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Item 23 of the provisional agenda*CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
LEAGUE OF ARAB STATESReport of the Secretary-General

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* A/39/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 October 1983, the General Assembly adopted resolution 38/6 on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS), paragraphs 4 to 12 of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts towards the implementation of United Nations resolutions relevant to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East;

"5. Requests the secretariats of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, to intensify their co-operation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

"7. Calls upon the competent bodies of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to give urgent consideration to the various recommendations contained in the report [A/38/299 and Corr.1, sect. V] of the Secretary-General and to inform the Secretary-General of the action taken on them not later than 15 May 1984;

"8. Takes note of the proposals and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and requests him to take the necessary steps to ensure their implementation, including the following measures:

(a) Setting up of joint sectoral inter-agency working groups for follow-up of multilateral projects;

(b) Promotion of contacts and consultations regarding projects of a multilateral nature between the counterpart agencies, programmes and bodies concerned;

(c) Promotion of contacts and consultations regarding projects of a bilateral nature between the counterpart agencies, programmes and bodies concerned;

"9. Requests the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider holding at Rome, not later than 31 August 1984, a meeting on food and agriculture in the Arab region to consider action to be taken and projects to be launched jointly pursuant to the recommendations adopted at the Tunis meeting;

"10. Also recommends that another sectoral meeting on social development be organized, in January/February 1985, under the aegis of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, in a country member of that organization, to give careful consideration to projects prepared for joint implementation, in conformity with the priorities set forth in paragraphs 61 and 62 of the report of the Secretary-General, including joint sectoral meetings;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to convene ad hoc meetings between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for consultations on follow-up policies, projects, actions and procedures;

"12. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its thirty-ninth session, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"..."

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

2. On 29 May 1984, prior to his visit to the Middle East, the Secretary-General held a meeting with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States at United Nations Headquarters in New York and discussed with him various problems concerning that region. He also met with the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations on several occasions. In addition, senior officials of the United Nations and of the League have discussed matters of common interest concerning the situation in the Middle East, as occasion has required.

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions met with the Assistant Secretary-General for the General Department of International Affairs of the League of Arab States at Geneva, in July 1984, and reviewed matters relevant to General Assembly resolution 38/6. In particular, they discussed the implementation of the proposals and recommendations adopted at the meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States which took place at Tunis from 28 June to 1 July 1983, for the purpose of strengthening and expanding co-operation between the offices concerned.

4. Discussions were also held between senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States at Geneva,

Tunis and New York in order to co-ordinate action pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/6.

III. ACTION TAKEN ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TUNIS MEETING

5. In paragraph 7 of resolution 38/6, the General Assembly called upon the competent bodies of the United Nations system to give urgent consideration to the various recommendations adopted at the Tunis meeting (A/38/299 and Corr.1, sect. V) and to inform the Secretary-General of the action taken on them.

6. It should be recalled that the proposals and recommendations had been made, either individually or collectively, by agencies and organizations attending the Tunis meeting. Those proposals have since been communicated to the various bodies of the United Nations system and fall into two categories:

(a) Specific proposals which lend themselves to early consideration by the competent parties either at the bilateral or multilateral level;

(b) General proposals which require further elaboration by the sponsors before they can merit consideration at either the bilateral or multilateral level.

7. As most of the specific proposals are of a bilateral nature, follow-up action will be taken by the organizations directly concerned without reference to the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States or to the United Nations Secretariat. Many United Nations organizations have initiated consultations with their counterparts in the League.

8. At the multilateral level, 37 proposals will need to be dealt with. Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system have already identified proposals that are of direct interest to them; this information has been communicated to the League. As soon as similar information is received from the League side, arrangements will be made to set up joint sectoral inter-agency working groups to consider the proposals in detail, and to recommend appropriate action for their implementation. Consultations are also under way concerning the selection of convenors for the working groups, and the date and place for each group meeting.

9. In response to paragraph 7 of resolution 38/6, which called upon the competent bodies of the United Nations system to inform the Secretary-General of the action taken by them on the Tunis recommendations, progress reports have been received which cover both bilateral and multilateral proposals. The summary information which follows (paras. 10-114 below) is based on the replies received. Some replies indicate the action already taken on the proposals; others, either review areas of co-operation with the League of Arab States or make suggestions for further co-operation.

A. Replies pertaining to political matters

1. Offices of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs

10. In his report of 30 September 1983 to the General Assembly and the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East (A/38/458-S/16015), the Secretary-General once again called for renewed efforts by all concerned to achieve such a settlement.

11. In response to General Assembly resolution 38/58 C calling for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, and in consultation with the Security Council, the Secretary-General undertook a visit to the region in 1984. During the visit, the Secretary-General discussed with the parties concerned matters regarding the maintenance of peace in the region, and various aspects of the Middle East conflict, including the proposal for the convening of a peace conference.

2. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

12. The League of Arab States has participated, in an observer capacity, in the meetings of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People since the Committee's first session in 1976. It has also regularly participated in other activities of the Committee such as the annual commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and the United Nations seminars on the question of Palestine.

13. The Committee has continued to follow closely activities and decisions of the League of Arab States which are of relevance to its mandate and has attended a number of conferences organized by the League.

3. Centre against Apartheid

14. The League has been participating in the meetings of the Special Committee against Apartheid as an observer.

15. The Special Committee against Apartheid, in co-operation with the League of Arab States, organized a Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa, which was held at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984. The Conference is intended to emphasize the importance of the solidarity of Arab Governments and Arab non-governmental organizations with the liberation struggle in southern Africa and to explore ways and means for increased assistance to the national liberation movements.

4. Department for Disarmament Affairs

16. The Department for Disarmament Affairs will conduct appropriate consultations with the States concerned in the Arab region, as well as with the League to

determine conditions and circumstances under which the following recommendations, adopted at the Tunis meeting, might be implemented:

- (a) Holding of a seminar in the Arab region on disarmament, with emphasis on the relationship between disarmament and development;
- (b) Dissemination, in the Arabic language, of material on disarmament and/or development etc.

5. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

17. A book entitled Consensus and Peace will soon be published in Arabic and the publication of two other books entitled Obstacles to Disarmament and Ways of Overcoming Them and Arms Control and Disarmament is envisaged.

B. Replies pertaining to economic, financial and technical co-operation for development

1. General

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

18. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs is interested in participating 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.

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

19. Consultations have taken place with regard to signing a memorandum of understanding for co-operation with LAS. A consultant was sent by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) to the League headquarters to advise on a training programme for staff development. It also collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in making recommendations regarding the conversion of the existing Unit of Research and Studies in the the League secretariat to a centre for research on economic, social, legal and management issues. At the request of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department also prepared a project document of management assistance to the League secretariat.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

20. A joint DTCD/UNITAR mission visited the League headquarters in August 1983 to advise on the establishment of (a) a research centre for economic and political studies; and (b) a training institute and/or programmes for staff development.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

21. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has begun implementation of a UNDP-financed project for the development of the Arab League Documentation Centre at Tunis.

2. Trade and development

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

22. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in co-operation with LAS and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), organized a regional seminar for Arab countries on trade and economic co-operation between the Arab countries and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, at Sofia and Moscow, in September/October 1983. A joint study with LAS is planned on the same subject. Moreover, within the technical assistance programme, and in co-operation with the League of Arab States, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and ECWA, a seminar on trade promotion with the socialist countries is being planned for 1985.

23. UNCTAD has sent trade facilitation missions to a number of States members of the League. UNCTAD has also co-operated in the area of money and finance and has supervised the preparation of a study on finance and trade relations among Arab and African countries which was submitted to a seminar on Arab-African trade held at Khartoum. UNCTAD is supervising the execution of a project for the provision of statistical data for the purpose of constructing a commodity balance at the subregional level as well as for individual Arab countries. UNCTAD, in co-operation with the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), has developed a project document covering, *inter alia*, economic co-operation and integration schemes among Arab countries in the context of economic co-operation among developing countries.

24. Regarding further areas of co-operation, the Advisory Service on Transfer of Technology of UNCTAD believes that this could be enhanced through (a) joint advisory services, consultancies and diagnostic studies on overall policies and in specific areas such as food processing and agro-industries, pharmaceuticals, capital goods and industrial machinery, and energy; (b) advisory services on the formulation of laws, regulations and procedures; (c) organization of workshops, working groups, seminars, on-the-job training and in-house training; (d) consultations on implementation of programmes and projects; and (e) regular exchange of data, studies and reports.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

25. The League of Arab States has enjoyed observer status at the sessions of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) since 1957, and it receives all appropriate GATT documentation on a regular basis. The League is also invited to send participants to the GATT training courses in commercial policy. Furthermore, the States members of the League may avail themselves of

technical assistance, which the GATT secretariat provides to the developing countries (whether or not they are members of GATT) in all areas of GATT's activities.

3. Development financing

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

26. The Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development held extensive consultations with the Director-General of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) in Kuwait, in December 1983, on the establishment of a regional water management institute and a workshop on development planning. In April 1984, the Department held further discussions with the Arab Institute of Planning and AFESD regarding joint sponsorship of a planning seminar. The Department is executing a large geological mapping programme for Democratic Yemen and Yemen in collaboration with AFESD.

27. The Department has agreed with the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) to exchange rosters of Arab experts and consultants in financial and monetary fields and to organize training workshops and seminars together. The Fund has requested the assistance of the Department in locating Arabic computer experts to work in the Central Bank in Bahrain and Yemen to help in their programming of commercial bank operations. The Department has agreed to send an interregional adviser to review the computer programs already operating, analyse the requirements, and make specific recommendations regarding the need for a resident adviser.

