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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME IV. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Programme 12. Global development issues and policies

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* The present document contains programme 12 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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PROGRAMME 12. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

A. Programme

1. General orientation

12.1 The general orientation and objectives of this programme are derived from General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977. The goal of the programme is to assist intergovernmental bodies in their responsibility to address international development issues and to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, as provided by the Charter of the United Nations. The work of the intergovernmental bodies in this area is wide-ranging and requires extensive monitoring of the world economy. The programme also has the responsibility for bringing to the attention of intergovernmental bodies new and emerging economic and social issues that would affect world development, and for system-wide co-operation in development research.

12.2 According to paragraph 61 of the annex to resolution 32/197 the programme should focus on interdisciplinary research and analysis, drawing as necessary upon all relevant parts of the United Nations system. On the basis of the relevant legislative authority, this function includes: (a) preparing, on a regular basis, global economic and social surveys and projection to assist the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the discharge of their responsibilities; (b) undertaking in-depth intersectoral analyses and syntheses of development issues, in close collaboration with those elements of the United Nations system engaged in similar work and taking into account relevant work in the various sectoral components of the United Nations system, and preparing concise and action-oriented recommendations on those issues in accordance with the requirements of the Assembly and the Council, for consideration by those organs; and (c) identifying and bringing to the attention of Governments emerging economic and social issues of international concern.

12.3 The outcome of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, held from 24 April to 1 May 1990, and the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade to be adopted at the forty-fifth session of the Assembly will be principal policy directives for the general orientation of the programme. The results of the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, to be held in 1990, and on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 will be incorporated in the programme as appropriate.

12.4 The agendas of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations in the 1980s reflected great changes in the international economic situation. A slow down in the world economy in the early 1980s, accompanied by great swings in terms of trade, exchanges rates and interest rates, affected the economic situations of all countries and brought especially acute problems for heavily indebted developing countries. The debt overhang and its implications for growth and development have emerged as important issues requiring urgent attention. The development crisis in Africa has come to be recognized as a long-term problem calling for greater efforts of the international community as well as of African countries themselves. However, some developing countries have met with considerable success in their development efforts.

12.5 The global economy was subjected to many shocks during the 1980s. Increased uncertainty and instability of key variables, which have a major impact on the economies of all countries, in particular the developing countries, have made its future course more unpredictable. The interrelationships between trade, money and finance and the policies pursued by major industrial countries are key factors that influence the international economic environment. Greater stability of those variables, through enhanced co-ordination and consistency in policies, the gradual elimination of external and internal imbalances and better surveillance through strengthened international trade and financial régimes will remain major objectives of the international community in the years to come. A close monitoring and analysis of global economic developments will help identify problems to be addressed through enhanced international co-operation.

12.6 One of the principal characteristics of the world economy at the present time that will persist in the next decade is the pressure of structural change. A major cause of the need for structural adjustment is the rapid emergence of new technologies and the need to absorb them. This process is hampered by uncertainties about future monetary and financial conditions, which influence trade and capital flows and the patterns of comparative advantage. Analysis and experience in that field will help provide the basis for appropriate policy recommendations.

12.7 New institutions and changes in attitudes, as well as the rapid evolution of telecommunications, will considerably affect the pace of social development. At the same time, the process of structural changes and adjustment in all economies will have profound effects on the social situation. The deterioration in social conditions in developing countries that took place during the 1980s will need to be arrested and reversed. There is an active search for new paradigms of development and governance in a number of countries in Eastern Europe. Changes in fundamental social institutions in developed market economy countries have brought to the forefront new expectations regarding social development activities. In the 1990s, the critical role of the development of human resources in the socio-economic development process will be re-examined to seek more integrated approaches to all aspects of human resources development, an essential pre-condition for development and the ultimate aim of development. Furthermore, new diseases such as AIDS, new patterns of disease in developing countries as populations grow older, and the need for eliminating illiteracy and for reviewing the content of education in a period of social advances in technology will be among the major social challenges in the 1990s. New approaches to redress the severity of problems of poverty, malnutrition, inadequate housing and sanitary facilities will be important considerations in the social policies of many countries, in particular, developing countries. Policies to reduce gross inequalities in conditions of well-being, in access to services and in opportunities for betterment of all groups, particularly those that have been disadvantaged, will continue to be of significance in the 1990s. Policies for social development will continue to compete for limited resources, both domestic and foreign, especially given the serious constraints resulting from the debt crisis. It is expected that some relief in the social sector may be brought about by the trend to reallocate resources from disarmament to the social areas.

