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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1 - 3	4
II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS .....	4 - 10	4
III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND THE SECRETARIATS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM .....	11 - 20	6
IV. CO-OPERATION IN THE POLITICAL FIELD .....	21 - 31	8
A. International peace and security .....	21 - 22	8
B. Decolonization and <u>apartheid</u> .....	23 - 26	8
C. Outer space .....	27 - 28	9
D. Disarmament .....	29 - 31	9

\* A/39/150.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
V. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT .....	32 - 83	10
A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat .....	32 - 34	10
B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat .....	35 - 38	10
C. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations .....	39	11
D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific .	40	11
E. Economic Commission for Africa .....	41 - 43	11
F. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development .....	44 - 48	12
G. United Nations Industrial Development Organization .....	49	12
H. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) ...	50	13
I. United Nations Development Programme .....	51 - 52	13
J. World Food Programme .....	53 - 54	13
K. United Nations Fund for Population Activities .....	55 - 56	14
L. United Nations University .....	57 - 58	14
M. United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women .....	59	14
N. International Labour Organization .....	60	15
O. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations .	61 - 66	15
P. United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization .....	67 - 69	16
Q. International Civil Aviation Organization .....	70 - 71	16
R. World Bank .....	72 - 75	16
S. International Monetary Fund .....	76 - 78	19
T. International Maritime Organization .....	79 - 80	19

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
U. World Intellectual Property Organization .....	81	19
V. International Atomic Energy Agency .....	82	20
W. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade .....	83	20
VI. PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTIONS BY THE ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR CO-OPERATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE .....	84 - 103	20
A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	85 - 90	20
B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development .....	91	21
C. United Nations Development Programme .....	92 - 99	22
D. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	100 - 101	24
E. International Telecommunications Union .....	102	25
F. International Atomic Energy Agency .....	103	25

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 38/4 of 28 October 1983, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/500) and approved the conclusions reached and the recommendations made at the first annual meeting between the representatives of the secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, held at Geneva on 15 July 1983 (see A/38/500, paras. 23-32).
2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue co-operation in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and the establishment of a new international economic order. The Assembly further encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, inter alia, by negotiating co-operation agreements, and inviting them to designate focal points concerning co-operation in priority areas of interest to the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields and to report to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the state of co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
3. The present report deals with the measures taken to implement the above-mentioned provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/4. Section II provides a brief account of the consultations between the representatives of the two organizations and their representation at meetings. Section III deals with the follow-up action of the first annual meeting between the two organizations. Sections IV and V set out the developments in regard to co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and section VI is comprised of proposals and suggestions made by the secretariats of various United Nations organizations and agencies for future co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

## II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

4. On 11 October 1983, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations and discussed the state of co-operation between the two organizations. During the course of their discussions, they exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon. They also discussed the other questions relating to international

peace and security, including a number of regional issues and conflicts that were of particular concern to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its member States, namely the question of Palestine, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Afghanistan. Further they reviewed the situation in southern Africa, with special emphasis on Namibia. They also discussed the question of disarmament in the context of current East-West tensions.

5. The Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held their annual co-ordination meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 10 October 1983. At the invitation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization, represented the Secretary-General at the co-ordinating meeting and delivered his message. During the meeting, the Foreign Ministers reviewed the current international situation and examined in particular, questions of interest to member States of the Islamic Conference which were on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly. The items on the agenda which were highlighted in the discussions were the question of Palestine, the situation in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Afghanistan.

6. At the invitation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Secretary-General of the United Nations attended the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference held at Casablanca from 16 to 19 January 1984 (see A/39/131-S/16414 and Corr.1). He delivered an address at the Conference on 16 January.

7. During his visit to Casablanca, the Secretary-General also met with several heads of State or Government attending the Summit and exchanged views on matters of common interest, particularly those regional questions which were of concern to member States of the Organization.

8. Earlier, in response to the invitation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the host Government, a special representative of the Secretary-General attended the fourteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Dhaka from 6 to 10 December 1983.

9. During the period covered by this report, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system were consistently represented at the meetings of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Likewise, the Organization was represented at the meetings of the United Nations bodies. There were also regular visits from both sides for consultations on matters of mutual interest.

10. As in the previous year, consultations and exchanges of view took place on a continuing basis between the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations and the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization which continued to be the focal point within the Secretariat on all issues relating to co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND THE SECRETARIATS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

11. The first annual meeting between representatives of the general secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the secretariats of the United Nations system, which took place at Geneva in July 1983, provided a forum for consideration of those areas of potential co-operation where more than one organization of the United Nations system was involved (see A/38/500, paras. 8-34).