28. The Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development held discussions with the Director-General of the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation in Kuwait regarding possible collaboration in studies of mineral and petroleum exploitation legislation as well as joint sponsorship of meetings relating to investment promotion.

United Nations Development Programme

29. A meeting was held in New York in May 1984 with the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to discuss the development of water resources. AFESD was informed of its outcome. A follow-up meeting, with the participation of AFESD, is expected to be held later in 1984.

30. A regional project, Water Resource Management (RAB/80/011), for the North Africa region was launched in January 1984. A consultative mission was sent to the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands at Damascus and a project document is nearing completion.

United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

31. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations will make available its expertise in investment negotiation to the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

32. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), together with the Arab National Committees for the International Hydrological Programme, is preparing a water resources assessment of the Arab countries, in co-operation with ECWA and the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands.

World Bank

33. The Economic Development Institute of the World Bank co-sponsored a course with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, "Rural Projects Planning and Appraisal", in July-August 1983 in Amman, Jordan. The Bank plans to co-sponsor with AOAD another course on agricultural projects investment planning and implementation in March 1984, lasting for six weeks.

International Monetary Fund

34. Co-operation between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has proceeded in a fruitful and close manner. The opportunities for joint studies or training in an Arab environment are kept under constant review. IMF has continued to co-operate with the AMF and has supplied it with information subject to its rules of confidentiality.

35. IMF has expanded the training opportunities available for Arab countries. An IMF seminar was held at Cairo in November 1983, in co-operation with the Central Bank of Egypt. In January-February 1984, a senior officer of LAS attended a training course, "Techniques of Economic Analysis", at the IMF Institute in Washington, D.C.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

36. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has completed, or has under implementation, 11 projects relating to water resources, valued at about \$0.5 million, in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

4. Transnational corporations

United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

37. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations is in the process of establishing a comprehensive information system on matters relating to transnational corporations, which will include information on their activities in a number of Arab countries, as well as on the laws, regulations and policies of those countries. Further, the Centre provides assistance to a number of Arab countries for setting up national information systems on matters related to transnational corporations. The Centre will provide further assistance in this area if requested to do so. The Centre also maintains a roster of experts on matters related to transnational corporations and will co-operate in an exchange of related information.

5. Technical co-operation

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

38. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs will provide assistance in the establishment of a regional water management institute and a regional centre in land and hydrographic surveys.

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

39. The Department has held consultations with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) regarding the proposed Arab Centre for Hydrographic and Cartographic Mapping, and a regional remote sensing centre.

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

Economic Commission for Africa

40. A memorandum of understanding on areas of co-operation and co-ordination between ECA and LAS was signed at Tunis in April 1984. Consultations were held, in November 1983, between ECA and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

41. In 1983, ECA recruited a special adviser on Afro-Arab co-operation. The adviser monitors activities in the areas of co-operation between the United Nations and its specialized agencies and LAS in general, and between ECA and LAS in particular.

42. ECA has suggested that special attention should be paid by LAS to the following:

(a) Consideration of the African and joint African-Arab projects by the Arab development funds; allocation of technical and financial assistance for feasibility studies and for the implementation of infrastructural projects in collaboration with ECA; support for general and sectoral economic studies and research;

(b) Food planning, increased food production; support to a subregional research, development and training centre on cereals, root crops and processing technology; schemes for the solar drying of main products in African coastal countries; support to the African network for training and transfer of technology in agro-industries; development of agro- and forest-based industries; promotion of exchange in wood products and wood processing;

(c) Systematic survey of water resources and their full exploitation;

(d) Development of iron and steel, copper and aluminium industries; support to the African Regional Centre for Engineering Designing and Manufacturing as well as to the African Regional Centre for Industries, Consultancy and Management Services;

(e) Promotion of trade between the African and Arab countries; establishment of a sea link between North African, West African, East African and the Gulf States; expansion of trade in Africa at the regional, subregional and national levels;

(f) Programmes for the development of innovation in housing.

Economic Commission for Western Asia

43. In accordance with the already concluded Memorandum of Understanding, ECWA is expanding co-operation with Arab regional and subregional organizations. Discussions were held between the Executive Secretary of ECWA and the Arab Fund and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) in Kuwait in March 1983. Consultations were also held with the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) in preparation for the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) which was scheduled to be held at Vienna from 2 to 18 August 1984. In addition, advisory services are being provided to the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) in the areas of social science and literacy planning. ECWA also co-sponsored, with the League, the Regional Conference on Population in the Arab World, held at Amman in March 1984, in preparation for the International Conference on Population, held at Mexico City in August 1984. The Regional Conference adopted the Amman Declaration on Population in the Arab World, which represents the common position of the Arab countries on the main issues planned for discussion at the Conference in Mexico.

