeting approved the following measures:

(a) Regular and frequent contacts and meetings between counterparts, particularly at the top level at the headquarters of each organization and in the field;

(b) Strengthening of the Arabic radio and visual services of the United Nations, in consultation with the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), to ensure that programmes cater for actual needs;

(c) Re-evaluation of the short-wave radio broadcasts to the Arab region and their adaptation to feedback on their usage;

(d) Transmission by satellite of United Nations weekly Arabic television magazine to various Arab countries, and assistance by the League of Arab States to national television organizations of its member States, especially in view of the cost implications of the downlink aspect of these transmissions;

(e) Strengthening by both parties of coverage of events of common concern, particularly when special messages are issued by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (i.e., Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Namibia Day, Environment Day, Human Rights Day);

(f) Exchange of information between United Nations information centres and League of Arab States offices in order to strengthen each other's mailing lists, and to exchange views on their co-operation on a regular basis;

(g) Invitation to more United Nations officials to attend seminars sponsored by the League of Arab States;

(h) Invitation to subsidiary media organs of the League of Arab States to participate in United Nations media meetings; or consultations with those organs on participation in such meetings;

(i) Strengthening of co-operation in public information on economic and social activities, including those of ECWA and ECA;

(j) Exploration of the possibility of jointly convening a training seminar for economic reporters on such subjects as development information;

(k) Production of more United Nations publications on questions of interest to League of Arab States members, subject to availability of required financing;

(l) Strengthening by the United Nations Department of Public Information, within its limited means, of the United Nations Information Centre at Tunis to enable it to act as an effective link and co-operate more closely with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States and other related media organizations, such as the Arab States Broadcasting Union and the Pool of News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries.

2. Co-operation between the International Telecommunication Union, the Arab Union for Communications and Telecommunications, the Arab States Broadcasting Union and the Arab Satellite Communications Corporation

76. The following proposals to strengthen co-operation among the organizations concerned were endorsed by the Meeting:



(a) Conclusion of appropriate administrative arrangements in accordance with the respective conventions of the organizations concerned, with a view to improving the flow of information among themselves and providing an appropriate framework for mutual participation in meetings and conferences;

(b) Strengthening of the existing machinery for co-operation with a view to meeting, in a harmonious and complementary manner, the requirements of the region, in conformity with the Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Development;

(c) Increased participation by ITU in the activities of the various United Nations bodies dealing with space problems in order to be in a better position to ensure the co-ordination and dissemination of information for the competent bodies of the League in the field of satellite application;

(d) In view of the importance of the programme of radio conferences to be held in the next few years, the results of which will be decisive for the new communications and information order, organization of preparatory seminars to enable the delegates of the Arab region to participate more actively in those conferences;

(e) First priority to be accorded to human resources development through joint organization of special courses, symposia and seminars, improvement and extension of technology transfer, raising the qualification of the specialists of the region, and promotion of Arab expertise in order to meet the requirements of the region and improve South-South co-operation;

(f) Pursuant to the resolution of the 1982 Nairobi Conference, by which Arabic was made one of the official languages of the Union, ITU to set up an Arabic language section to meet the requirements of the Arab administration and organizations of the region, in accordance with the new convention which is to enter into effect on 1 January 1984;

(g) Financial support for the Arabization project to enable it to achieve its fundamental objectives, e.g. the preparation of a 15,000-word glossary in the telecommunications sector;

(h) Continuation of MEDARADTEL projects under the supervision of its co-ordination committee for the strengthening of the regional telecommunications network, which is a fundamental element in the social and economic integration of the Arab region; priority to be given to the South-South links between the Machrek and Maghreb parts of the Arab world.

77. In accordance with resolution 24 of the 1982 Nairobi Conference, ITU should pursue its efforts to mobilize the necessary assistance for the restoration of the telecommunications infrastructure in Lebanon destroyed by the Israeli invasion. In this respect, ITU would like to obtain concrete support from the organizations in the Arab region.

3. Co-operation between the United Nations Development Programme and the League of Arab States

78. A symposium for representatives of Arab mass media on the role of information in development should be organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information and the General Directorate of Information of the League of Arab States, as well as the UNDP and Arab specialized agencies directly concerned.

G. General

79. The Meeting considered the importance for observers from both sides, participating in each other's meetings, as appropriate, to be afforded the opportunity of expressing their views.