12. It may be recalled that the meeting designated lead agencies for each of the five priority areas of co-operation, namely: the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, assisted by the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, for science and technology; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), for investment mechanisms and joint ventures; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), for assistance to refugees; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), for food security and agriculture; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for eradication of illiteracy. As recommended by the meeting, the lead agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference have designated focal points so as to facilitate contact and communications between the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

13. In accordance with the recommendations of the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, during its fifth session, held at FAO headquarters from 17 to 19 January 1984, considered the action that would be required to fulfil the responsibilities assigned to it as the lead agency for science and technology, assisted by the Centre for Science and Technology for Development. The Task Force decided that the Chairman could examine on its behalf the proposals of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and those made by other organizations and bodies in their fields of competence. The Task Force agreed that the individual organizations that had established or would establish direct contact with the general secretariat of the Organization should keep the Centre fully informed. The co-operation and assistance of the Islamic Foundation for Science and Technology for Development (IFSTAD) should be sought to finance some of the joint activities formulated by the Task Force. The Executive Director of the Centre was requested to visit the concerned bodies of the Organization such as IFSTAD, in this connection. The Task Force agreed that its Chairman should also be prepared to visit the general secretariat of the Organization, if necessary, in order to further explore the possibilities of closer collaboration.

14. Pursuant to the decision of the Task Force, the Executive Director of the Centre visited Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 14 May 1984 and held consultations with the Director-General of IFSTAD. He transmitted draft project documents of joint activities, with a request that they be appraised by the Islamic Foundation and any specific interest in one or more of the joint activities be communicated to the

Task Force. The two officials tentatively agreed that co-operation could, in the initial stage, be confined to small but important areas such as a review of national budgets of some selected member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in relation to their impact on strengthening their capabilities in science and technology. A report on this subject will be submitted at the next meeting of the Task Force, to be held from 29 to 31 January 1985.

15. In accordance with the recommendations of the first Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at Ankara in October 1981, and as a follow-up action on the conclusions and recommendations of the first annual meeting between that Organization and the United Nations (see para.1), which, among other things, envisaged sectoral meetings, a working group on agricultural co-operation met at FAO headquarters from 17 to 19 April 1984. It was attended by nine member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, by representatives of the Organization's general secretariat, by the Ankara based Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) and FAO.

16. The representative of the general secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference introduced a background note which listed the studies undertaken and summarized their progress. The note also highlighted the decision of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference (A/39/131-S/16414, annex III) to include food security and agriculture among six priority areas under the Plan of Action to strengthen economic co-operation. The Director of the Ankara Centre submitted a document entitled "Food and Agriculture in Organization of the Islamic Conference countries 1971-1981".

17. In addition to comments and suggestions on each of the studies. FAO offered to assist in the completion of the studies and gave assurances that requests from member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for assistance under the Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) of FAO would be favourably considered.

18. The working group emphasized the need for a priority programme for the preparation and completion of various studies. It also recommended a list of short-term studies. The group also noted with appreciation the proposal of FAO to include in its programme of work a new study on "Land Fragmentation in the member States" and recommended that it be submitted to the appropriate fora of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for consideration.

19. In view of the ongoing follow-up action and the need to complete such action in all the five priority areas of co-operation, it was agreed through consultations with the general secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, that the next joint meeting between representatives of that Organization and the United Nations system should be held when the follow-up to the first meeting had been completed and ground had been prepared for further discussions between the two sides.

20. In December 1983, the Fourteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (see para. 11) adopted a resolution on "Co-operation between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations" (A/39/133-S/16417, resolution 28/14-P), by which it, inter alia, approved the conclusions and recommendations of the first

annual meeting of representatives of the general secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with those of the secretariats of the United Nations and other United Nations agencies and requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue his efforts for the strengthening of co-operation and co-ordination between the two organizations in furtherance of mutual interests in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

#### IV. CO-OPERATION IN THE POLITICAL FIELD

##### A. International peace and security

21. The Fourteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, and the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference reaffirmed earlier decisions and undertook new initiatives with regard to various aspects of the question of Palestine, the situation in the Middle East, the conflict between Iran and Iraq and the situation in Afghanistan, as well as other political issues with which the United Nations is also currently involved (A/39/131-S/16414 and A/39/133-S/16417).

22. During the period under review, co-operation between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs was marked by the continued exchange of information on political questions and by informal consultations as the occasion warranted. The Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations continued to transmit to the Department pertinent reports and resolutions adopted by that Organization on questions relating to political and security matters. The Political Affairs Division of the Department carefully studied these documents and made use of them in the preparation of relevant political analyses and background papers. The Department felt that co-operation could be further strengthened through a regular flow of appropriate information on efforts by the Organization to resolve regional, political and security issues, as well as on current conflicts and potential disputes among its member States.

##### B. Decolonization and apartheid

23. The Organization of the Islamic Conference continued to extend its full support to General Assembly and other United Nations resolutions on Namibia and South Africa. At the Fourteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference, the Organization with reference to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, reaffirmed its recognition of the legitimacy and just nature of the struggle being waged by the people of South Africa and Namibia by all available means at their disposal, including armed struggle, to free themselves from colonial domination, racist oppression and apartheid. The Organization urged the Security Council of the United Nations to impose wide-ranging and mandatory sanctions against South Africa, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The Organization called upon member States to increase substantially their support for the national liberation movements of Namibia and South Africa. The Organization also urged member States to encourage the opening and establishment, in their



respective capitals, of offices representing the national liberation movements of Namibia and South Africa and grant them the privileges and immunities necessary for the accomplishment of their mission.