44. A memorandum of understanding was signed between ECWA and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development on 24 April 1984.

7. Energy

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

45. The Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development also held consultations with officials of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) in Kuwait in December 1983. It was agreed that information on energy programmes relating to conventional as well as new and renewable sources of energy could be exchanged. The Department co-operated with OAPEC in the organization of a training seminar, "Negotiation of Petroleum Agreements in Developing Countries", at the Development Law Institute at Rome. The Department has agreed to collaborate with the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development in an assessment of mini-hydro, geothermal and solar energy potential in a number of Arab States; these reports are being prepared for the Arab Energy Conference. The Department will participate in the Arab Energy Conference and in other OAPEC symposia of relevance to the Department.

8. Minerals

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

46. On 21 October 1983, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources (AOMR) signed a memorandum of co-operation. The Department participated in the AOMR Conference on Oil Shale and Tar Sands and agreed to co-sponsor the Seminar on Phosphates in the Arab World, held in Morocco in July 1984. The Department will participate in the Fifth Arab Congress on Mineral Resources, to take place in November 1984, and has agreed to contribute to the sectoral study on phosphate. The Department has sent a technical adviser to AOMR to discuss the creation of a regional Arab training centre for mining technicians and will send an expert to advise on the establishment of an Arab mineral resources data bank. Consultations took place in 1984 with the Arab Mining Company regarding assistance for laboratories and other possible joint projects. The Department has also provided advice on the creation of an Arab revolving fund for mineral exploration to AOMR, the Arab Mining Company, and AFESD.
47. The Department has under discussion with AFESD a number of geological projects as well as a regional training centre for mining technicians.

United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

48. The Centre on Transnational Corporations conducts studies on the activities of transnational corporations with regard to specific minerals. The objectives of these studies are: to further understand the transnational corporation activities in each case, to strengthen the negotiation capacity of host Governments in dealing with them, and to assist Governments in devising appropriate national policies in dealing with transnational corporations. The Centre also provides advisory services on request.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

49. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization will provide assistance to the Area Organization for Mineral Resources through studies identifying consumption possibilities for anticipated production and in assessing facts and trends in copper, as well as through technical expertise.

9. Industrial development

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

50. During 1983, co-operation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the League of Arab States continued to centre on strengthening industrial institutional infrastructure, promoting new industries, improving the performance of existing industries and developing industrial manpower at all levels. The value of technical assistance projects executed by UNIDO in the Arab region in 1983 amounted to \$11.9 million.

51. Following the Tunis meeting, secretariat contacts with the League have been strengthened. The Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States, stationed at Vienna, is accredited to UNIDO. UNIDO organized a training programme for the secretariat staff of LAS in the field of personnel administration and financial services in April and June 1984.
52. UNIDO and the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) are co-operating in the preparation of the Sixth Conference on the Industrial Development of Arab States. UNIDO's contribution consists in the preparation of industrial studies on a number of Arab countries for consideration by the ministers of industry of the Arab States at the Conference, including a study on the world demand for petrochemical products and the Arab petrochemical industry, and a techno-economic study on the current situation of the capital goods industry in the Arab region. UNIDO has made available \$214,000 from the United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDF) for these activities.
53. UNIDO is implementing, with AIDO, a project for the establishment and operation of an Arab Regional Packaging Centre, with funding from UNDP and AIDO amounting to \$600,000 each.
54. In a large-scale project jointly undertaken by UNIDO, AIDO, UNDP and FAO, assistance is being provided to the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizer Producers with a budget of \$445,000.
55. Following an exchange of views between UNIDO and AFESD, areas of co-operation in training covering various fields, such as industrial planning, maintenance and repair in the mechanical construction industries, energy management, energy conservation and cement process control, have been identified. Agreement has been reached to organize a group training programme on industrial planning for 25 participants from the Arab region at the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait as a UNIDO project financed by UNIDF. Furthermore, UNIDO contributed to the Arab Conference on Energy, held at Algiers in May 1984, which was organized by AFESD, through a paper entitled "Future energy demand in the industrial sector".
56. With regard to the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), UNIDO has expanded co-operation with the specialized Arab unions and federations affiliated to CAEU, such as the Arab Federation for Textile Industries, the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizer products, the Arab Federation for Engineering Cement and Building Materials, the Arab Federation for Leather Industries, the Arab Federation for Technical Education and the Arab Sugar Federation.
57. UNIDO contributed to the First Arab Conference on Specifications and Standards in Food Industries, held in Abu Dhabi in November 1983, a paper entitled "Some aspects of food canning operations in developing countries". UNIDO and the Arab Federation for Cement and Building Materials are in consultation with regard to a draft memorandum of co-operation which envisages, *inter alia*, the establishment of an Arab Regional Development and Training Centre for the Cement Industry. UNIDO also provides pharmaceutical industry advisory services to the Arab Company for Drugs Industries and Medical Appliances established under the auspices of CAEU.
58. UNIDO has also expanded co-operation with the Arab subregional organizations. In December 1983, UNIDO completed a study, "The resource base for industrialization

in the Gulf Co-operation Council", prepared under a funds-in-trust arrangement. UNIDO also continues to provide technical expertise to the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting.

