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## REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to refugees in SomaliaReport of the Secretary-General

## CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1 - 2	3
II. BACKGROUND .....	3 - 6	3
III. RESPONSE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	7 - 48	4
A. Action taken by the Secretary-General .....	7	4
B. Action taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees .....	8 - 20	4
C. Action by the International Labour Organisation .....	21 - 25	9
D. Action taken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations .....	26 - 27	10
E. Action taken by the United Nations Development Programme .....	28 - 33	10
F. Action taken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization .....	34 - 35	11

\* A/44/150.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
G. Action taken by the United Nations Environment Programme .....	36 - 44	12
H. Action taken by the World Food Programme .....	45 - 48	13

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 43/147 of 8 December 1988 on assistance to refugees in Somalia, the General Assembly called upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure, as appropriate, that the care, maintenance and rehabilitation needs of the refugees were adequately covered; also called upon the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assume the leading role, as required by the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (see A/39/402, annex), in the conceptualization, implementation and monitoring of refugee-related projects, and to be involved in the mobilization of the financial and technical means required, in close co-operation with the High Commissioner and the World Bank; and called upon the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to continue and expand their activities in Somalia, in co-operation with the Government of Somalia, to protect and rehabilitate its damaged environment. The Assembly also requested the pertinent organizations of the United Nations system, namely, FAO, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as UNEP and the World Food Programme (WFP), to prepare, in consultation with the Government of Somalia, detailed project documentation for the implementation of those project activities identified in the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/645) as priority endeavours for a comprehensive programme of action.

2. The present report is submitted by the Secretary-General in response to the General Assembly's request that it be informed of the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution.

## II. BACKGROUND

3. The background to the influx of refugees into Somalia, their characteristics and the arrangements made to assist them have been described in the previous reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner. The present report will therefore focus on recent developments affecting the assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and progress recently made in shaping a mutually agreeable approach to the future of refugees in Somalia.

4. Since 1979, Somalia has hosted one of the largest refugee populations in the world, while at the same time tackling numerous economic problems. The presence of refugees in an already constrained economic environment has put a severe strain on a fragile infrastructure and contributed to further deterioration of the ecosystem. A detailed review of impacted sectors and remedial measures required was provided in the programme of action of the Secretary-General, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/127 of 7 December 1987.

5. A large proportion of refugees, the majority of whom are from Ethiopia, are women and children. At the beginning of 1982, the Government of Somalia and the United Nations agreed on a planning figure of 700,000 refugees in Somalia. During

the last quarter of 1984 until 1986, new refugees from the Ogaden, 140,000 according to government estimates, arrived in the north-west region. The planning figure was thus established at 840,000. Recent developments in the north-west have, however, necessitated a revision of the planning figure to 600,000. While the number of beneficiaries in the south was maintained at 460,000, in the north-west a figure of 140,000, corresponding to UNHCR/WFP estimates of actual and potential beneficiaries, is currently being used for planning purposes.

6. On 17 March 1987, an umbrella agreement was concluded with the Government of Somalia for re-enumeration of refugees in Somalia. While the first phase involving aerial survey was completed in the last quarter of 1987, the second phase, which consisted of a socio-demographic survey, had to be suspended because of basic methodological and implementation problems identified by independent observers. In March 1989, a head count and re-registration exercise was undertaken in four camps in the north-west, namely Bihia, Galikor (ex-Biyoley), Darbi Hore A and B, and successfully completed. The exercise yielded a total figure of 31,806 refugees, as compared to the previous planning figure of 91,171. A subsequent attempt to register three camps east of Hargeisa remained inconclusive.

### III. RESPONSE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

#### A. Action taken by the Secretary-General

7. On 12 May 1989, the Secretary-General transmitted to States Members of the United Nations a copy of the report of the inter-agency mission that visited Somalia in February-March 1989 in response to the request for emergency humanitarian assistance by the President of Somalia (A/44/261). The Secretary-General appealed to the international community to extend humanitarian assistance through bilateral and multilateral channels, to the affected Somali population identified by the inter-agency mission. Furthermore, the Secretary-General underlined the recommendation of the mission that further humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance would be required once the bulk of Somalis who fled the country found it possible and safe to return to their places of origin.