24. An Inter-Faith Colloquium on Apartheid, co-sponsored by the Special Committee against Apartheid, was held in London from 5 to 8 March 1984. Several Muslim non-governmental organizations took an active part in the proceedings of the colloquium. Among these organizations were the Muslim World League and the Islamic Council of Europe which have observer status with the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

25. That Organization was invited to attend a Conference on Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in South Africa which was held in 1984 at the headquarters of the League of Arab States (LAS). This Conference was organized by the Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with LAS.

26. During the period under review, the Centre against Apartheid continued to maintain liaison with the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations and provided his office with publicity material issued by the Centre in Arabic, English and French.

#### C. Outer space

27. The Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs continued its co-operation with States Members of the United Nations, many of whom are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, particularly by bringing to their attention the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82).

28. Member States have been requested to nominate candidates for 1984/85 long-range fellowships being offered under the auspices of the United Nations Space Applications Programme, for satellite communications: remote sensing; and meteorology. Nominations have also been requested for participation in United Nations International Training Courses on Remote Sensing Applications in forestry, in Moscow (May 1984); and aquaculture, in Rome in September 1984 in co-operation with FAO and the Government of Italy.

#### D. Disarmament

29. As in the past, the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat continued co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in particular by listing, as appropriate, under various disarmament agenda items of the General Assembly, resolutions adopted by that Organization.

30. The Department has expressed its willingness to extend to that Organization, at its request, any assistance aimed at enhancing its disarmament activities including its efforts to work for the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions.

31. Under the programmes of the World Disarmament Campaign, the Organization of the Islamic Conference can have some input into the seminars held in various parts of the world.

V. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs  
of the Secretariat

32. In the past, the activities of the Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis of the Department have included the collection of basic economic and social data on the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the analysis of certain derived indicators relating to the measurement of general economic activity. A time series of specially generated data on these countries covering the years 1960-1981 has been provided to the general secretariat of the Organization and the Office will continue to monitor economic development in the countries as part of its current work programme.

33. Ongoing work involves several studies on the subject of economic co-operation among developing countries, including one by the Projections and Perspective Studies Branch of the Department on the potential for greater co-operation in the field of trade and finance, which should be of interest to member States of the Islamic Conference. Likewise, the recently completed study on "Recent Experience in Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and Possibilities for Progress in the 1980s", 1/ is also available to member States. Furthermore, possibilities for co-operation at the substantive level similar to recent meetings between staff members of the Office and economists from LAS will continue to be explored.

34. The Statistical Office of the Department exchanges information on a regular basis with SESRTCIC and has reviewed with the Centre programmes of mutual interest in the development of socio-economic statistics and indicators.

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development  
of the Secretariat

35. The Department used the occasion of the meeting between the secretariats of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to discuss possible joint projects with IFSTAD and SESRTCIC. IFSTAD and the Department agreed to collaborate in an assessment of mini-hydro, geothermal and solar energy potential in member States of the Islamic Conference. SESRTCIC was interested in a proposed mineral project evaluation workshop as well as a number of national planning projects. In January 1984, an official of the Department visited the Ankara Centre to discuss the workshop as well as other possibilities of collaboration. Considerable documentation has been exchanged and the Department has agreed to participate in a number of SESRTCIC training programmes.

36. In October 1983, following a mission to prepare a renewable energy project in Somalia, a technical adviser from the Department held consultations with the Director-General of IFSTAD at Jeddah regarding a collaborative programme of project

identification missions and joint approaches to funding agencies. It was agreed that joint programming missions between the Department and IFSTAD be sent to Morocco, Niger, Pakistan and Bangladesh in 1984.

37. A senior official of the Department attended the Tenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs held at Jeddah in October 1983. He was able to brief officials of the Organization about the Department's activities in the Islamic Conference member States, its collaboration with various Arab funds and organizations and its inter-regional programme which might be of interest to that Organization.

38. The Department stands ready to participate to the maximum extent possible in the technical co-operation and training activities of that Organization and its institutions. The Department has agreed to co-operate in the areas of food security and agriculture, the development of science and technology, mechanisms for investments and joint ventures. It is expected that several joint projects with IFSTAD and SESRTCIC will be operating in 1985.

#### C. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

39. The Centre has had considerable contact with some of the individual member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the course of the Centre's regular technical advisory activities. It hopes that through the steps it has now initiated a memorandum of understanding on co-operation between that Organization and the Centre can be concluded this year.

#### D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

40. ESCAP, which had earlier initiated correspondence with the Organization of the Islamic Conference on possible avenues for co-operation between the two organizations, designated its Technical Co-operation Division as its focal point for co-operation activities with the Organization.

