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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
Second regular session of 1989  
CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS:  
WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT

Progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997)  
during the period 1988-1989

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the  
Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization

Summary

In its resolution 41/187 of 8 December 1986, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development, to be observed under the auspices of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to report biennially to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, on the progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

The World Decade for Cultural Development was officially launched on 21 January 1988 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO, one year after it had been proclaimed. It was therefore agreed that the first biennial report would be submitted to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989.

The present report has been drawn up in accordance with resolution 41/187. It is in five parts, the first of which seeks to sum up the concerns underlying the World Decade for Cultural Development and to recall its four major objectives in the context of the long-term activities that could be undertaken. The second,

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third and fourth parts report on the activities undertaken respectively by member States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and other international organizations. The fifth part concludes the report with a recommendation that a public information campaign be undertaken so that the Decade may progress significantly.

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## I. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

### A. What purpose is served by the World Decade for Cultural Development?

1. Since the end of the Second World War the unprecedented economic and technological advances that began at the beginning of the century have accelerated and have offered humanity further opportunities for improving its lot. However, these advances have been accompanied by disparities and imbalances both within societies and between the various parts of the world. In addition, they have generated new risks of destruction for human beings and their environment; and, lastly, they have often confused people by standardizing their ways of being and living.

2. Three development decades have been launched by the United Nations, the last of which is now nearing completion. Their results have been inadequate. Furthermore, the gap between the developing countries and the industrialized countries has steadily widened.

3. As stated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the launching of the World Decade for Cultural Development on 21 January 1988, during these Development Decades, "one of the reasons why the international community failed to attain some of the aims it had set itself was because the importance of the human factor - that complex web of relationships and beliefs, values and motivations, which lie at the very heart of a culture - had been underestimated in many development projects". The human, qualitative dimension of development was forgotten and culture was viewed at best as a field separate from other human activities, particularly economic, scientific and technological ones, and as the final stage in a process. As a result, a large number of seriously designed economic projects were rejected and development efforts failed in many countries.

4. It was to remedy this situation that on 8 December 1986 the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development, placed under the auspices of the United Nations and UNESCO and took note of the draft plan of action transmitted by the Economic and Social Council to that end (E/1986/L.30, annex) (resolution 41/187).

### B. The objectives of the Decade

5. Under the terms of resolution 41/187, the Decade has four major objectives, the attainment of which should help to redress development in the world through innovative strategies: acknowledging the cultural dimension of development; affirming and enriching cultural identities; broadening participation in culture; and promoting international cultural co-operation.

6. The activities to be carried out in the context of the Decade will revolve around these four main objectives, which should be interpreted more as basic concepts than as a hard-and-fast framework for action.

7. The first objective, which was considered to be fundamental, is the acknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development. Since genuine development means making the most of the human resources and the riches of each community, it must draw its priorities, its motivations and goals from the specific culture of the community. The "cultural dimension" is a vast, complex concept, extending as it does through all areas of social life and reflecting a very open-ended view of culture. At a time when the endogenous character of development seems widely recognized to be one of the conditions for its sustainability and success, this first objective of the Decade highlights the fact that no development activity can take root locally unless it is keyed to the existing situation, unless an assessment is made of that situation and the required changes clearly identified, and unless a precise idea is formed of how those changes are to be introduced and at what rate. What every policy-maker needs to discover and to achieve at the local, national and international levels is how to transform without destroying.

8. The second objective of the Decade is to ensure the affirmation and enrichment of cultural identities. Despite the increasingly rapid changes affecting all societies, despite the growing globalization of working procedures, despite the standardization of norms and models, the originality of each people is proving irreducible. The cultural heritage may contain all that a culture has produced and continues to produce, but cultural identity contains all that it has the power to produce. It is then a potentiality and a resource and, as such, is seen to be the dynamic principle whereby a society, drawing on its past, its own strengths and the external inputs that it has chosen, continues to create itself.

9. The third objective of the Decade consists in broadening participation in culture. It is by appealing to all its members, individually, or grouped together in associations or enterprises, to give their support to a project that a community may discover or rediscover its cultural identity and express it - even through its possible contradictions and doubts - and thereby take its place in the hall of cultures. This aspect of the activities of the Decade, centred on individuals and their modes of expression, is clearly the one where there is the most sharply felt need to stimulate creativity and to welcome the forms it takes.

10. The promotion of international cultural co-operation, which is the fourth objective of the Decade, is an essential adjunct to the other three, since it serves as a means of guarding against the twofold danger of countries withdrawing into themselves or engaging in cultural aggression. The purpose of international cultural co-operation is, on the basis of mutual knowledge of cultures, to seek, establish and develop all the links whereby one culture can be enriched by others and can in turn offer them its own wealth. Obviously it presupposes relations of equality, marked by mutual respect. The international community, even though it has not yet drawn all the desired consequences, recognizes the equal dignity of all cultures. The concern then is to further this co-operation, these exchanges, so that the world becomes more aware of the true value of its diversity and of how fortunate it is to be so diverse.