#### B. Action taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

8. Following the emergency phase, the direction of assistance programmes has since 1983 been shaped in line with the policy framework agreed upon with the Government of Somalia, which placed the prime emphasis on voluntary repatriation as the most appropriate long-term solution for refugees in the country, but also acknowledged that a programme of local settlement could be formulated for those who did not wish to return and who could not attain self-sufficiency in the centres where they were residing. Accordingly, the organized voluntary repatriation programme from the Gedo region was initiated, along with the inception of a number of agricultural and self-sufficiency schemes. While some degree of success was achieved, constraints affecting these durable solutions also

became increasingly discernible. These related to low availability of land, water and economic opportunities, which ruled out large-scale organized local integration and, to a certain extent, to the disincentive provided by the continuation of care and maintenance support. The need for re-assessment of the programme was also highlighted by a number of positive developments affecting the situation of refugees that had recently occurred, including the agreement reached between Ethiopia and Somalia on 3 April 1988 and the fact that refugees had for several years returned either spontaneously or in an organized manner.

9. Following earlier high-level contacts, the High Commissioner, in a letter to the Government of Somalia dated 6 October 1988, set out his perception of the best approach to a solution to the refugee problem in Somalia in the light of these developments. The approach, as endorsed by the Executive Director of WFP, emphasized the effective promotion of voluntary repatriation, the gradual phasing out of relief assistance and complementary measures in the field of refugee aid and development aimed at creating viable economic opportunities and helping redress the ecological and other consequences of the presence of refugees. In its reply, the Government of Somalia acknowledged that developments in the region were conducive to voluntary repatriation, which remained the most desirable solution. However, it was also pointed out that the voluntary nature of repatriation should be ascertained and registration undertaken for this purpose. As regards the reduction of relief assistance, and particularly food, the Somali Government's position was that it should not precede but rather follow the achievement of durable solutions, including local integration. To attain this objective, a five-year programme was proposed.

10. Negotiations at a high level took place from 17 to 25 May 1989 at Geneva and from 12 to 14 June 1989 at Mogadishu to shape a mutually agreeable approach. An agreement was reached on general principles as well as implementation modalities. Repatriation is the key component of this approach and the two Governments concerned have now agreed to the establishment of a tripartite commission, as proposed by the High Commissioner.

11. The main components of the general approach are the following:

(a) Since it is now recognized that the majority of Ethiopian refugees in Somalia can repatriate safely, a joint information campaign will be undertaken during the second half of 1989 to explain this general approach to the refugees and register those wishing to repatriate. Pending repatriation, refugees having registered for voluntary repatriation will continue to receive care and maintenance assistance. A number of measures have also been agreed upon to guarantee the credibility of the operation and ensure that only genuine cases will be registered for voluntary repatriation. These measures include discontinuance of assistance for persons who, having been accepted by the Government of Ethiopia subsequently refuse to return, as well as an accelerated procedure for rejected cases, whose modalities are to be finalized during the meetings of the tripartite commission.

(b) UNHCR will simultaneously work with both Governments concerned to expand markedly the capacity of the current repatriation operation and to identify additional crossing points. However, it is also recognized that the operation

should be designed so as to allow, after screening by the Ethiopian authorities, for the promotion of self-repatriation and thereby avoid exclusive reliance on organized repatriation. Both Governments have now agreed to this principle, which will ensure cost effectiveness and minimize logistical problems inherent in organized repatriation.

(c) Refugees not registering for voluntary repatriation would fall under two categories, those who seek integration by themselves and those with a well-founded claim of persecution as a reason not to return. The latter category will be eligible for organized integration and decisions on such cases will be taken by a joint committee composed of UNHCR and the National Refugee Commission. Measures have also been agreed upon to discourage ill-founded applications and include the discontinuance of assistance after six months to refugees whose claims are rejected. Individuals opting for self-sought integration will be offered a one-time assistance package in one or more instalments, as available and practicable, consisting of food commodities equivalent to seven months of full rations plus a cash grant to facilitate their integration.