#### E. Economic Commission for Africa

41. Co-operation between ECA and the Organization of the Islamic Conference has not hitherto been formalized but ECA has suggested that an agreement could be entered into with that Organization and its specialized agencies.

42. ECA is prepared to submit concrete proposals and suggestions on activities to be undertaken on Afro-Islamic co-operation.

43. In order to meet the priorities in the African Region defined in the Strategy of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa (A/S-11/14, annex I), efforts will be intensified to establish direct consultations between ECA and the Islamic Conference in selecting, elaborating and implementing regional projects which also concern the Organization.

F. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

44. A draft co-operation agreement between the UNCTAD secretariat and the general secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference has already been mutually agreed between the two secretariats. For a deeper and more stable basis of co-operation, a formal agreement will be signed by the Secretaries-General of the two organizations on a date mutually acceptable to them.

45. During the period under review, the UNCTAD secretariat was represented at (a) the tenth session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held at Jeddah from 2 to 5 October 1983; and (b) the eighth annual meeting of the Governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), held at Jeddah from 2 to 5 March 1984.

46. The Trade Information Service (TIS) of UNCTAD has established a close working relationship with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT). TIS, in co-operation with ICTD, has prepared a technical study aimed at the formulation of a trade co-operation programme of ICTD member countries. The study, entitled "Foreign Trade Policy and Performance of the member Countries of the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade", is currently being translated into Arabic and French by ICTD. Moreover, TIS will advise ICTD on the development of a comprehensive trade information unit and will provide basic data input. TIS will also assist ICTD in the harmonization of foreign trade statistics.

47. In October 1983, UNCTAD arranged a short training programme through its Division for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, for a group of experts from IsDB, covering the following areas: (a) data requirements of a trade information system, data processing and analysis; (b) data coding and classification; (c) documentation; and (d) trade information tools and services.

48. As a follow-up action to the first annual meeting between the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, UNCTAD initiated consultations and contacts with a view to evolving co-operative action in the field of technology transfer, utilization and development. Specific areas for co-operation have already been identified and consultations are now under way towards defining the precise nature, scope and modalities of co-operation. This is being handled by the Advisory Service on Transfer of Technology of UNCTAD.

G. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

49. Following the recommendations of the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference, UNIDO has established within its secretariat, a Task Force for co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the area of investment mechanisms and joint ventures with the following terms of reference:

(a) To identify the substantive input of UNIDO into the co-operative effort of the Organizations of the United Nations system and the Islamic Conference in this area and to make recommendations for action to the Executive Director;

(b) To devise the necessary procedure to ensure the gathering of information on the substantive input of the other interested agencies of the United Nations system;

(c) To ensure the necessary co-ordination and to provide the required support to the secretariat unit designated as focal point on behalf of UNIDO as a lead agency within the United Nations system of Organizations for co-operation with the Islamic Conference in the area of investment mechanisms and joint ventures.

#### H. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

50. Habitat has exchanged letters and relevant documentation, including a draft agreement on co-operation with the secretariat of the Islamic Conference, with a view to initiating co-operation in specific areas of mutual interest. The draft agreement includes suggested modalities and mechanisms for co-operation and for the monitoring of projects which may be mutually agreed upon for implementation by the two organizations. Habitat expects to receive the views of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the proposed draft agreement in the near future.

#### I. United Nations Development Programme

51. In keeping with the recommendations of the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference and in line with General Assembly resolution 38/4, representatives of UNDP and the Islamic Conference held discussions which focused on concrete possibilities for co-operation between the two organizations. The representatives held discussions in October 1983 and March 1984 at the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on prospects for co-financing technical projects and, specifically, for the training of officials in the region on trade promotion matters. They requested resident co-ordinators in the individual member States of the Islamic Conference to contact the respective Governments to call to their attention the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/4.

52. Since the inception of the joint project between UNDP and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development on promotion of action-oriented activities of the Department, in October 1983, 27 out of the 41 member States of the Islamic Conference have already benefited from it, either through the exchange of trainees between them or between them and other developing countries, in different fields of activity.

#### J. World Food Programme

53. In accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference, WFP has designated the Director of the Division of External Relations and General Services as its focal point for co-operation with the Islamic Conference in food-aid matters.

54. In its bilateral co-operation with the member States of that Organization, WFP purchased, with the money made available to it by Kuwait, 52,285 tons of grain and transported it to 10 countries in the Sahel region: Burkina Faso\*, Cape Verde, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.

K. United Nations Fund for Population Activities

55. UNFPA participated in the first annual meeting between the agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and described some areas where co-operation between UNFPA and the Islamic Conference could be developed, namely studies of population-related factors in the planning and establishment of food reserve systems, eradication of illiteracy and assistance to refugees.