C. The observance of the Decade

11. As soon as the World Decade for Cultural Development had been proclaimed by the General Assembly, UNESCO engaged in consultations with the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, among which it found itself invested with the role of lead agency in the implementation of the Plan of Action. These consultations, designed to encourage active participation on the part of the entire United Nations system, were also carried out with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, individually and collectively, through bilateral contacts or ad hoc collective meetings. Member States were informed of the concerns underlying the Decade and of the major objectives assigned to it by means of written communications from the Director-General of UNESCO, and by subregional and regional meetings, most of which they themselves organized. In fact the more details have been given, the more favourable the reaction has been.

12. It can now be considered that a consensus within the international community regarding the desirability and value of the World Decade for Cultural Development has been established and extended during this first year.

13. In addition to cultural events to launch the Decade, numerous member States are preparing or carrying out Decade activities. The Director-General of UNESCO having invited them to set up national committees for the Decade, some 40 member States have already established appropriate national structures to co-ordinate Decade activities in their respective countries and to ensure that the objectives of the Decade are taken into account in all development sectors.

14. At the subregional and regional levels, the National Commissions for UNESCO in African, Asia and Pacific and European member States have already met on one or more occasions to identify joint projects and modalities for observing the Decade. The Latin American National Commissions for UNESCO plan their meeting for July 1989, while in the Arab region the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) has already approved a comprehensive plan for Arab culture today and tomorrow, which contains programmes designed for the Decade. In some regions, where the two structures are separate from each other, meetings bringing together National Commissions for UNESCO and National Committees for the Decade are envisaged to cover all areas of national development.

15. It is becoming increasingly clear that there is a widespread awareness of the fact that the future success of the Decade will depend essentially on the political will and concerted efforts of the parties concerned, primarily member States, and their decision-makers in the field of development planning, to acknowledge the cultural dimension in development. Certain member States are already envisaging the reform, or establishment in their universities, of units to develop awareness of the cultural dimension of development among senior development officials, development planners and administrators.

16. The organizations and programmes of the United Nations system are participating in the Decade within their spheres of competence and some of them have already proposed joint projects, in particular with UNESCO.

17. UNESCO has established a secretariat of the Decade and created an intergovernmental committee to monitor its implementation. These two structures, which operate under the aegis of the General Conference of UNESCO, have proposed to the international community a Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the World Decade for Cultural Development. This Strategy sets out six key areas in which Decade activities may be concentrated, as well as for institutional and individual resources and co-ordination machinery at various levels. Moreover, UNESCO's third medium-term plan, which covers the period 1990-1995, will be clearly linked with the Plan of Action for the Decade, in accordance with the decision of UNESCO's Executive Board.

18. The other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system have been invited to appoint their own Decade co-ordinators, who have already held two meetings on the initiative of UNESCO. This inter-agency consultation will take on a more formal and institutional character and, as for the other United Nations decades, could be strengthened by the setting up of a United Nations inter-agency steering committee for the World Decade for Cultural Development.

19. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at its meeting on 25 and 26 October 1988 approved the recommendations proposed by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (CCSQ (PROG)), which had been submitted to the latter by its Organizational Committee concerning the participation of the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the Decade (ACC/1988/2/Add.3). All the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system are invited to include in their next medium-term plans, starting in the first biennial period of those plans, two or three activities specifically designed to further the first two objectives of the Decade: acknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development; and the affirmation and enrichment of cultural identities.

#### D. Recommendations

20. The World Decade for Cultural Development has been launched and there are many indications that in people's minds and in the different countries and institutions it has taken off. In the light of the foregoing summary and analysis and of experience gained in this first year, the following measures are recommended in order to speed up implementation of the Plan of Action.

#### To member States

21. Member States that have not yet done so should set up national committees or equivalent co-ordinating structures compatible with their national institutional systems. Experience has already shown that where they have been set up, most of the committees have begun preparing programmes of activities and seeking or gradually securing funding for them. It will be necessary, however, in the overall context of the Decade, to take the largest possible account of the recommendations of the Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action and to inform UNESCO of the results of periodic evaluations of projects and Decade activities.

22. Member States should resolutely envisage activities and projects in an innovative spirit of development, which should extend to their efforts to optimize human resources, achieve economic recovery and make structural adjustments. They should accordingly increase the efforts undertaken to ensure the human, qualitative dimension of development by taking measures to realign, or readjust, development projects and plans so that they coincide with the objectives of the Decade.

23. In addition, member States could themselves develop a public information campaign to popularize the concerns underlying the Decade. The Plan of Action can thereby be implemented with wider participation from all strata of society.

#### To international organizations

24. International governmental and non-governmental organizations should take advantage of the Decade to consider the cultural implications of their respective tasks, particularly those organizations whose spheres of competence traditionally have been regarded as extraneous to culture. Thorough reflection on the objectives of the Decade will enable them to identify the implicit relationship existing between their programmes and the Plan of Action for the Decade and to define appropriate cultural parameters for their development activities. Regional intergovernmental organizations, in association with the United Nations economic commissions and UNESCO, could play an outstanding role in this regard.

25. The organizations and programmes of the United Nations system should implement the recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination regarding their participation. They should consequently ensure that administrative and budgetary measures are taken that will enable them to take the requisite action on those recommendations.