(d) In order to strengthen local infrastructure to facilitate swift integration, UNHCR will elaborate with the Government short-term projects for implementation in 1989 and 1990. A comprehensive and longer-term approach to development in the areas affected by the presence of refugees will also be defined by the Government, UNHCR and the competent international and multilateral development agencies. This will aim to rehabilitate these areas and generate economic opportunities, and also to transfer to ministries those current services to refugees that could benefit national development. In this context, UNHCR undertook to continue, in concert with relevant development institutions, its current efforts to implement the programme of action of the Secretary-General endorsed by resolution 42/127 and actively to pursue its catalytic role in mobilizing resources for the developmental component of the agreed approach. During the discussions, the Government of Somalia repeatedly stressed the importance of shaping a comprehensive refugee and development programme and of securing the support of the United Nations system, development agencies and the international community.

12. The UNHCR programme in north-west Somalia was seriously disturbed following the events of May 1988. Difficulties were related to the lack of international monitoring of humanitarian assistance and to a series of events that resulted in refugees bearing arms in camps of Hargeisa and thereby becoming party to the conflict. For humanitarian reasons, relief assistance continued, albeit under minimal international monitoring. In an attempt to ensure effective and timely delivery of assistance to refugees located around and to the west of Boroma, UNHCR and WFP requested at the end of 1988 that the Djibouti supply route be used for this purpose. Although authorization was given to transport some 1,000 metric tons of food supplies from Djibouti, the position of the Government of Somalia has been that, since Berbera port is fully operational, it should continue to be used for the channelling of the United Nations humanitarian assistance. As a result, assistance continues to be delivered via Berbera.

13. The Deputy High Commissioner visited Mogadishu from 20 to 23 February 1989 and met with the Prime Minister and other senior officials. During this visit, an

agreement was reached between UNHCR/WFP and the Government to re-register the civilian population of camps east of Hargeisa and relocate them to sites to be selected jointly in the Boroma area and/or the south. The relocation operation was conceived as a preliminary step to voluntary repatriation. It was also agreed that during this operation UNHCR/WFP would continue to provide food to the eastern camps for a maximum period of three months. Following the successful re-registration undertaken in four camps in the north-west, the operation came to a halt as the transfer of refugees from Bihin/Galikor to Darbi Hore could not take place despite logistical arrangements having been set up for this purpose. At the end of the three-month period, the Government acknowledged that it had not proved possible to relocate refugees outside the affected area. During the high-level meetings that took place at Geneva from 17 to 25 May, the Government reported that an increasing number of refugees both inside and outside the affected area were expressing the wish to repatriate without delay. It was agreed to register all refugees for voluntary repatriation, starting with those in the affected area, for whose repatriation UNHCR undertook to arrange as a matter of urgency. Pending repatriation, UNHCR and WFP will continue to assist refugees outside the affected area. UNHCR and WFP will assist refugees within the affected area pending that registration for voluntary repatriation, provided that the Government ensures regular access to them by international staff and ensures the civilian nature and security of their camps.

14. Following the appeal made in October 1988 by the President of Somalia to the Secretary-General requesting United Nations assistance to help the people and Government of Somalia to address the large-scale emergency situation prevailing in the northern part of the country, an inter-agency mission visited Somalia from 26 February to 12 March. UNHCR was represented on the mission, the findings of which have been incorporated in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly (A/44/261).

15. Pending an agreement on the future of refugees, the UNHCR assistance programme in Somalia continued to retain its basic care and maintenance feature. Efforts initiated in early 1988 to streamline assistance were actively pursued, as evidenced by the discontinuance of some ineffective lines of activity and by the moratorium on new construction in camps, which limited UNHCR support to the repair and maintenance of communal activities. Developments in the north-west significantly affected the implementation of assistance activities in that area, which had either to be deferred or scaled down. Other variables bearing on the programme included currency fluctuations and a high rate of inflation, which in 1988 necessitated a 100 per cent increase in local salaries of refugee agency staff.

16. Regarding local settlement, emphasis was placed on finalizing activities whose appraisal had been initiated in previous years. In May 1989, an agreement was concluded between UNHCR and the Government of Somalia on the Furjano refugee settlement project in Lower Shabelle, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture under the supervision of the World Bank. The project will benefit 900 refugee families at a total cost of \$3.97 million. The food component amounting to \$590,000 will be provided by WFP. Discussions are also being pursued with the Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany for the implementation of an area development project in Qoriolei whose design work has

already been completed. The project, which will benefit 400 refugee families at an estimated total cost of \$4.0 million over three and a half years, is expected to become operational in 1989. These projects aim at promoting agricultural self-sufficiency among refugees who cannot repatriate and who are to be selected by a committee of which UNHCR is a member. They have been designed so as to bring benefits to surrounding villages through infrastructure improvements, extension services and more active markets.

