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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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agenda**
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
AND COORDINATION WITHIN
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Co-operation between the United Nations and the Agency
for Cultural and Technical Co-operation

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 36/174 of 17 December 1981, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, "to examine proposals by the Agency aimed at reinforcing co-operation with the United Nations and to submit a report thereon through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session".

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a report (A/37/290) describing the areas which might be considered for co-operation between the two organizations, namely:

(a) New and renewable sources of energy, including fuel wood and hydroelectric power;

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- (b) Environmental protection, including desertification;
- (c) Science and technology for development;
- (d) Joint training programmes on the following subjects:
 - (i) Evaluation of technical assistance programmes;
 - (ii) The new international economic order;
 - (iii) Technical co-operation among developing countries;
 - (iv) Development administration;
- (e) Recruitment for technical assistance personnel;
- (f) Co-operation at the regional and subregional levels;
- (g) Exchange of information and publications;
- (h) Co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme.

3. At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 37/132, took note of the report and requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, to specify in detail the areas of co-operation envisaged in his report and to consider the modalities of that co-operation, taking duly into account the proposals of the Secretary-General of the Agency. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on that subject to it at its thirty-eighth session through the Economic and Social Council.

II. STATUS OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

4. It should be pointed out that, prior to the submission to the General Assembly of resolutions 36/174 of 17 December 1981 and 37/132 of 17 December 1982, there were in existence some forms of co-operation between the Agency and the United Nations system. In the case of UNIDO, for example, activities were initiated in 1977 with its participation in the ministerial conference on scientific policy organized by the Agency and held at Luxembourg; its participation in the work of the Committee on Agroindustry; and its participation in the preparatory meeting for the Agency's agroindustrial fellowship.

5. In 1981, representatives of the Agency visited UNIDO in order to explore all avenues of possible collaboration between the two organizations.

6. Since that time, UNIDO has provided technical support for the preparation of several seminars in such varied areas as the creation of enterprises, evaluation

and preparation of industrial projects and advanced training of management advisers for small and medium-sized industry.

7. In future, other forms of collaboration are envisaged in the organization of further seminars on such subjects as the role of development banks, technological information for enterprises and industrial accounting. In addition, the possibility of concerted action to assist the Agency's member countries in the field of new and renewable sources of energy is under consideration with a view, in particular, to the formulation and initiation of demonstration projects.

8. More recently, in March 1983, UNIDO experts visited the Agency's headquarters to discuss prospects for joint activities between the two organizations for 1984-1985.

9. It was agreed at that meeting to give priority attention to regional, subregional and interregional projects. The modalities of that co-operation could take various forms, such as:

- (a) Joint activities;
- (b) Subcontracting by one organization on behalf of the other;
- (c) Co-ordinated implementation.

10. The Agency has maintained close relations with UNCTAD for some years. This collaboration led to the holding in May 1982, at Agency headquarters, of a working meeting between the two organizations on research projects in the Indian Ocean. The purpose of the meeting was to enable scientists and national leaders from the various Indian Ocean island countries to review together their needs and priorities with regard to research on the relationship between the vital marine and land environment, on the one hand, and the conservation and exploitation of its resources in the interest of self-centred and sustained development, on the other. Food and energy security had a prominent place in those projects, without neglecting the development of exports. A larger meeting, attended by representatives of all island or land-locked countries, may perhaps be held in the not too distant future.

11. In the field of science and technology, it should be recalled that the Agency took a definite interest in the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna in 1979. The preparations for the Conference were on the agenda of the meeting held at Luxembourg in 1977, which was attended by all ministers responsible for scientific and technological policies in each of the Agency's member countries. Since then, consultations have taken place between the Secretary-General of the Agency and the Director of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD), who also visited the Agency's headquarters to discuss concrete modalities for co-operation.

12. In the context of those consultations, UNFSSTD proposed a list of feasible projects which would lend themselves to possible co-financing with the Agency. In

addition, the Agency would be prepared to consider financial support for training seminars at the African Regional Centre for Technology at Dakar, which is backed by UNFSSTD. UNFSSTD also provided technical support to the Agency for the preparation of the Conference of Ministers of Research and Higher Education, held at Yamoussoukro from 27 June to 2 July 1982.

13. Further consultations, both in New York and in Paris, with various offices of the United Nations, in particular UNDP, led to some 20 specific projects which could be carried out by the Agency through either technical or financial support. Those projects, now under consideration, cover a variety of subjects, ranging from water resources to soil conservation and telecommunications. The importance of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade has not escaped the Agency, which will study with interest projects such as the training of well-drillers in the Sahelian countries seriously affected by an almost unprecedented drought.

14. A feasibility study, which might be carried out jointly by the United Nations and the Agency, could define the needs of those seriously affected countries and provide guidance as to the kind of programmes to be implemented in order to counter such natural disasters. Consideration should be given to such a study in the near future.

15. The Economic Commission for Africa is considering the possibility of organizing in 1984 a working meeting on the development, utilization and conservation of water resources for Africa in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of African Unity.

16. The Agency is reviewing its technical and/or financial possibilities of participating in such a meeting.

17. The Agency, which has an extensive programme relating to education, is very much concerned with the problems of youth. Following the designation of 1985 as International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, it has participated in various activities concerning the Year, such as the Round Table on "Youth in the 1980s", organized from 31 May to 5 June 1982 by UNESCO at Costinesti, Romania. The Agency will also participate actively in the regional preparatory meetings for the Year, to be held in 1983 with a view to drawing up specific programmes for each of the five continents.

18. The Agency is also interested in the work of UNICEF. It would therefore like to associate itself with one of its many programmes in order to make a contribution, however modest. The integrated project submitted by the NAAM Groupings of the Upper Volta for the villages of Ouahigouya and Bougounam is at present receiving the Agency's attention. The resident administrator of the United Nations Children's Fund, whose office is at Ouagadougou, visited the Agency's headquarters in June 1982 in order to study the possibilities of joint action.

19. All these projects will be subjected to exhaustive examination in the coming months, but the implementation of some of them will require large sums. They will therefore have to be submitted for consideration to the governing authorities of

Agency (36 countries and two participating Governments), which will meet at the General Conference early in December 1983.

. However, more welcome perhaps than all these projects have been the many contacts established by representatives of the United Nations and of the Agency, which have led to a better knowledge of activities common to the two organizations and which seem to indicate that, in the years to come, constructive and lasting collaboration will be established between them for the betterment of the international community.