26. As the fourth United Nations development decade (1990-2000) will be launched shortly after the beginning of the World Decade for Cultural Development, the ad hoc committee on the new international development strategy (see resolution 43/182) will no doubt want to take into account the Plan of Action for the World Decade for Cultural Development. Such a linkage seems desirable both at the time of preparing the terms of reference for the fourth development decade and during the concurrent observance of the two decades.

## II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY MEMBER STATES

### A. Introduction

27. The member States, which have proclaimed the World Decade for Cultural Development, should themselves be the true architects and managers of the Decade. The implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade should be co-ordinated with national development plans and the measures and activities undertaken by member States to this end will be decisive for the success of the Decade. In the interests of efficiency and in accordance with the Plan of Action, an increasing number of member States are establishing national committees for the Decade, in



order to co-ordinate the Decade activities that may be launched by various national partners. Some Governments have, before or upon the establishment of their national committees, drawn up programmes specially designed for the Decade, while others have adopted official texts to provide support for initiatives.

28. A great variety of activities have thus been carried out by member States, ranging from ceremonies for the official launching of the Decade to the implementation of cultural activities and the reformulation of development projects. It is neither possible nor necessary to cite them all in a report such as this, but the major trends that they appear to reflect might usefully be noted.

#### B. Measures taken at national level

29. The data provided in this section are drawn from a variety of communications that have been sent by member States to the secretariat of the Decade at UNESCO. They are probably limited, given that a large number of member States have not yet provided information about the activities they have carried out or that they envisage. Some 40 member States have set up national committees and/or drawn up programmes of activities. Some Governments have taken administrative or institutional measures to ensure that social and cultural factors are taken into consideration in all governmental development projects. In most cases, it is too soon to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the measures taken and it is just as difficult to put forward general considerations on the basis of the specific situation of each country.

30. It may however be noted that in most cases there has been a larger number of traditional cultural activities involving artistic and literary fields and promoting the development of culture and fine arts than activities designed to take into account the cultural factors in development strategies. It thus emerges that member States have planned measures, or programmes of activities, inspired more by one, or all, of the last three objectives of the Decade, rather than the first one. They still need to reinforce their efforts to achieve this first objective, which will be a true indication of the success of the Decade.

#### C. Measures taken at subregional level

31. To all appearances it is at subregional level that member States have succeeded in thinking more concretely about the objectives of the Decade, adapting them to their geocultural context, envisaging joint projects on a significant scale and, in some cases, appropriate implementation and follow-up machinery. In most cases, National Commissions for UNESCO have played a decisive role in this process.

32. In Africa, the National Commissions of the French-speaking countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Togo) met at Lomé from 8 to 11 August 1988 to adopt the necessary strategies for the success of the Decade in the subregion. Working through subregional organizations such as the International Centre for the Bantu Civilizations, member States have taken measures to ensure

that the programmes of such centres encourage the integration of cultural parameters in projects ranging from rural development and health to technology.

33. In Latin America, several subregional meetings have been organized on the Decade and working groups, on which member States are represented by their National Commissions for UNESCO, have been set up to deal with such subjects as cultural tourism, traditional cultures, creativity and language barriers in culture. Eight South American countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela) have organized an interdisciplinary programme called Universities of Amazonia, which brings several universities together to study the problems posed by development and local cultures in Amazonia.

#### D. Measures taken at regional level

34. Similar measures have been taken at the regional level, on the initiative of National Commissions for UNESCO.

35. The ninth Regional Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO in Asia and the Pacific was held in Beijing from 22 to 27 September 1988. Twenty-six National Commissions from the region attended and examined in particular the ways in which they might participate in the Decade. A large number of activities were announced for the first phase of the period (1988-1992) by 11 of the 22 countries represented (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). The activities include: art and film festivals; celebrations of major political, cultural and historic events; organization of training courses for public-sector and private-sector personnel on the cultural dimension of development; information and publicity campaign on the Decade. The Conference was anxious to ensure the co-ordination at the regional level of National Commissions' participation in the Decade, and the launching of an organ for liaison, a newsletter, was envisaged.

36. In Europe, the National Commissions for UNESCO have held five co-ordination meetings on the Decade, enabling them to identify several co-operative projects (over 40 at the meeting of national committees for the Decade held at Athens in January 1989), and consider the establishment of regional co-ordination machinery. At these meetings of National Commissions, particularly the one held at Florence from 16 to 18 December 1988, the Decade has been viewed as an ideal framework for enhancing cultural relations between Eastern and Western European countries. In addition, it has been considered essential to think more deeply about the philosophical significance and place of culture in the development of societies. The establishment of European cultural centres and the extension of the European capital of culture programme to the socialist countries of Eastern Europe has been regarded as a possible way of ensuring continuity between meetings and project co-ordination. Projects for European and interregional collaboration were identified at the tenth Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in the European region held at Berlin from 10 to 15 April 1989.

37. The National Commissions for UNESCO of Portuguese-speaking States (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe) met for the first time at Lisbon from 20 to 25 June 1988. During this same period, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia met at Ankara and discussed the Decade.