56. Consultations between UNFPA and the Islamic Conference resulted, in 1983, in an exchange of information and publications between UNFPA and SESRTCIC. UNFPA is expected to contribute technical assistance by providing consultants to conduct a training course on population census techniques, which will be organized by the Centre in November 1984.

L. United Nations University

57. UNU was represented at the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference and expressed considerable interest in extending its co-operation to the Islamic Conference in research, training and dissemination activities especially within the areas of food and agriculture, and in the development of science and technology.

58. UNU, within its programme area on regional perspectives, carries out a project on alternative Arab futures. The objective of this project is to identify the main trends governing Arab development today and to investigate likely behaviour in the future, taking into account recent changes affecting the Arab world. The project aims at the identification of possible images of the future of the Arab world which may help in reassessing and reformulating current and medium-term policies in the evolution of social attitudes and values. The Islamic Conference has taken considerable interest in this project and has provided, to date, approximately \$US 40,000 in support of the project. It is expected that research on this subject and in the other research areas of the project will be completed at the end of 1984 and a summary report produced in late 1985.

M. United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

59. At present, INSTRAW has no established areas of co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, but could consider such co-operation in the

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\* As of 4 August 1984 the name has been changed from Upper Volta.

future. As a first step towards such co-operation it would send to the Organization relevant information on its work programme.

#### N. International Labour Organisation

60. Co-operation between ILO and the Islamic Conference has continued mainly in the form of the exchange of information and documentation. Bilateral consultations were held after the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference and further co-operation is being examined in the fields of social security and in vocational training with particular reference to the Vocational Training Centre of the Islamic Conference at Dhaka. ILO has designated its Bureau of Technical Co-operation as the focal point for co-operation with the Islamic Conference.

#### O. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

61. Co-operation between FAO and the Organization of the Islamic Conference has continued to grow in strength. Steps have been taken to follow-up the conclusions of the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference. FAO co-ordinated the meeting of the Working Group on agricultural co-operation and attended the eighth annual meeting of the Board of Governors of IsDB held at Jeddah, on 3 and 4 March 1984. FAO is also implementing a project financed by the IsDB, namely "Integrated Rural Development Project in the Khawlan Region" in Yemen Arab Republic. FAO hopes to implement similar projects in other Islamic Conference member States, to be financed by IsDB.

62. An appraisal mission from the Kuwait Fund, with the participation of FAO, visited Guinea-Bissau in January 1984 and discussed with government authorities a project on land reclamation for rice production in the Tombali region. It is now expected that Kuwait will approve the project for \$US 4.4 million within the framework of the Islamic Solidarity Fund and will request, as suggested by the Government of Guinea-Bissau, that FAO execute this project.

63. The Director of the Arab Planning Institute, Kuwait, visited Rome late in 1983, during which time the collaboration of FAO, SESTRIC and the Arab Planning Institute was discussed in the preparation of the training programme which was held in Kuwait during March 1984. As part of the programme, FAO staff lectured on such topics as organization of agricultural marketing, income and price policies, buffer stock policies, export and import policies.

64. FAO further collaborated with the Organizations, particularly with SESRTCIC regarding the Inter-Linked Computerized Storage and Processing System of Food and Agriculture Commodity Data (ICS) and the possibilities of making available to them data on magnetic tapes.

65. FAO participated in the expert group meeting on forestry of member States of the Organization, which was held at Peshawar, Pakistan from 27 to 29 March 1983. Subsequently in September 1983, a delegation from SESTRIC visited Rome to discuss

further collaboration in this field. They also discussed constraints to forestry development. It was agreed that FAO would continue to assist the Organization in assembling statistics related to forestry, and provide training to develop the capability of the Islamic Conference in the collection and interpretation of statistical material.

66. In September and December 1983, a number of senior officers from SESRTCIC visited the FAO library and saw the work being carried out by the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) and the Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS). These officers were advised that FAO could supply, on request, the data they might require from the FAO/AGRIS base.

#### P. United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization

67. UNESCO continued to expand its co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the fields of education, science and technology, social science, culture and communication. Following the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference, UNESCO provided the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) with documentation on inter-governmental, non-governmental and professional organizations which were committed to the improvement of literacy rates.

68. UNESCO designated its Assistant Director-General for Co-operation for Development and External Relations as its focal point. It has invited IFSTAD to visit UNESCO headquarters in order to define the different aspects of co-operation, but the visit has not yet taken place.

69. UNESCO also has had several contacts with the Islamic News Agency and the Islamic States Broadcasting Service Organization (ISBO). A number of communication projects submitted either by countries or organizations of the Islamic Conference have been approved and partially or entirely financed by the International Programme for the Development of Communication.

#### Q. International Civil Aviation Organization

70. ICAO participated in the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference and in accordance with the recommendations of the meeting designated the Chief of its External Relations Office as its focal point for co-operation between ICAO and the Islamic Conference.