17. As reported previously, a joint World Bank/European Community/UNHCR mission took place in February 1988 to formulate a comprehensive programme that would provide employment to both refugees and the local population, aim to repair damage caused to the environment and infrastructure by the presence of refugees and their livestock, and to develop a range of durable economic assets for the economy of Somalia. The mission had found scope for such projects in the forestry, rangeland and watershed management, irrigation and road construction sectors. This component is of central importance to the general approach described earlier, the agreement on which provides an opportunity to reactivate the appraisal process. Following discussions held with the Government, implementation arrangements and responsibilities for this project have now been clarified.

18. A complementary approach is also being initiated under the UNHCR regular programme to promote areas where self-sought integration is likely to take place. The objectives are to strengthen the economic and social infrastructure in these areas and thereby enhance their absorptive capacity, to create durable assets and rehabilitate the damaged infrastructure, and to stimulate temporary and long-term employment opportunities. This component is expected to assume increased importance within the agreed general approach and offers scope for participation of voluntary agencies and development institutions. At the time of preparing the present report, implementation modalities were being discussed with the Government and it is hoped that progress in this area could be achieved within an inter-agency framework.

19. Another area where the full support of development agencies is necessary in the early planning stages is the integration of current refugee services and especially those which can contribute to national development, within national structures. The purpose is to avoid wasting capital and human resources currently available under UNHCR programmes by ensuring, whenever feasible, that these economic components are redirected towards the national development process. The key sectors concerned are logistics, education, health, water and agricultural development. The pace and implementation of this programme should be designed so as to follow the progress on durable solutions, as envisaged in the agreed general approach.

20. As agreement on the general approach could only be reached in June 1989, budget proposals for 1990 could not be finalized at the time of preparing the present report. Assistance requirements for 1989 are summarized below:

<u>Sector</u>	<u>1989</u> (United States dollars)
Community service	274 000
Education	748 000
Crop production	3 778 800
Agency operational support	1 641 000
Food	289 000
Transport/logistics	13 098 000
Water	1 353 200
Health	1 316 000
Shelter and infrastructure	<u>1 103 000</u>
Subtotal	23 601 000
Repatriation	387 000
Resettlement	<u>12 000</u>
Total	<u>24 000 000</u>

### C. Action taken by the International Labour Organisation

21. In 1980, following a major influx of refugees into Somalia as at 1978, UNHCR requested the Rural Employment Policies Branch of ILO to investigate the feasibility of developing income-generating activities in refugee camps. As the majority of camp dwellers were women, heading about two thirds of all refugee households, the target group would consist mainly of female refugees.

22. Until that time, assistance to the refugee population had been mainly of a relief nature in order to alleviate an emergency situation. An unfavourable side effect was that refugees became dependent on unstable sources of outside supplies. It was felt that, besides relief work, assistance should therefore aim at more durable solutions, making the refugees more self-reliant. Moreover, the emergency assistance placed a heavy burden on Somalia's fragile economy (logistics and government assistance). The coexistence of the refugee and local populations led to tensions owing to the competition for scarce resources.

23. Alternative solutions and modes of assistance were needed that would be more compatible with the host country's capacity to attend to the numerous refugee population and would take into greater account the refugees' own skills and dignity. The ILO project on income generating for women refugees in Somalia started in April 1983 and was implemented on a pilot basis in collaboration with the National Refugee Commission and UNHCR. ILO activities were still performed in an emergency situation in which it tried to reach as many women as possible in the north-western and southern regions. The first phase lasted one year and was funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The objective of ILO assistance was to provide women refugees with a source of income, to increase the supply of goods in the camps and to strengthen the refugee women's organizations in the camps where

they existed or encourage their formation in camps where they were not yet established. A number of small-scale productive activities were introduced, among other things production of sleeping mats, which took advantage of the women's skills and previous experience.