#### E. Conclusions

38. It can be considered that an increasingly large number of member States have actually launched activities and taken measures that demonstrate their support and participation in the Decade. This general survey of the action that has been taken reveals however that the implementation of the Plan of Action is still slow and hesitant and that, in most States, even at the subregional and regional levels, potential partners are still trying to establish contact with one another and activities are still at the planning stage. According to a fairly widespread view, this slowness is due to the need felt by all the parties concerned, particularly the governmental officials, to consider more deeply and interpret the objectives of the Decade in the contexts of their own economic and social development options and strategies before envisaging specific Decade activities.

39. It might also be added that those responsible for the Decade in many member States have been concerned almost exclusively with seeking new projects for the Decade, rather than seeking innovative adjustments to existing projects in order to bring them more in line with the objectives of the Decade.

### III. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

#### A. Introduction

40. The organizations and programmes of the United Nations system are key partners in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade in so far as their different spheres of competence cover all aspects of development. The purpose of the Decade is after all to reconcile culture and human goals with certain development objectives that have hitherto been considered to be antithetical, namely, economic growth, quantitative output and an increase in consumer goods.

41. Generally speaking, it seems that a good number of organizations and programmes of the United Nations system have not been able to take practical measures or to launch projects specifically inspired by the Plan of Action for the Decade immediately. Some of them, however, that have faced a certain resistance to their operations in the field for cultural reasons specific to the local community have already begun to take social and cultural measures to support their projects. It is hoped that the Decade will be a useful framework within which these agencies will be able to strengthen and systematize such efforts.

42. Lastly, the budgetary crisis that has affected all the organizations of the United Nations system has not encouraged the search for special activities for the

Decade. This is especially true in that resolution 41/187 encourages the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system participating in the fulfilment of the objectives of the Decade to do so in a manner that does not entail additional financial implications for non-voluntarily funded programmes.

#### B. Activities undertaken by UNESCO

43. The observance of any Decade, once a Plan of Action has been drawn up, necessitates the setting of short-, medium- and long-term objectives and the identification of the means whereby they can be achieved. The General Assembly, having taken note of the Plan of Action for the Decade (E/1986/L.30, annex) and UNESCO being called upon, by virtue of its fields of competence, to assume the role of lead agency among the organizations of the United Nations system, has sought to include Decade activities in its regular programme and budget for the biennium 1988-1989 and to link the Plan of Action to its draft third medium-term plan (1990-1995) so as to make the Decade a major objective of that plan. Furthermore, in order to co-ordinate the Decade at all levels with a view to the biennial and final evaluations, UNESCO has set up its own co-ordination machinery consisting of an intergovernmental committee, intersectoral committee and a secretariat of the Decade, and has invited member States and organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to establish Decade mechanisms.

44. During the 1988-1989 budgetary period, after reviewing its past and present action in respect of cultural development, UNESCO has provided for specific activities relating to the Decade through all its programmes. Of these, 30 or so are clearly inspired by the concerns of the Plan of Action for the Decade, in that they are interdisciplinary in character, contribute to integrated development, are regional, subregional and/or interregional in scope, have a multiplier effect, and are innovative and exemplary in character. Budgetary resources allocated to those activities for the biennium 1988-1989 amount to 622,800 United States dollars.

45. In addition to these activities included in the regular programme for the current biennium, UNESCO plans to launch a number of major projects to mobilize international public opinion in support of the Decade. These and other projects will be carried out within the framework of the medium-term plan.

46. UNESCO's third medium-term plan, which covers the period 1990-1995, provides for a number of major Decade projects, including the following: the integral study of the silk roads; revival of the Library of Alexandria; ten-year plan for the development of crafts; the non-physical cultural heritage: "The stages of life"; five-hundredth anniversary of the encounter between two worlds; Lingua Pax, an international project for the development of foreign languages and literature training; establishment of a world satellite network for education; study programme on creativity in science and technology; comparative research on the functions of the family in different economic and socio-cultural contexts; methodological studies on the cultural dimension of development; advisory services to member States and exchanges of information and experience with a view to the endogenous production of cultural goods (films, videos, records and cassettes); and EXPO 92:

the 1992 Universal Exhibition at Seville, Spain, in which UNESCO serves as a lead agency for the co-ordination in the United Nations system.

47. As mentioned earlier, in order to ensure the co-ordinated observance of the Decade by all the parties concerned, UNESCO has established a secretariat of the Decade as provided for in the Plan of Action, for co-ordination purposes. The General Conference of UNESCO, at its twenty-fourth session, set up an intergovernmental committee of experts composed of representatives of 36 member States elected on the basis of geographical distribution. Article III.1 of its statutes states that "the Committee shall be responsible, in UNESCO's fields of competence, for stimulating, following and evaluating the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade and for recommending, in particular to the General Conference and to the various parties concerned with the Decade, any measures which in its opinion are of such a kind as to ensure its orderly progress and success". The secretariat of the Committee is provided by the secretariat of the Decade.

48. UNESCO organized the first session of the aforementioned Committee at its Headquarters in Paris from 12 to 16 September 1988. The Committee, following deliberations, instructed its Bureau to revise and distribute a document entitled "Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the World Decade for Cultural Development". This revised Strategy was adopted by the Bureau at its meeting on 20 and 21 February.