71. ICAO is at present executing several technical assistance projects in countries members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

#### R. World Bank

72. The World Bank continues to co-operate with development-oriented institutions affiliated with the Islamic Conference. There has been extensive co-operation in



co-financing between the World Bank and IsDB to which the World Bank over the years has provided extensive technical assistance. During the year under review, IsDB co-financed two projects with the World Bank, contributing \$US 16.8 million to the World Bank's \$US 36.0 million. Since the start of co-financing activities with the World Bank, IsDB has co-financed 13 projects, providing \$US 117.9 million to complement World Bank loans of \$US 446.2 million as follows:

Table 1

Projects co-financed by the World Bank and IsDB

(Millions of United States dollars)

Country	Project	Fiscal year	IBRD <u>a/</u>	IDA <u>b/</u>	IsDB
Bangladesh	Chittagong fertilizer	1981/82		15.0	16.0
Cameroon	Highways V	1981/82	70.0	-	6.0
Democratic Yemen	Wadi Hadramawt power	1977/78	-	5.0	5.0
	Greater Aden water supply	1979/80	-	13.2	5.5
Egypt	Suez Canal expansion	1977/78	100.0	-	12.0
Jordan	Arab potash production	1978/79	35.0	-	12.1
	Fifth power	1981/82	35.0	-	11.0
	Water supply V	1982/83	17.0	-	7.8
Mauritania	Guelbs iron ore	1979/80	60.0	-	10.0
	Gorgol irrigation project	1980/81	-	15.0	6.0
Pakistan	Fauji fertilizer	1978/79	-	55.0	10.0
Somalia	Highways III	1976/77	-	7.0	7.5
Yemen	Power III	1982/83	-	19.0	9.0
	Total		317.0	129.2	117.9

a/ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

b/ International Development Association.

Table 2

Total expenditure on projects co-financed by the World Bank  
 and IsDB, 1976/77-1982/83

(Millions of United States dollars)

Fiscal year	IBRD/IDA	IsDB	No. of operations
1976/77	7.0	7.5	1
1977/78	105.0	17.0	2
1978/79	90.0	22.1	2
1979/80	73.2	15.5	2
1980/81	15.0	6.0	1
1981/82	120.0	33.0	3
1982/83	<u>36.0</u>	<u>16.8</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	446.2	117.9	13

73. On 25 September, 1983, IsDB participated in the Arab Aid Co-ordination Group/World Bank Policy meeting. Issues raised at that meeting by the Arab Aid Co-ordination Group included new directions and trends in co-financing, co-ordination of strategy between the development organizations, agriculture and food security, lending for rehabilitation and maintenance, the special needs of Sub-Saharan Africa, and ways to improve co-ordination between the Arab aid agencies and the World Bank.

74. The World Bank has, over the years, provided extensive technical assistance to IsDB. Apart from the short-term secondment of a World Bank staff member with project specialization, most of its assistance has been in the area of providing programmes of familiarization and training for the staff of IsDB. The World Bank has assisted IsDB staff to familiarize themselves in its auditing, accounting, loan administration, country assistance planning, budget administration, personnel management, and lending operations. In addition, the Economic Development Institute has conducted a two-week course for staff of IsDB in 1983. At the request of IsDB, the World Bank provides information on its methodology and procedures in administrative and technical matters, on countries and on co-financed projects. In the last fiscal year familiarization programmes were arranged for four IsDB staff members in the World Bank's computing, research, operations and language service areas.

75. It may be added that the World Bank's Economic Development Institute co-sponsored a course with SESRTCIC on Infrastructure Projects which was held at Amman.

#### S. International Monetary Fund

76. IMF participated in the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and held bilateral talks on co-operation with the Islamic Conference in a variety of areas, including the exchange of information and training. In the context of its overall activities, IMF will continue to give particular attention to its co-operation with the Islamic Conference to the benefit of the membership of both organizations.

77. IMF maintains close co-operation with those Islamic countries which are members of IMF, a number of which have availed themselves of the Fund's technical and financial assistance. The Fund itself benefited from the continued support of Saudi Arabia, a member of the Islamic Conference, which provided once more, in 1984, valued additional resources to the Fund, in order to strengthen the institution's financial base.

78. In addition, IMF continued its co-operation with various institutions serving exclusively or preponderantly the member countries of the Islamic Conference, including in particular IsDB. A senior IMF representative attended the annual meeting of the IsDB.

#### T. International Maritime Organization

79. General Assembly resolution 38/4 was brought to the attention of the IMO Council at its fifty-second session held from 11 to 15 June 1984. Note has been taken of the provisions of the resolution and the conclusions and recommendations of the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference.

80. IMO is ready and willing to consider co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference in appropriate areas within the field of its competence and scope of activities of the Organization.

#### U. World Intellectual Property Organization

81. As a follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, WIPO designated the head of its Section for Relations with International Organizations as the focal point for co-operation with the Islamic Conference. WIPO has also taken steps for the conclusion of a working agreement for co-operation with that Organization. It has already established contact with IFSTAD.