12.8 Political and economic changes of historical scope are occurring in countries that have begun to undertake a transition from central planning to a greater reliance on decentralized economic decision-making and have sought greater integration in the rest of the world economy.

12.9 Global environmental concerns claim increasing attention as it is realized that both affluence and poverty contribute to the destruction of the conditions of survival for future generations. Lifestyles, consumption levels and technologies in industrial countries have been recognized as unsustainable, often in terms of the environmental destruction they have already occasioned, and certainly in terms of the consequences of their world-wide adoption. Similarly, the devastating effects on the environment of patterns of production in many of the poorest countries are recognized as incompatible with their future development needs.

12.10 The rates of savings and of growth of capital formation appear to have slowed down in all regions of the world in the 1980s. Policies will need to be developed and implemented at the national and international levels that encourage savings and capital formation and that provide substantially increased flow of capital to developing countries on terms and conditions that are in consonance with their need for sustained growth and development.

12.11 In recent decades, the developing countries have made significant advances in expanding and enhancing their technical and institutional capacity to plan and manage their economic and social development. However, particularly in recent years, those same developing countries have experienced serious constraints on the resources available to them for development, which have included low international prices for raw materials, widespread international economic instability and concomitant foreign-debt burdens and balance-of-payments problems. Those constraints have emphasized the importance to developing countries of maximizing the benefit they obtain from the resources available to them. Development planning - that is, planning and managing economic and social development - is a key tool for achieving this.

12.12 Thanks to the advances that many developing countries have made in their own capacity for development planning they are now able to use and absorb specific planning techniques and methodologies most appropriate to their individual circumstances and needs. Similarly, the international community, including the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, has improved its ability to respond to the needs and requests of developing countries for technical co-operation in the field of development issues and policies, both by accumulating considerable experience and expertise and by developing and enhancing its own technical capacity through operation-related research.

12.13 It is with this background and within this framework that technical co-operation in development issues and policies will be undertaken in the period 1992-1997. It will address the specific needs of each developing country in enhancing the technical and institutional capacity to plan and manage its own economic and social development. It will aim at fully sustainable development taking full account of the need for a unified approach to economic and social development at all levels, including the environmental aspects of development, and of the full and effective participation of the entire population at all stages of development.

2. Overall strategy

12.14 The main task of the programme is to monitor and appraise world economic development, to analyse issues of current and emerging concern, as well as long-term concern, to the international community, to study alternative policy

measures, in particular the enhancement of international economic co-operation, for consideration by intergovernmental bodies, by Governments and policy makers and to undertake operational activities as appropriate. Forward-looking research and analysis that are intended to enable the assessment of future needs will be carried out, notably in the areas of global projections, environment, savings and energy and their interrelationship. Wide consultations will be held with scholars, academic institutions, policy makers and eminent persons, and other innovative means such as symposia, seminars and expert meetings will be used to enrich and enhance the research and analytical capacity under the programme and maximize the outputs and their relevance to the needs and concerns of Member States and intergovernmental bodies. The programme also has as its primary purpose the provision of assistance to relevant intergovernmental bodies in ensuring that the work programmes of the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system are compatible and mutually complementary and are implemented with maximum regard for efficiency and effectiveness.

12.15 The developing countries will be assisted, at their request and according to individual circumstances and needs, in strengthening their technical and institutional capacity (a) to formulate, analyse and evaluate their economic and social development strategies and policies and prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate their national, subnational and multinational development plans and programmes; (b) to develop, implement and monitor their investment programmes and projects; (c) to co-ordinate the international technical and financial assistance available to them; and (d) to formulate, implement and evaluate integrated rural development and community development programmes and projects and other grass-roots development schemes.

12.16 This assistance will be provided through direct advisory services to the Governments of developing countries, technical co-operation projects financed mainly from extrabudgetary sources, training activities including international seminars and workshops, and operation-oriented research and pilot studies to enhance the quality and thereby the effectiveness of the assistance provided.