49. After inviting the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to appoint their own Decade focal points, UNESCO organized two meetings bringing together these representatives of organizations and programmes of the United Nations system with a view to defining the ways in which they might participate in the Decade, having regard to their respective fields of competence. In addition, following the request of the Director-General that an item on the Decade be added to the agenda of the meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on 25 and 26 October 1988, the Committee adopted practical recommendations designed to suggest concrete forms of participation by the organizations of the United Nations system in the Decade.

#### C. Activities undertaken by organizations and programmes of the United Nations system

50. At its session from 3 to 5 October 1988, the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (OPS) noted the report on activities carried out for the Decade, that UNESCO had submitted to its Intergovernmental Committee for the Decade at its first meeting. With the report was a note from UNESCO to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination containing its suggestions concerning the contributions to be made by the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to the achievement of the Decade's objectives. The Committee noted and appraised the activities undertaken by UNESCO as the lead agency for the Decade, stressing in particular the importance of the inter-agency meeting of co-ordinators of the Decade organized by UNESCO on 16 and 17 November 1987. The Committee, after supporting the proposals contained in the UNESCO note, stressed that the activities

and measures suggested required additional financial resources. The Committee noted that UNESCO planned to hold at the beginning of 1989 an inter-agency meeting of co-ordinators of the Decade on which it would report to the General Assembly (ACC/1988/15). The Committee reported on the matter to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination through the Organizational Committee.

51. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, at its meeting on 25 and 26 October 1988, endorsed the recommendations of its Organizational Committee regarding the following activities and measures to be undertaken by the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system (ACC/1988/2/Add.3):

(a) Organizations of the United Nations system should consider including in their next medium-term plans, as well as in the first biennial period of those plans, two or three activities specially designed to further the first two objectives of the Decade;

(b) In order to collect practical knowledge of what is meant by acknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development, the concerned organizations of the system should consider identifying a small number of projects for which they are the executing agency and which lend themselves to a careful study of the interaction between the tangible and non-tangible factors involved. The selection of the projects should be preceded by a study of the socio-cultural factors likely to play a role in the implementation of the project, which should be monitored closely during the period of implementation;

(c) UNESCO will provide, through consultancy arrangements, the necessary expertise for such pre-studies and for the follow-up and evaluation of the projects and will, in certain cases, finance the extra costs entailed. UNESCO will collect and systematize the experience gained from the projects in order to examine the extent to which the conclusions could be generalized and result in practical guidelines for the planning of future projects;

(d) In order to promote the integration of the cultural dimension into development projects, resident co-ordinators and resident representatives should be provided with a brochure explaining the objectives of such an exercise and providing some provisional advice. Such a brochure could be produced rapidly by UNESCO in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

52. Several organizations, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations University (UNU), had already announced their intentions to carry out specific activities for the Decade in their programmes starting from 1989. Following the recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination other organizations have also planned to place certain projects within the framework of the Decade. The following information is intended to provide a brief survey of some of the activities these organizations propose to undertake.

53. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs is responsible for co-ordinating the participation in the Decade of the numerous bodies of the United Nations. These bodies include the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA).

54. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research has provided for seminars for senior officials (administrators, planners and economic decision-makers) during which they will be briefed on the cultural aspects of their duties with the intellectual and educational assistance of UNESCO.

55. ESCWA is formulating, as part of its ongoing work on urban development, a project on the preservation of Islamic cultural heritage. This project will be submitted to the Islamic Fund for financial support. The main objective of the project is the incorporation of issues related to the development plans being implemented in the major cities of the ESCWA region.

56. ECLAC has stated that the following activities, being carried out under its present programme are linked to the Plan of Action for the Decade and will be continued in subsequent work programmes:

(a) In the field of social development, constant attention is being given to the role of education in the improvement of human resources and in increasing equity through social mobility; to the potential of popular culture and institutions for the incorporation of peasant and urban informal sectors in development; and to the role of "creole discourse" in the Caribbean subregion as the basis for strengthening national identities and popular participation in development;

(b) In the field of technology and industrialization in economic development, research is contemplated on the cultural aspects of technology innovation and of socially responsible national entrepreneurship;

(c) In the field of the human environment, work is about to begin on the design of a methodology for the preparation of national and cultural heritage inventories and accounts.

57. The bulk of the work of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs relates to culture. The issue of culture is integrated into a number of the subprogrammes of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1987/52) especially those dealing with promoting more positive attitudes towards the role of women in development, with literacy and education, with other social infrastructure support service and the general subprogramme analysis of the interrelationship of factors affecting women and development. During the period of the system-wide medium-term plan (1990-1995), the Advancement of Women Branch will give particular attention to such cultural aspects of de facto discrimination as sex stereotyping, sharing of responsibilities within the family, and cultural factors in the evaluation of women's role. Mention should also be made of a joint

activity of the Branch with UNESCO related to culture, namely, the chapter of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development entitled "Culture and women's economic opportunity". This will undoubtedly continue through successive updates of the World Survey.

58. Certain bodies and programmes of the United Nations, such as UNU, UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), are planning to make the following contributions to the Decade.

59. UNU has provided in its second medium-term plan (1988-1993) for studies on major development problems linked to the concerns and objectives of the Decade: security, development and democracy; development and technological change; alternative rural-urban configurations; science, technology and global learning.