10. Human settlements

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

59. A draft agreement on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the League of Arab States is expected to be signed soon. The Centre, in consultations with a number of member States of LAS has prepared shelter demonstration projects in connection with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987).

11. Environment

United Nations Environment Programme

60. Consultations between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations were intensified during the last year, and specific measures are in hand to conclude memoranda of understanding with the specialized organizations in the field of environment. The Arab Council of Economic Unity and LAS have issued circulars requesting their specialized organizations to refer to UNEP for co-operation in dealing with environmental problems. Further, UNEP has concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).

61. UNEP participated in the symposium of the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources on Exploitation of Oil Shale and Tar Sands held in April 1984. Further, UNEP will co-operate with the LAS in the proposed symposium on the importance of environment considerations on Arab economic development projects.

United Nations Development Programme

62. In the context of the regional project, "Arid Zones" (RAB/82/003) and range management projects, a meeting was held with the World Bank on 4 June 1984 to agree on the type of activities to be undertaken by the Governments of the region with the participation of the World Bank and FAO as executing agencies. Another meeting was planned with FAO in June in order to discuss another regional project on desertification control and sand dune fixation.

12. Population activities

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

63. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs will provide assistance for the strengthening of the Population Research and Training Unit at the LAS headquarters.

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

64. Since 1979, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has been executing a project of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) of assistance to the Population Research and Training Unit in the Department of Social Affairs of the League. The Department co-operated in the organization of a Pan Arab Conference on Population and Development, held in Jordan in March 1984, and in a training course on population research methodologies held at the Arab Institute of Planning in Kuwait in April 1984 at Tunis.

United Nations Fund for Population Activities

65. In March 1982, the ongoing project, "Population Research and Study Unit in the Arab League" (RMI/78/P05), was approved for 1982 to 1984 for a total amount of \$583,600. Its achievements thus far include (a) the establishment of infrastructure; (b) the assessment of data and the establishment of a population data base; (c) the establishment of a population reference centre; and (d) initial research on international migration which is being continued in 1984. The work plan, includes (a) training courses; (b) participation in the ECWA Regional Conference on Population in the Middle East; and (c) studies on the role of family structure change in economic activities. An allocation of \$257,700 to this project in 1984 is expected.

13. Civil aviation

International Civil Aviation Organization

66. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continues to co-operate closely with the Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC). The President of the Council of ICAO attended the twenty-fifth Assembly of ACAC at Algiers. ACAC was represented by observers at the ICAO Middle East Regional Air Navigation Meeting and in the twenty-fifth session (extraordinary) of the ICAO Assembly. ICAO will provide assistance in the formulation of civil aviation plans and programmes and in the strengthening of civil aviation infrastructure, facilities and services, and promote exchange of technical information and documentation.

14. Maritime transport

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

67. In the area of shipping, UNCTAD is implementing three training projects in Arab States through the TRAINMAR programme. Two projects are for the development of national maritime management in Tunisia and Morocco; the third is for the establishment of two regional training centres. A TRAINMAR course development workshop was organized at Geneva in May 1984 with 14 participants from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Two studies on dry bulk shipping have also been undertaken for Morocco and Tunisia.

United Nations Development Programme

68. Participating Arab States have agreed to contribute \$1.5 million cost-sharing to the project, "Arab Maritime Transport Academy" (RAB/80/008), mainly for the purpose of providing equipment. The UNDP contribution will total \$932,000 for experts and fellowships for the period 1984-1987.

69. The objective of project TRAINMAR (RAB/82/025) is to create two training centres in the field of maritime transport, one in North Africa and another in the Near East region. Activities of the centre for North Africa have started. The location of the other centre remains to be decided.

International Labour Organisation

70. ILO has provided assistance to the Arab Maritime Transport Academy in training for and promotion of safety in port operations.

International Maritime Organization

71. On 17 February 1984, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States signed an agreement of co-operation. The agreement provides for consultations with regard to matters of common interest in the field of maritime transport in the States members of the League and the development and use of shipping in international trade.

72. The services of IMO's interregional adviser in maritime safety administration can be provided to LAS or to its individual member countries on request. Further, IMO, in co-operation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, can provide advice and assistance to member countries of LAS on request, in the formulation of national maritime legislation. The services of IMO's interregional consultants in maritime training (deck and maritime engineering) can be made available on request. The services of IMO's interregional consultants can also be utilized, in conjunction with the resources available at the World Maritime University, for the training of high-level personnel in shipping. IMO's interregional consultant in maritime pollution can also be made available. Furthermore, assistance can be provided, in accordance with procedures which may be agreed between IMO, the League and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and in consultation as necessary with particular members of LAS for the training and placement of Palestinians.