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

80. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (Mr. Klibi) congratulated the participants on the successful conclusion of their discussions. He said that the constructive proposals which had emerged from their meeting could be regarded as a new starting point for co-operation between the League and the United Nations.

81. Mr. Klibi stated that the Meeting had enabled the renewal of old acquaintances and the fostering of new ones. The direct contacts made between officials of the League of Arab States and their colleagues on the United Nations side would contribute to a better understanding of each other's area of work and responsibilities, and would lead to improved co-operation in matters of mutual concern.

82. Mr. Klibi expressed confidence that the Meeting would be followed by others, either of a general or sectoral nature. Such meetings, he added, would benefit member States of the Arab region in their development because of the vast potential offered by international organizations and agencies. Referring to the proposals which had emerged from the Meeting, he stressed the importance of establishing a methodology for follow-up action, so that proposals are acted upon as speedily and as meticulously as possible.

83. In his concluding statement, the Chairman expressed satisfaction with the overall results of the Meeting. Participants had been able to obtain a clearer picture of some of the urgent development problems of the region and of its priority needs in so far as these could be met through co-operation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States. Moreover, the Meeting had enabled each side to gain a better understanding of the statutory framework and procedures which govern the policies and activities of their component bodies.

84. The Chairman observed that a cursory examination of the conclusions and recommendations agreed upon at the meeting could be conveniently placed in three categories:

(a) Proposals of a specific nature which lend themselves to early consideration by the competent parties either at the bilateral or multilateral level;

(b) Proposals of a general nature which require further elaboration by the sponsors before they reach the stage for consideration at either the bilateral or multilateral level;

(c) Proposals which could be regarded as expressions of intent or interest for co-operation, and which needed to be developed and expressed in a material form before they could be acted upon.

85. The Chairman emphasized the need for a structured approach, and suggested that it would have to be devised through initial discussions between the United Nations Secretariat and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. The approach, he suggested, might take the form of follow-up action to be taken on the initiative of the parties directly concerned, particularly when they relate to proposals of a bilateral nature. In the case of proposals involving more than two parties, a multi-sectoral or inter-agency group could be set up to consider appropriate action. The Chairman said that participants would be informed in due course by their respective secretariats of any arrangements agreed upon.

#### Notes

1/ This Unit would complement the ongoing programmes being financed by UNEPA, through the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Western Asia, particularly with respect to population data collection and analysis, utilization of such data in development planning and for studies and research towards the creation of a regional understanding of the effects of population realities in the region and the adoption of a harmonious regional Arab population policy.

ANNEX I

Proposals on principles relating to co-operation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations and its specialized agencies, submitted by the League of Arab States

In view of the importance of the Meeting of the League of Arab States, the United Nations and their respective specialized organizations, and inasmuch as this is the first meeting between them at such a level and with such representation, it is imperative to formulate general principles for the strategy of co-operation between the two organizations in the light of past experience of such co-operation and the numerous suggestions for its further development.

The following should here be noted:

1. That co-operation should be comprehensive in nature, extending to all political, economic, social, labour, cultural, scientific, administrative and other possible and conceivable fields of co-operation with particular emphasis on certain areas either because of their special importance to the Arab world in its present stage of development or because of the diffuse manner in which jurisdiction in such areas is distributed among numerous bodies in both the United Nations and the League of Arab States and their specialized organizations.
2. That the modalities and orientation of such co-operation should fall within the purview of the strategy for joint Arab action in the various sectors covered thereby.
3. That modalities of co-operation should be further developed so as to promote and strengthen such co-operation.

Proposed general principles for co-operation

4. When dealing with the United Nations and its specialized organizations, emphasis should be placed on the national character of the League and its various organs as representing Arab collective will, particularly with regard to the major political issues, foremost among them the question of Palestine, and to the endeavour to serve the interests of our developing countries, striving as they are to advance their economies and ensure a better future for themselves.
5. On the basis of the foregoing, provision should be made in the fields of political, cultural and social co-operation between the two parties for the preservation and strengthening of Arab cultural and civilizational identity.
6. In view of the fact that the Arab States belong to a single geographical region, it is essential for United Nations co-operation with members of the League of Arab States to be developed with that fact in mind and that it be taken into account in the organizational allocation of the work of the United Nations.

/...