60. UNDP has decided to take into consideration the recommendations of the Plan of Action and to contribute to the achievement of the first objective of the Decade, acknowledging the cultural dimension of development. UNESCO has been requested to provide it with methodological guidance so that appropriate cultural parameters can be included in the terms of reference of projects.

61. UNFPA promotes the use of socio-cultural research in all of the community-level population activities it funds, in order for those activities to be designed so as to respond to local needs. One interesting example is a socio-cultural study model developed by UNESCO for use in the early stages of UNFPA-funded population education projects, but applicable for other purposes as well. In addition, outreach workers (and administrators, communicators and other programme personnel) in population programmes must take cultural contexts into account when dealing with individuals, designing educational materials, etc., and professional training should emphasize this. This applies not only to family planning projects but also in census activities, population communication activities, women's programmes and population education activities both in and outside the school system.

62. Among the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) confirmed on the occasion of the second inter-agency meeting of Decade co-ordinators held at Geneva on 6 and 7 February 1989, the activities through which they plan to participate in the Decade.

63. ILO has taken account of the objectives of cultural development in several of its activities. The seventy-fifth session of the International Labour Conference, in June 1988, considered favourably in its initial discussion the project for the partial revision of the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention (No. 107), so as to make it more respectful of the cultures, ways of life and institutions of indigenous populations. The instrument as revised will constitute an affirmation and recognition of indigenous cultural identities. In addition, studies systematically are being carried out prior to the launching of projects for the



development of utilitarian crafts so as to implement technical co-operation that would take into account the cultural environment and history of the beneficiary communities and make it possible to improve the techniques and quality of the products and the skills of the artisans. Furthermore, in order to promote self-reliant development of the poorest peasants, a programme for the rural poor is being carried out that will enable them to identify the causes of their poverty and to seek ways and means available to them, consistent with their own traditions, to make use of local resources to ensure their own development. ILO involvement in this programme is confined to the provision of organizational methodology and advisory services to rural groups, once they have been formed. Finally, ILO is carrying out a major activity to broaden participation in culture by improving the working and employment conditions of cultural workers, teachers, performing artists and journalists, and by addressing the problems raised for artists and producers of phonographs by cable and satellite transmission.

64. WIPO considers that all its copyright activities and its programme of co-operation with developing countries are designed to promote respect for authors' rights and consequently help to further cultural development. In particular, WIPO will be organizing at Berlin in 1991 a symposium on copyright cultural development for copyright specialists and politicians with a view to promoting greater co-operation between them.

65. WHO has always considered the problem of health to be an important condition for the development of each individual as one who is responsible for his or her own well-being and that of the community. WHO participation in the Decade will not give rise to new programmes, but additional weight may be given to the acknowledgement of culture in programmes already launched relating to mental health, gerontology, health environment and action against alcohol, drug and tobacco abuse.

66. UNIDO informed UNESCO at a very early stage of the activities that it would consider placing the following projects within the framework of the Decade with the technical co-operation of UNESCO:

- (a) Project on women and environment in the Third World (cost \$US 2,500 to 50,000);
- (b) Regional project for the establishment of a pilot fish-salting and drying factory for the Economic Community of West African States (\$US 1,300,000);
- (c) Development and manufacture of a ground-nut thresher in the Sahel region (\$US 113,000);
- (d) Establishment of an African crafts network;
- (e) Training courses for Junior Professional Officers before they leave on technical co-operation missions;

(f) Organization of an international forum on appropriate industrial technology in Africa;

(g) Linking of the World Decade for Cultural Development and the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

67. ITU could place its technical resources at the service of various programmes within the framework of the Decade: the Arab Satellite Communications Organization for literacy work; audio-visual media for the use of young people in various parts of the world for teleconferences; and the establishment of a telecommunication museum. In 1991 ITU is planning to organize a film and videotape festival at Geneva. World Telecommunication Day on 17 May 1991 could be devoted to the Decade.

68. UPU has recommended that priority be given at this stage to activities that would develop a shared frame of mind favourable to the Decade. UPU would be willing to undertake in this connection such awareness-building activities as the following:

(a) Requesting the postal administrations of UPU member countries to issue postage stamps devoted to the Decade;

(b) Inserting articles on the Decade in the review Postal Union;

(c) Devoting one of the annual letter-writing competitions organized by UPU to a subject relating to the Decade.

69. In 1987-1988 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) tried to lay more stress in its spheres of competence on the cultural components of its activities, particularly in the following areas: agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and nutrition, human resources, institutions and land reform. In agricultural production - cereals, fruit and other food crops, stock-raising and fishing - traditional forms of social organization and traditional techniques used by the communities in producing, distributing and using basic food products were more clearly recognized and taken into account. Bio-technological innovations, land reforms and new forms of economic organization in agriculture are now being set within the context of established practices, which are no longer being systematically denigrated in the name of productivity and technical progress. An ecological approach is thus giving greater priority to human factors by taking into account the techniques and values of the community concerned in the production of food and also the traditions governing nutrition and cooking, and by paying more attention to the roles played by women. Feasibility studies, training workshops and project implementation are taking all these traditional practices into account in order to enable the group concerned to assimilate progress and innovation more easily. The major programmes of FAO are integrating the cultural dimension into their various components:

(a) Regional programmes for agriculture designed mainly to encourage the exchange of research findings and young plants and seeds, the publication of

technical documents, and the preparation of training aids. Particular stress is laid on Africa in this context;

(b) The following fisheries projects: the small-scale Bay of Bengal programme; integrated development of artisanal fishing in West Africa from Morocco to Angola, which is financed by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and Norway. This project is closely linked with other similar projects in Côte d'Ivoire (IFAD), in Sierra Leone (UNDP, DANIDA) and in Guinea (UNDP, EEC and Canada), and could continue beyond 1989-1993);

(c) In forestry many projects require the identification of local preferences for tree species, and documents on this subject are to be published over the next two years;

(d) As regards food and nutrition, studies will be carried out in African and Latin American countries on the contribution of traditional food plants to national nutrition, and handbooks containing recipes will be published in Africa. Programmes may be prepared for radio and television to carry selected information on appropriate nutrition;

(e) With regard to human resources and land reform, the cultural dimension of development will be taken into account at the Global Consultation on the Extension of Agriculture and its Cost (Rome, October 1989) and in several current projects designed to improve the quality of life of young rural dwellers and in the work of the FAO/UNESCO/ILO Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education, Science and Training.

#### D. Recommendations

70. The organizations and programmes of the United Nations system have begun making an effort, as yet modest, to devise activities contributing to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade. They should step up this effort by taking effective, practical measures within the framework of their forthcoming programmes and budgets with the object of promoting joint activities as far as possible, pursuant to the relevant recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination referred to above. These measures should include the appointment by all organizations and programmes of the system of Decade co-ordinators, their regular attendance at inter-agency consultation and co-ordination meetings, and the drawing up of periodic reports on developments in the implementation of their Decade activities with a view to contributing to the biennial report by the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO on the progress of the Decade.

71. The organizations and programmes of the United Nations system should be careful to take into account, in their contributions to the formulation of the new international strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, the concerns and objectives of the Plan of Action for the World Decade for Cultural

Development. They should all help to ensure the interlinking of the strategies and aims of the two decades.

72. It will no doubt be useful from this point of view to combine efforts and to concentrate them on such areas of common interest as those identified by the second inter-agency meeting of Decade co-ordinators (Geneva, 6 and 7 February 1989): artisans and handicrafts; culture and environment; training and development of cultural awareness for decision-makers and communicators; advancement of women; action against drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and crime.

73. In order to help to link the objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development to regional economic development policies, plans and strategies, United Nations regional economic commissions should draw the attention of their ministerial and technical conferences to the cultural aspects of the questions examined so as to facilitate the linking of the objectives pursued with those of the World Decade for Cultural Development. Close co-operation with UNESCO could be useful in this regard.

#### IV. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

##### A. Introduction

74. A large number of international governmental and non-governmental organizations have launched activities or taken various measures to participate in the observance of the Decade. In view of their number and the great variety of activities carried out, the following information is intended solely to provide some examples of the organizations concerned and the activities undertaken or planned.

##### B. International intergovernmental organizations

75. The Organization of African Unity (OAU), in line with the Declaration of Heads of State and Government on the cultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action 1/ for the economic and social development of Africa (Addis Ababa, July 1985), after the proclamation of the World Decade for Cultural Development, has taken several measures and initiatives. The institutionalization of the Conference of African Ministers of Culture of OAU, decided upon in 1986 in anticipation of the Decade, has proved to be a fruitful measure. It has facilitated the efforts of that Conference to harmonize African cultural policies and to link them to the Lagos Plan of Action, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery 1986-1990 2/ and the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The second conference which was held at Ouagadougou from 25 to 27 March 1988 on the theme of "Africa and the World Decade for Cultural Development", specified what Africa's participation will be, consisting in particular in the establishment within the next three years of an African cultural common market; the launching in 1989 of an international exhibition of audio-visual material and cultural industries in Africa

(in Gabon), the institutionalization of the International Crafts Exhibition (in Burkina Faso) and the organization of a Panafrican Festival of Art and Culture (Morocco) and a Panafrican Festival of Traditional Music (Zaire). OAU is planning to set up a task force with which several organizations, including UNESCO, will co-operate in the implementation of these projects between 1989 and 1992.

76. The African, Caribbean and Pacific States have prepared a set of co-operative projects in which references to the Decade focus in particular on the cultural dimension of development.

77. The Organization of American States (OAS), on the occasion of the eighteenth session of the Inter-American Commission on Education, Science and Culture, adopted a resolution in support of the Decade (CIECC-737/87).

78. ALECSO, at its eighth session, in December 1985, adopted a comprehensive strategy for Arab culture; it supported the proclamation by the United Nations of the World Decade for Cultural Development and invited the member Arab States of ALECSO to draw up cultural programmes within the framework of the Decade in line with the strategy adopted. The most important objectives include the highlighting of cultural identity and Arab-Islamic civilization and their enhancement, the search for broad participation by the people in cultural life through the democratization of culture; support for development planning, incorporating cultural factors; and the participation of Arab culture in the establishment of a new international cultural order and in international cultural co-operation.