15. Postal services

Universal Postal Union

73. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has developed machinery for close co-operation with the Arab Postal Union (APU) in accordance with resolution C6 of the UPU Executive Council on participation of the restricted unions in the UPU technical assistance programme. Several bilateral meetings have been held to evaluate a bilateral agreement specifying the fields of co-operation.

C. Replies pertaining to food and agriculture

World Food Programme

74. As of 31 March 1984, 51 development projects were in operation in 13 Arab countries, at a total cost of \$667.5 million. These countries are Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. The level of World Food Programme (WFP) assistance to the Arab region from the inception of WFP up to 31 March 1984 amounted to a total of \$1,862,312,870, representing 25.7 per cent of the total aid supplied by WFP to all regions of the world.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

75. Co-operative activities between FAO and the League of Arab States and its subsidiary bodies are based on a formal agreement with LAS and letters of understanding with the subsidiary bodies. By the agreement with LAS, the two organizations agreed to concert their efforts to (a) carry out studies in the field of food and agriculture and disseminate the results of such studies; (b) improve nutritional methods; (c) conserve natural resources; (d) improve the marketing and distribution of agricultural commodities; and (e) promote the development of agricultural credit facilities. Letters of understanding have been exchanged between FAO and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

76. Co-operative arrangements with LAS and its subsidiary bodies cover a wide field. They include conducting regional studies, technical co-operation, agricultural investment, training and exchange of information.

77. Significant studies undertaken on a co-operative basis include a major food security study prepared by AOAD with the assistance of FAO, and studies on agricultural development planning in which FAO is co-operating with CAEU, AOAD and AFESD. FAO assisted AFESD in the preparation of a study on integrated rural development in the least developed Arab countries. FAO co-operated with AOAD in a study on marketing of livestock and meat between East Africa and the Middle East.

78. FAO has regularly participated in ministerial and other high-level meetings organized by LAS. Mutual participation in seminars, workshops and other technical meetings has strengthened collaboration between the two organizations.

79. In the field of technical co-operation, FAO assisted AFESD in preparing a 10-year basic programme for the Sudan, which marks the first step towards a food security policy. FAO is assisting the Arab League Documentation Centre at Tunis in establishing an Arab Food Information Network. Furthermore, FAO has been assisting ACSAD in the assessment of soil degradation and mapping and in the preparation of a seven-year programme in the field of land reclamation and water management. A range land monitoring programme is being developed by FAO in collaboration with ACSAD. FAO participated in the various steps towards formulation of the project

"Transnational Green Belt" of North Africa, sponsored by UNEP and ALECSO. FAO assisted AFESD to study the possibilities for establishing a viable pesticides industry and a pesticides research and development centre in the Arab region. A documentation and information centre in AOAD in Khartoum has been established with FAO technical assistance.

80. In respect of investment in agriculture, the Investment Centre in FAO has been the unit for contact and co-ordination with AFESD and AAAID. There has been co-financing by AFESD of projects prepared by the Investment Centre for other institutions, but closer co-operation has taken place recently with a number of projects being prepared by the Investment Centre at the request of AFESD.

81. The Latakia Forest Ranger's School has trained hundreds of foresters at the technical level. FAO and AOAD have collaborated in holding a number of training courses in the field of animal production and health. FAO, ACSAD and the French International Training Centre for Water Resources Management collaborated in organizing a training course on water resource planning. Collaboration with ACSAD has paved the way for organizing a training course on plant genetic resources and another on irrigation management.

82. In the field of information, close contacts have been established with the Arab League Documentation and Information Centre since its establishment. AOAD and ACSAD have been making use of the services of FAO's library and systems: AGRIS (International Information System for Agricultural Science and Technology) and CARIS (Current Agricultural Research Information System). About 3,000 microfiches of FAO documents were furnished to AOAD. FAO has been providing the statistics computer print-out regularly to AFESD.

83. Ad hoc co-operative activities have also been undertaken with other subsidiary bodies of LAS, such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology and the Arab Industrial Development Organization.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

84. IFAD has been closely co-operating with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and AFESD supervises and administers one third of IFAD's projects in the Near East and North Africa. IFAD provides technical assistance support to two main Arab League organizations involved in agriculture and rural development, namely, the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

D. Replies pertaining to social development, labour matters, human resources and cultural affairs

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

85. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs will co-operate with LAS in the field of social development and social defense, in the activities

related to complementary rural development projects, and in joint action in favour of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

United Nations Children's Fund

86. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to co-operate with LAS in the fields of social development, particularly with regard to the welfare of children and mothers. Active negotiations are currently under way to translate the Charter of the Arab Child, adopted by the Conference on the Arab Child in 1980, into a programme of action. UNICEF is also planning a workshop for representatives of the Arab information media to develop a strategy for benefiting children, with emphasis on ensuring their survival, growth and development.