7. In view of the fact that the Arab homeland belongs to the third world, the sought-for development of co-operation must take into account third-world aspirations and the need to increase efforts to solve third-world problems so as to ensure the speedy attainment of the goals of freedom and development in its various fields.

8. Co-operation between the two parties in all fields should be increased and strengthened and joint action, direct consultation and co-ordination reinforced so as to ensure the elaboration of effective solutions to Arab and international problems on the basis of a complementarity of efforts in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Pact of the League of Arab States.

Proposed organizational aspects of such co-operation

9. To the extent possible, United Nations organs and specialized agencies should, in their co-operation with the Arab States, act in co-ordination with the Arab regional counterpart organizations in accordance with detailed principles to be agreed upon by the bodies concerned in the United Nations and the League of Arab States and in their respective organizations.

10. Until such time as the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations can deal with the Arab States as a single region within the geographical divisions used by them, all organizations and activities of the United Nations which use the present geographical divisions are called upon to co-ordinate their work relating to the Arab States and to publish, each in its field of specialization, integrated statistics and studies on those States as a whole.

11. In the implementation of projects for the Arab States, the co-operation and the division of labour between the two organizations and their specialized agencies should be such as to avoid competition or conflict, ensuring co-ordination between them in a manner conducive to the utilization of Arab and international potentials and capabilities in the service of this goal.

12. Regional programmes for the Arab world should be formulated jointly by the organs of the two organizations wherever the goals and methods of such programmes are in conformity with the objectives of the strategy for joint Arab action.

13. While it is important to strengthen and consolidate co-operation in all fields, particular attention should be paid to:

(a) Arab food security;

(b) The development of the endogenous technological capabilities of the Arab world.

14. The exchange of information and documentation should be increased.

15. The organization of joint symposia and seminars should be expanded.
16. There should be accelerated use of Arabic as a basic working language by the organs of the United Nations; increased Arab representation in senior United Nations posts; increased utilization of Arab expertise in United Nations activities in Arab countries; greater exchange of expertise in solving the problems encountered by the Arabic language in telecommunications and in its adaptation to that field; emphasis on the role of the Centre for Documentation and Information in the secretariat of the League as co-ordinator of the programmes of the international information networks of a comprehensive or sectoral character maintained by the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the Arab countries.
17. Joint meetings should be held periodically between the heads of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the heads of the corresponding specialized Arab organizations in which the directors and chief executive officers concerned might reach agreement on whatever aspects or programmes of co-operation they see fit.
18. With regard to those organizations where it is not already the practice, representatives of both parties should be invited to attend meetings of the governing bodies of corresponding specialized organizations in the capacity of observers.
19. Subsequent to the adoption of the general principles for co-operation indicated above, each specialized agency concerned should meet with the corresponding Arab specialized organization in order to formulate detailed plans for co-operation in accordance with a fixed timetable.
20. A committee should be established to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations and guidelines adopted by the joint meeting.

ANNEX II

List of participating organizations and agencies

A. United Nations

Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs  
Office for Special Political Questions  
Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs  
Department for Disarmament Affairs  
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs  
Department of Technical Co-operation for Development  
Department of Public Information  
United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations  
Economic Commission for Africa  
Economic Commission for Western Asia  
Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)  
United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Development Programme  
World Food Programme  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
United Nations Fund for Population Activities

B. Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
International Civil Aviation Organization  
World Health Organization

World Bank  
International Monetary Fund  
Universal Postal Union  
International Telecommunication Union  
International Maritime Organization  
World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Fund for Agricultural Development

C. General Secretariat of the League of Arab States

General Department for Palestine Affairs  
General Department for Arab Affairs  
General Department for International Political Affairs  
General Department for Economic Affairs  
General Department for Social and Cultural Affairs  
General Department for Information  
General Department for Legal Affairs  
Technical Assistance Fund  
Documentation and Information Centre

D. Arab specialized organizations

Arab States Broadcasting Union  
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development  
Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries  
Arab Postal Union  
Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science  
Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands  
Arab Organization for Social Defence against Crime  
Arab Agricultural Organization  
Arab Industrial Development Organization  
Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation  
Council of Arab States Civil Aviation  
Arab Organization for Administrative Sciences  
Arab Labour Organization



Arab Satellite Communications Corporation  
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa  
Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology  
Arab Union for Communications and Telecommunications  
Arab Organization for Mineral Resources  
Arab Maritime Transport Academy  
Arab Monetary Fund  
Council of Arab Economic Unity

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