79. The Council of Europe within the framework of the European public campaign on North-South interdependence and solidarity launched by the European Conference of Parliamentarians and Non-Governmental Organizations on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity (Madrid, 1-3 June 1988), is organizing meetings with a view to transforming imposed interdependence into active forms of solidarity between North and South. Two meetings have thus been set within the context of the Decade: one on interdependence and cultural development, to be held at Lisbon on 7 and 8 April 1988, and one that will be organized in co-operation with OAU and the World Social Prospects Association at Porto Novo, in the summer of 1989, on the theme "South-North: the urgent need for a contract of solidarity".

### C. International non-governmental organizations

80. International non-governmental organizations have made considerable efforts, individually or in conjunction with other partners, to devise new activities, some of which are already in progress in various fields. In addition, they are contributing to the dissemination of information about the Decade in all circles, as a large number of them are involved in local community projects and possess fairly effective information networks and contacts in the society at large.

81. At its meeting held from 1 to 3 December 1987, the Standing Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations (which co-operates with UNESCO) identified projects for activities in various fields, including cultural heritage, artistic activity,

education, teaching, cultural identity, dialogue between cultures, cultural policies, children, young people and women. By way of illustration, a number of particularly original and significant initiatives are mentioned below.

82. The World Peace Council is preparing, in co-operation with Greece, to hold at Athens and Delphi an international congress of intellectuals on the Decade and to produce on-the-spot video interviews showing behaviour patterns of everyday life and the ways in which facts and social values in the present-day world are perceived by young people belonging to different countries and cultures.

83. In the same spirit, the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations intends to develop public awareness of the reality of cultural identities and the problems of interdependence through the production and exchange of video sequences on themes of collective living. In addition, to mark the Decade the Federation has recently launched a project on a world-wide scale entitled "Friends of the World's Treasures". This initiative will involve groups of young people who will present a characteristic feature of their cultural heritage in order to protect it and make it known to other young people's clubs.

84. The International Council for Film, Television and Audio-Visual Communication, the International Institute for Audio-Visual Communication and Cultural Development and the International Association of Art are concerning themselves with structuring a market for films and video productions of cultural, scientific and artistic value.

85. Others, in particular the International Association of Art, the International Music Council, the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations and the International Council of Museums are considering strengthening or establishing data banks. Furthermore, development projects for policies for the exchange of radio or television material and co-productions are being finalized by the International Institute for Audio-Visual Communication and Cultural Development and the International Radio and Television University.

86. A second field, where emphasis is laid on the physical heritage, is also giving rise to original projects. The International Association of Art, for example, is thinking of mounting travelling exhibitions on the Europe of the painters, on the relationship between European and Arab painters and on art for Africa. The International Council of Museums is planning to extend the use of mobile museums in rural areas. International PEN is preparing a project on the African origins of Caribbean culture or "The Caravel Road", attempting to associate with the project Caribbean and African universities and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

87. The Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service has decided to organize a series of work-camps with a view to strengthening cultural co-operation among grass-roots non-governmental structures, together with a consultation bringing together directors of voluntary-service organizations working with Governments and with organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in order to examine how to build up the cultural dimension of their development

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projects. A special issue of the newsletter of the International Voluntary Service may be devoted to the Decade.

#### D. Conclusions

88. International organizations other than those of the United Nations system will very certainly make a highly significant contribution to the observance of the Decade if they step up the efforts already initiated by some of them, in particular by launching major activities drawing their member States closer together, combine their individual initiatives and pool resources so as to give them greater prominence and impact.

89. Furthermore, international organizations, regardless of their fields of competence, could take care not only to stimulate cultural exchanges in the context of international cultural co-operation, but also to include in bilateral and multilateral co-operation agreements (economic, financial, technological and scientific) appropriate machinery to ensure that cultural factors are taken into account in their implementation.

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

90. The Decade is a moral contract that all members of the international community - States, United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, institutions, foundations and associations, along with individuals - should agree to enter into in order to improve the quality of life in the world by ensuring that one of the principal goals of development is to achieve the physical well-being and spiritual fulfilment of human beings. The activities carried out by the parties concerned during this first year have not been as significant as might have been wished and it is still too early to draw a conclusion. It will no doubt be difficult in any case to take stock of the achievements of the Decade in any concrete way. The main object will be to demonstrate the development of a new approach to planning and strategies, projects and action to promote development, but one can reasonably rely on the broad consensus established regarding the need to achieve the objectives of the Decade in so far as it appears to express the political will and determination of member States. If all the partners make renewed efforts, the success of the Decade will be within reach.

91. It is extremely important that information about the Decade and its purposes be disseminated at all levels and through the mass media in order to solicit support for the concerns underlying the Decade and to involve the public at large in the efforts to achieve the objectives of the Plan of Action. It is important that, following such a general mobilization within the international community, more visible and more significant progress be made in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the evaluation to be made of it in 1991.

92. With a view to carrying out a mid-Decade evaluation and giving the Decade fresh impetus, the international community might wish to consider organizing a global review during the course of the Decade under the auspices of the United Nations and UNESCO.

#### Notes

1/ Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session, Lagos, 28-29 April 1980 (A/S-11/14, annex I).

2/ See General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex.

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