87. Discussions with LAS are currently being considered for joint sponsorship of programmes of humanitarian assistance to Palestinian children and mothers, a field of assistance in which UNICEF is already actively engaged.

United Nations Development Programme

88. UNDP informed ILO that it will contribute \$1.2 million to the project on labour administration, in addition to cost-sharing to be provided by ILO. The project document is expected to be completed by ILO and the Arab Labour Organization.

International Labour Organisation

89. ILO and the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) are closely co-operating in the launching of two regional projects on employment promotion and labour administration. Further, co-operation with the recently inaugurated ALO Arab Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is under way. Exchange of information in the labour field is ongoing, and collaboration in the production of training materials in Arabic is envisaged. Co-operation with the Arab investment funds to explore human resources implications, especially vocational training and management of investment decisions in economic and social sectors, is being developed. ILO will also welcome intensified joint action in aid of disadvantaged groups and promotion of equality of opportunity for women in employment.

90. Following a mission of ILO from October 1982 to January 1983, a regional symposium was organized by ILO in January 1983, at Geneva, for the promotion of employment in the Arab region, in which representatives of 21 Arab countries, the Palestine Liberation Organization, a number of United Nations organizations and ALO participated.

91. Discussions are in progress with UNDP for the funding of a regional technical co-operation project between ILO and ALO on labour administration.

92. A senior official of the Arab League recently visited the ILO headquarters to study the possibility of expanding technical co-operation. Two specific areas are readily identifiable: (a) a study of employment opportunities; and (b) a seminar for senior Arab officials and researchers on experience in the use of models for promoting projects geared to development.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

93. On 3 December 1983, a tripartite agreement was signed in Kuwait between UNESCO, ALECSO and AFESD, for carrying out a feasibility study on cultural and educational industries in the Arab region. Close co-operation has continued with AFESD, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations, the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands and other concerned organizations associated with the League of Arab States.

World Health Organization

94. As recommended at the Tunis meeting, research in endemic diseases is particularly relevant to the tuberculosis research programme of the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, the proposals relating to the special programmes for the promotion of primary health care, training in planning and programming of health services, and broader exchange of information are important to WHO's programme for the strengthening of health services. Also, since 1976, WHO has had an extensive programme for Arabic publications on health. In the establishment and development of this programme, WHO has collaborated closely with the Council of Arab Ministers of Health. WHO is engaged in joint planning and consultations with the newly established Arab Centre for Health Documentation and Publications. WHO has approached all Arab and European States to initiate or strengthen technical co-operation through the Mediterranean Zoonosis Control Programme.

95. As regards improvement in the supply of drinking water, WHO has been in contact with various Arab financing agencies, notably AFESD and BADEA.

96. A meeting was held between WHO and the Committee established by the Council of Health Ministers of the members of LAS at Geneva on 9 May 1984, and the following areas of future co-operation between the Council and WHO were selected:

- (a) Essential drugs and vaccines;
- (b) Information and health education;
- (c) Health legislation;
- (d) Support of the regional Arabic programme.

International Atomic Energy Agency

97. The International Atomic Energy Agency has 16 projects, costing at about \$1.5 million, related to health care programmes to be carried out within the framework of the WHO overall policy of "Health for All by the Year 2000" in eight Arab countries, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

World Intellectual Property Organization

98. Following a meeting between the Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on 9 August 1983, at Tunis, WIPO sent to the League a draft memorandum on co-operation between the two organizations.

99. Following the meetings, held at Tunis on 10 August and at Geneva on 31 August 1983, respectively, between the Director-General of WIPO and the Director-General of ALECSO, a working agreement regulating co-operation between the two organizations was signed by the two directors-general on 31 August 1983. The WIPO co-ordination committee approved the agreement during its September 1983 session.

100. WIPO attended the first meeting of the Arab Committee for the Protection of Copyright at Tunis in November 1983. Further, WIPO invited ALECSO to several of its meetings on copyright and neighbouring rights as well as an international conference organized by WIPO at its headquarters on the situation of inventors in May 1984.

101. The Director-General of WIPO met the Secretary-General of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) at Tunis on 10 August 1983. A joint WIPO/ASBU seminar on copyright and neighbouring rights for Arab countries was held at the WIPO headquarters in May 1984.

E. Replies pertaining to refugees, disaster prevention and emergency relief, and human rights

1. Refugees

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

102. At the invitation of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the High Commissioner visited the headquarters of the League at Tunis from 4 to 8 April 1984, and held fruitful discussions with the Secretary-General on matters of common interest, in particular, the ways and means to strengthen co-operation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and LAS.