24. After this emergency period and a bridging period in which a marketing survey was conducted, the Government of the Netherlands supported a second phase, for a period of 15 months from January 1983, in which the ILO integrated refugee camp development project concentrated its activities in four camps round the town of Jalalaqsi in Hiran region in the south, where refugees accounted for about 50 per cent of the total regional population. The objective of this phase was - apart from continuation of the income-generating activities and strengthening of refugee women's organizations - to make the refugees self-reliant in the long run.

25. Based on the marketing survey, the women's own wishes and the experience and knowledge of project staff, the project identified and implemented the following gainful activities: vegetable gardening, food processing and preservation, handicrafts, poultry raising and soap production. These activities met with varying success, depending on the women's individual capacities and more general problems like irregular supply and scarcity of raw materials, insufficient local demand, competition from imported and cheaper items, difficult communication channels and lack of basic business knowledge and experience in running small productive projects.

D. Action taken by the Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

26. The Director-General of FAO approved four tranches of emergency food aid assistance to refugees in Somalia during 1988 amounting to a total WFP cost of \$5 million. The three tranches approved in January, February and May 1988 were for 790,000 beneficiaries and the one in December 1988 was for 600,000 beneficiaries.

27. In addition, FAO has recently been extensively involved in several inter-agency missions to assess the urgent humanitarian and rehabilitation requirements of the population affected by recent events in the north-west part of Somalia.

E. Action taken by the United Nations Development Programme

28. In 1989 UNDP established an Emergency Unit within the UNDP Office in Somalia, which was financed from the trust fund of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa within the context of a project for the planning and monitoring of refugee-related activities in Somalia. This unit is composed of international and national professionals who co-ordinate all UNDP involvement in co-ordination with other agencies and bilateral donors in the provision of assistance to refugees and displaced persons.

29. In co-ordination with the appropriate government ministries, UNHCR and all other United Nations multilateral and bilateral donors, the Emergency Unit is in the process of collecting data and maintaining a data base on affected populations in Somalia, assessing needs and identifying short- and medium-term programmes of assistance for external financing, assisting in the formulation of viable project documents for government approval and donor financing and in the monitoring of the implementation of assistance to the affected population, and maintaining a computerized system for the financial and physical delivery of emergency assistance to displaced and refugees.

30. A list of projects and activities relating to refugees and returnees in Somalia is being compiled. At present it includes approximately 40 projects for which funds have already been obtained or are being sought in water, agriculture, health, education and other related sectors. Of these, 28 are being implemented by various non-governmental organisations and United Nations agencies, one has been completed and the rest are in the planning stage.

31. In addition, UNDP is financing, with funds from the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, a pilot project at Qoriolai (SOM.87/B01) to produce a study and technical plan for the settlement of 171 refugee families in a new village, enabling them to become self-sufficient and have a higher standard of living. The study, prepared by Save the Children Fund, was finalized in March 1989.

32. Consideration is being given for the provision of additional funds from the same source requested for the completion of the services of a civil engineer to advise on the tracing and technical specifications of the road construction from Boroma to Baki financed by the United States Agency for International Development and executed by the New Transcentury Foundation.

33. In pursuance of resolution 43/147, which calls upon UNDP to assume the leading role in the conceptualization, implementation and monitoring of refugee-related projects, UNDP led the United Nations inter-agency mission that visited Somalia from 25 February to 12 March 1989 to assess the humanitarian needs of those directly affected by the emergency situation afflicting the northern regions of the country, including refugees and displaced persons. The mission's findings and recommendations are reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/44/261).

#### F. Action taken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

34. UNESCO is currently engaged in eight projects in Somalia, financed by the following: UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Finland, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations, the United States of America, the International Programme for the Development of Communications and the African Development Bank.

35. In addition, UNESCO is planning to send, as soon as possible, a consultant to Somalia, on a four- to six-week mission, to prepare, in consultation with the

Government, detailed project documents for the implementation of the education projects identified as priority by the inter-agency mission on assistance to refugees in Somalia.

G. Action taken by the United Nations Environment Programme

36. During the period under review, UNEP maintained regular and continuous co-operative relations with the Government of Somalia aimed at providing multifaceted assistance in the protection and management of the country's environment.