V. International Atomic Energy Agency

82. IAEA participated in the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and expressed interest in the development of science and technology as an area for co-operation with the Islamic Conference. It designated the Division of External Relations as the focal point for co-operation with that Organization.

W. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

83. Following the first annual meeting between representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, GATT held bilateral meetings with representatives of the Islamic Conference, which afforded a useful occasion for continuing its contacts and relationship with that Organization that dates back to 1978. A subsequent visit from a representative of the Islamic Centre for Promotion of Trade of that Organization, in December 1983, has led to arrangements for exchange of documentation and information. GATT also designated its Director of External Relations Division as its focal point of co-operation with the Islamic Conference.

VI. PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTIONS BY THE ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR CO-OPERATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

84. In their replies to the Secretary-General with regard to the follow-up of General Assembly resolution 38/4, a number of United Nations organs, organizations and bodies made proposals and suggestions for strengthening future co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference:

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

85. The programmes entrusted to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department lend themselves to intensified co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the areas listed below:

(a) Within the framework of the Decade for Disabled Persons, 1983-1992, the first round of the monitoring and evaluation procedure of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons is about to begin. The Centre carries the responsibility for this activity. During 1984, a consolidated questionnaire will be circulated by the United Nations to all Member States asking them to report on developments in the situation with regard to disabled persons. The co-operation of the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the monitoring and evaluation process can contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the World Programme.

(b) Preparations for the International Youth Year (1985) continue to provide an opportunity for co-operation between the Centre and the Islamic Conference. In

the context of the International Youth Year, the following areas of mutual concern are identified for consideration.

Assistance to national co-ordinating committees in States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

86. Concerted joint efforts need to be made to support the activities of the national co-ordinating committees for the International Youth Year in States members of that Organization. The functions of these mechanisms are to assess the situation of youth at the local and national levels, to formulate a national plan of action identifying the needs and problems of youth and to serve as the liaison organization with the United Nations.

Identification of focal points

87. The Islamic Conference may wish to designate a focal point for the International Youth Year with a view to enhancing co-operation between that Organization and the Centre in preparation for the International Youth Year.

Implementation of regional plans of action for youth

88. The five regional plans of action for youth, emanating from the five regional meetings devoted to the International Youth Year, require concerted efforts for implementation at the regional and national levels. The Islamic Conference and the Centre may consider co-operation in this regard within the areas of competence of the Organization.

Promotional and information activities

89. The Organization and the Centre should co-operate in the dissemination of information designed to promote the International Youth Year. In this regard, the Organization may wish to use its information network to disseminate basic information which the Centre could provide (e.g. youth information bulletin, International Youth Year fact sheets, etc.).

Technical co-operation projects

90. As a contribution to the International Youth Year, the Organization may wish to encourage the formulation and launching of practical youth-related projects (training of youth leaders and volunteers, community development activities, etc.). At a later stage, when funds from the International Youth Year Trust Fund become available, joint projects could be initiated, particularly with regard to young refugees, and also programmes for the eradication of illiteracy, two main priority areas for the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

91. UNCTAD is of the view that the global system of trade preferences can be one of the areas for future co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic

Conference. It recalled that the Plan of Action for Economic Co-operation among Islamic Countries, adopted by the Conference on Economic Co-operation held in November 1980, contained a commitment by States members of the Islamic Conference to support the efforts towards trade liberalization under the global system of trade preferences and to recommend to Islamic countries participating in negotiations on that system that they avail themselves of that opportunity for pursuing negotiations among themselves. UNCTAD has indicated its willingness to co-operate with the Organization on an iron ore study as well as on some aspects of the food security issue, and with the Organization's Institute for International Trade in organizing their work programme in the area of commodities.

### C. United Nations Development Programme

92. A review of the five priority areas of co-operation considered by the first annual meeting between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference indicates that in at least four of these areas UNDP should be able to co-operation substantially and on a cost sharing basis as follows.

#### Food security and agriculture

93. The Islamic Conference has proposed the exchange of information and experts, and the implementation of studies in this area. To the extent that these activities would involve short-term exchange of experts, consultants or trainees between the Islamic developing countries, UNDP would be prepared to consider requests for its catalytic support in the context of its project on promotion of action-oriented activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (INT/83/904). As far as the exchange of information between institutions of the Islamic developing countries is concerned, the UNDP information referral system and its inquiry service would be able to provide appropriate referrals from its data base upon request.

#### Development of science and technology

94. Of the five areas of mutual co-operation proposed by the Islamic Conference under this sub-heading, the three that would be of particular interest are: (a) exchange of information and documentation, which can be facilitated by the information referral system and its inquiry service; (b) training and exchange of experts; and (c) general technical assistance, which can be assisted under the project mentioned above (INT/83/904).