103. UNHCR, in co-operation with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, organized a seminar for Arab experts on asylum and refugee law in the Arab countries from 16 to 19 January 1984 at San Remo. The League was represented at this seminar. The seminar adopted a number of conclusions including one supporting the strengthening of co-operation between the League and the Office of the High Commissioner.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

104. The maintenance of services performed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is dependent on voluntary contributions from the international community. UNRWA has for many years faced severe financial problems. Member States of the League of Arab States, bilaterally and through intergovernmental organizations, are among the traditional donors to

UNRWA, and this agency has periodically received much support from LAS in its fund-raising efforts.

105. The host Governments of the Palestine refugees in UNRWA's area of operations - Egypt (which "administered" the Gaza Strip from 1948 to 1967), Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic - are among the 10 members of the UNRWA Advisory Commission.

106. UNRWA maintains regular contacts with LAS and its offices in Vienna and Washington. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA has held fruitful discussions on several occasions with the Secretary-General of LAS.

107. Information material is sent regularly to the secretariat of LAS as well as to its member States in Arabic, English and French. UNRWA also provides the radio and television stations of the member States of the League with programmes on the Palestine refugees and UNRWA's activities. Photographic coverage and comprehensive photo exhibits have been displayed and distributed throughout the Arab world, drawing attention to the plight of the Palestine people. The Department of Information of UNRWA makes regular visits to the Gulf States and to the secretariat of LAS to exchange information.

2. Disaster prevention and emergency relief

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

108. Follow-up action on the specific recommendations has been initiated for disaster prevention and emergency relief. Liaison officers from the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) and from the League of Arab States have been designated and are in regular contact; briefings and visits have been undertaken. Moreover, representatives of LAS and of Arab countries participated in UNDRO's Mobile Disaster Unit meeting, held at Geneva during May 1984. Contacts were also established with Arab representatives, at the ministerial and other levels, involved in disaster relief and preparedness. Further, agreement has been reached to hold a joint UNDRO/LAS seminar on disaster preparedness by the end of 1984 at Tunis.

3. Human rights

Centre for Human Rights

109. The Centre for Human Rights, on 21 December 1983, addressed a letter to the LAS secretariat reiterating its readiness to engage in consultations on human rights matters and expressing particular interest in the progress of the regional instrument on human rights under preparation within the League. The Centre also dispatched to the secretariat a set of the most recent United Nations documents on human rights. Further, an invitation to LAS to send observers to meetings of United Nations human rights organs was renewed. Moreover, LAS was invited to participate in an informal consultative meeting of representatives of human rights secretariats and to contribute to a forthcoming United Nations seminar on the question of religious freedom and tolerance.

110. The League was represented by an observer at the fortieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, who participated in the deliberations on relevant items. The League has also been invited, and has offered its views on, various topics on which United Nations human rights organs have requested that regional intergovernmental organizations be consulted.

F. Replies pertaining to information and communication

Department of Public Information

111. The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) at Tunis has been strengthened and a full-time director has been appointed. Further, consultations are continuing with the LAS officials for holding a symposium for representatives of Arab mass media on the role of information in development.

International Telecommunication Union

112. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will, within the framework of the MEDARABTEL project, continue to organize joint technical seminars with the Arab Telecommunications Union (ATU), as was done in 1983. In this context, the general policy of strengthening the South-South co-operation is being followed.

113. ITU has provided lecturers to several technical meetings and symposia sponsored by the Arab States Broadcasting Union. Further, as in other regions, UNDP/ITU projects give priority to human resources development. Also, when hiring experts for service in the Arab States, under equal conditions of experience and qualifications, preference is given to experts from the Arab region.

114. An Arabic language section has been created for extending the use of Arabic, in publications and service documents of ITU and from 1 January 1984, Arabic has become one of the six official languages of the Union.

IV. PROPOSED MEETING ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE ARAB REGION

115. In paragraph 9 of resolution 38/6, the General Assembly requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider holding a meeting on food and agriculture in the Arab region to consider action to be taken and projects to be launched jointly pursuant to the recommendations adopted at the Tunis meeting of June/July 1983. It is understood that consultations have taken place on this matter between FAO, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development in the light of which a meeting will be held on 27 and 28 September 1984 at FAO headquarters at Rome. The subject of the meeting will be "Co-operation in food and agriculture in the Arab region".

V. PROPOSED MEETING ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

116. In paragraph 10 of resolution 38/6, the General Assembly recommended that another sectoral meeting on social development should be organized, in January/February 1985, under the sponsorship of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, in a country member of that organization, to give careful consideration to projects prepared for joint implementation, in conformity with the priorities set forth in paragraph 61 and 62 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/299 and Corr.1), including joint sectoral meetings. It is understood that the League secretariat has initiated preparatory action for the meeting.