37. At the national level, UNEP maintained close links with the National Range Agency, with the aim of strengthening its managerial and legislative capabilities. It also provided advisory services through consultancies on wide-ranging issues such as shark problems, sand dune fixation and wildlife management. In addition, UNEP provided training fellowships to Somali officials to participate in workshops, conferences, meetings and so on dealing with environmental issues of relevance to the country.

38. At the subregional level, UNEP co-operative activities with the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, which benefited Somalia's natural resources management efforts, especially in the area of desertification, received additional impetus and support. For example, UNEP provided a consultant to prepare and produce a paper on camel marketing that was presented at a forum on the camel in the subregion of the Intergovernmental Authority (Mogadishu, 5-6 June 1989).

39. Somalia is a member of the Eastern African Subregional Environment Group, which is one of seven such groups established and sponsored by UNEP for promoting subregional co-operation on the environment, bringing together heads of national environmental departments and institutions. It provides a forum for identifying country-specific environmental problems as well as environmental issues requiring subregional co-operation.

40. With regard to the African Ministers Conference on the Environment community-based pilot projects, Somalia has already identified suitable sites and UNEP, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Conference, is in contact with United Nations agencies regarding funding for the pilot projects. These projects are intended to serve as examples of what can be achieved through the application of simple technologies, community involvement and deliberate redirection of governmental policies for the attainment of self-sufficiency in food, energy and other basic requirements, as a step towards sustainable development.

41. Somalia will also benefit from the agenda for action on sustainable development adopted by the UNEP/Economic Commission for Africa African Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development. The Conference was convened in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987, the latter on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

42. The Conference's agenda for action recommends priorities for immediate action (by Governments, non-governmental organizations, etc.) on food security, energy, managing demographic changes and pressures, water, industry, desertification and species and ecosystems.

43. At the regional level, Somalia, as a member of the African Ministers Conference on the Environment, will benefit from the Conference's Cairo programme of action (UNEP/GC/14/17, annex II), when its institutions will participate in regional technical co-operation networks in priority subject areas essential to environmental rehabilitation and management, namely, environmental monitoring, climatology, water resources, energy soils and fertilizers, genetic resources, science and technology and environmental education and training. In particular, Somali institutions will thus be strengthened once they serve as a regional information and data system on environmental problems and their solutions, seek solutions to fundamental problems in specific areas through international research and development, and pool experience and make available existing skills on a regional basis.

44. Somalia's national experts also sit on the African Ministers Conference on the Environment committees that promote co-operation in the management and protection of four major ecosystems in Africa, namely, deserts and arid lands, forests and woodlands, river and lake basins, and seas (Somalia also participated in the UNEP-launched Regional Seas Programme for Eastern Africa).

#### H. Action taken by the World Food Programme

45. WFP has over the years been actively involved in the general feeding of Ethiopian refugees in Somalia through its emergency operations. In 1989, this assistance is being provided to about 600,000 refugees. In addition, the Programme has been providing supplementary feeding to about 50,000 vulnerable children and mothers in the refugee camps under a vulnerable group feeding project.

46. Since the signing of the truce between Ethiopia and Somalia in April 1988, WFP has been closely associated with UNHCR's negotiations with the Governments of Ethiopia and Somalia to find durable solutions for the refugees. These efforts have culminated in the establishment of a tripartite commission comprising UNHCR, Ethiopia and Somalia, with WFP participating as an observer. The first meeting of this tripartite commission, held at Geneva in early August 1989, established modalities for the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Ethiopia and integration within Somalia for those who do not wish to repatriate.

47. For those opting in favour of repatriation, the Programme will, at the Governments' request, continue to provide food in Somalia till the time of their repatriation and, upon their return to Ethiopia, will provide food aid for an additional period to assist in their integration. The refugees who opt to stay in Somalia will also be assisted by the Programme to facilitate their integration.

48. In addition to the direct assistance in the repatriation and integration of refugees, WFP will, in the coming years, also be actively involved through its

development projects in the activities aimed at the settlement of refugees and in the development of related socio-economic infrastructures in Somalia and Ethiopia. At this point, WFP is processing requests for assistance received from the Government of Somalia for settlement of 900 refugee families at Fardjo and 400 refugee families at Qorolei. Additional assistance, aiming at rehabilitation of the economy and environment damaged by the persistent refugee presence over the years, may be considered in due course in conjunction with other agencies of the United Nations system and funding sources outside.

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