#### Investment mechanisms and joint ventures

95. The Islamic Conference has requested technical assistance from the United Nations system in the implementation of the agreement on the promotion, protection and guarantee of investments in Member States, and the establishment of close co-operation between SESRTCIC and the organizations of the United Nations system. Here again, if the technical assistance involves the exchange of short-term experts between the Islamic developing countries, then catalytic support could be considered from project INT/83/904. UNDP would also welcome the establishment of

closer co-operation with SESRTCIC and, in the first instance, it would be prepared to provide appropriate documentation on several sectoral, substantive and organizational aspects of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development which it prepared for the past three sessions of the high-level committee on the review of that Department. The areas and modalities of future co-operation with the Centre could then be worked out in mutual consultation.

#### Eradication of illiteracy

96. Pending review of the project proposals on the eradication of illiteracy contained in the working paper presented by ISESCO, any suitable proposals for the sharing of experience in the promotion of literacy, through the short-term exchange of experts or the training of nationals between Islamic developing countries, could qualify for consideration for catalytic support from project INT/83/904.

97. UNDP has forwarded to the Islamic Conference the annual list of projects for prospective co-financing. Several projects relate to items discussed at the 1983 annual meeting. Concerning the roundtable conferences of donors, the Islamic Conference has expressed interest in this mechanism.

98. In addition, UNDP has conveyed its willingness to assist members of that Organization to establish and strengthen national focal points for technical co-operation, as well as to assist substantively in the preparation of directories of services available in some member States for users in other member States. The directories could be compiled in the following fields from data being collected and computerized by the information referral system of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development under the following categories:

- (a) Education and training;
- (b) Research and technological development;
- (c) Consultancy and expert services;
- (d) Scientific and technical information services;
- (e) Multilateral project experiences.

99. The following suggestions are made with regard to the new areas of co-operation:

(a) Discussions on the priority item of food security and agriculture should include factors essential to development in this field, such as infrastructure and water resources. With respect to this subject, the FAO mission report on drought might serve as a good basis for discussion.

(b) The complementary funding to the indicative planning figures could also be discussed. The reduction of indicative planning figure levels is often a serious impediment to the realization of top priority projects, since country programmes are closely linked to the national development process. Given the

experience, information research capacity available to the United Nations system, individual Governments can benefit from United Nations co-operation in the totality of developmental sectors at a modest cost.

(c) The active participation of the Islamic Conference in future roundtable meetings may be discussed.

#### D. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

100. As regards the new areas of co-operation, FAO would suggest the following areas:

(a) Quantification of balances between land, food and population in member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the assembly of statistics in areas of social and economic importance to those member countries, and training to develop the Ankara Centre's capability in the collection and interpretation of statistical material.

(b) Training workshops, in the Ankara Centre or in any other location selected by the Centre, on agricultural documentation services and information systems. FAO could assist in the programming of the workshops and provide lecturers and training material, while the Centre could arrange the organizational aspects and provide for the travel of participants.

(c) Training in food and agricultural statistics in Islamic countries.

(d) Special data collection programmes in Islamic countries to cover socio-economic indicators, economic accounts for agriculture, agricultural price statistics, nutrition and food consumption, and women in agriculture.

(e) Preparation of a joint publication by FAO and the Ankara Centre on methods of collecting agricultural statistics in Islamic countries.

(f) Inter-country training courses in planning techniques, sector and project analysis.

(g) Assessment of available computer equipment employed for statistics (through questionnaires) in member countries of the Islamic Conference.

(h) Assistance in the preparation of a series of training courses on fisheries statistics.

(i) FAO would like to obtain a list of proposed projects from the general secretariat of the Organization since some donor countries which are members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have promised to support a number of countries within the framework of Islamic solidarity, as was done, for example, by Kuwait in Guinea-Bissau. FAO may be in a position to assist in formulating these projects and to help the Governments in preparing detailed requests with adequate technical justification.



101. Contacts with IsDB should be intensified since that Bank's Board decided, at its session of 1 and 2 March 1984, to increase its allocations to agricultural development. FAO would be prepared to implement the technical assistance components under trust fund arrangements as done in the current rural development project in Yemen.

#### E. International Telecommunications Union

102. ITU is prepared to co-operate with the Islamic Conference in the identification and the implementation of technical co-operation projects, mainly in the following fields:

(a) The development of human resources through fellowship programmes and arrangements made by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development;

(b) The transfer of technology for both management and industrial applications;

(c) The promotion of interregional telecommunication means, such as satellite communication systems, in order to improve co-operation in the Islamic world and to supplement the other regional networks in which ITU is involved, such as the Middle East and Mediterranean Telecommunication Network Project (Medarabtel), the Pan-African Telecommunication Network (Panafstel), Asian Telecommunications Network and the Arab Satellite Communications Organization (ARABSAT).

#### F. International Atomic Energy Agency

103. IAEA suggests that in the area of the development of science and technology, the following topics could be taken up for consideration: technical co-operation in the areas of regional survey of water resources, prospecting and surveying of minerals and, inasmuch as uranium is involved, health care, especially with regard to nuclear medicine.

#### Notes

1/ World Economic Survey, 1983, Supplement (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.C.3), pp. 1-20.

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