12.17 This programme is implemented by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in particular the Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis, and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

12.18 In carrying out its tasks, the programme draws upon the work of other programmes, in particular programme 24 (Statistics) and programme 18 (Population), as well as relevant programmes of other entities of the United Nations system, focusing on the interrelations among different trends, issues and policies and on the development of a comprehensive and synthesized approach. Co-operation and co-ordination are maintained with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the economic and social research institutions, and the relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. The co-operation includes, inter alia, exchange of information, data and expertise, co-ordination of work programmes, the preparation of joint studies and reports, and provision of inputs for inter-agency meetings.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

12.19 In light of that orientation and those objectives, the programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

- Subprogramme 1. Monitoring and assessment of current global economic issues and policies
- Subprogramme 2. Problems and prospects of integrated development
- Subprogramme 3. External debt and development
- Subprogramme 4. Mobilization of financial resources, taxation and entrepreneurship
- Subprogramme 5. Development perspectives and early identification of emerging issues
- Subprogramme 6. Development and the environment
- Subprogramme 7. System-wide analysis of specific areas within the economic and social programmes
- Subprogramme 8. Interorganizational co-operation
- Subprogramme 9. Integrated development planning and policies
- Subprogramme 10. Planning and co-ordination of international co-operation (including country programming)
- Subprogramme 11. Design and implementation of emerging cross-sectoral programmes

Subprogrammes 1 to 8 will be the responsibility of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Subprogrammes 9 to 11 will be the responsibility of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

12.20 Subprogrammes 1, 5 and 9 have been designated highest priority.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES AND POLICIES

(a) Objectives

12.21 The legislative authority of subprogramme 1 derives from General Assembly resolutions 39/174, 39/226, 40/173, 41/184, 42/165, 42/193, 42/195, 42/198, 43/182, 44/169, 44/170, 44/171 and 44/231 and decisions 42/440, 44/444 and 44/459; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/51, section VI, paragraph 5 (c), 1986/75, 1988/49, 1988/75, 1988/76, 1989/85, 1989/105, 1989/111 and 1989/113.

12.22 Structural and political changes have lately combined in a globalization of world markets that calls for a comprehensive view of the world economy as a whole. At the same time, the need to enhance predictability has emerged as an important global issue, giving rise to calls for a larger measure of international economic security.

12.23 Issues of development and change are becoming more complex, requiring close and constant scrutiny. Among the other major changes in the 1990s are regional integration among developed market economies and seminal changes in economic structure and policies in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the countries of Eastern Europe. Problems of development in large areas of the developing world, after a decade of decline, will remain paramount. This is especially true of Africa, Latin America and parts of Asia and particularly of a vast number of least developed countries that have been stagnating at a very low level of per capita income. It will be necessary to respond to those problems and to continue the national and international efforts to revive and maintain the growth momentum in other developing regions. The promotion of growth-oriented adjustment and other appropriate policies of development and international co-operation is required in order to minimize social and economic costs of adjustment and maximize the gains that the new challenges and opportunities offer, for the benefit of all countries and groups.

12.24 The task of the subprogramme is to produce an overall view of the economic problems of the world. In an increasingly interdependent world and in an atmosphere where economic variables change fast, predictability of events is necessarily difficult, requiring frequent and repeated examination of current developments that contain the seed of future trends. The necessity for examination of short-term changes is superimposed on the need for scrutiny of longer-term issues in the social and economic fields. It is important that short-term developments not adversely affect development of human and physical capital, technological change and structural transformation, the contribution of women to the development process, and the environment.

12.25 The objective of the subprogramme is to provide the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other legislative bodies with systematic analysis and assessment of current global economic issues and trends and of their interrelations and implications for international and national action. The aim of accelerating development in developing countries in the context of global economic expansion has become a critical international issue, and economic trends in the 1990s will have to be assessed in depth.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.26 Analysis of economic performance and of emerging social and economic issues and trends will continue at the global level and at the level of country groups and will be undertaken annually, as mid-year and end-year updates of the annual assessments, and as part of the review of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

12.27 The examination of multilateral approaches - in particular the trade and financial régimes - will remain important to ensure broad-based, sustained, non-inflationary growth in the world economy in the years ahead.

12.28 The principal vehicle of the Secretariat in the fulfilment of this responsibility is the preparation of the annual world economic survey, mandated since 1947. It is expected that many additional ad hoc reports requested by intergovernmental bodies, and covering different aspects of the world economy will have to be prepared for the Council and the Assembly.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

12.29 The legislative authority for subprogramme 2 derives from General Assembly resolutions 39/29, 40/40, 40/182, S-13/2, 41/182, 42/49, 42/51, 42/64, 42/163, 42/186, 42/187, 42/193, 43/53, 43/182, 43/195, 43/196, 44/55, 44/56, 44/57, 44/58, 44/211, 44/212, 44/213, 44/232 and 44/233, and decisions 41/440, 42/429 and 44/411; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/56, 1987/81, 1987/93, 1988/49, 1988/74, 1988/75, 1988/76, 1988/112, 1989/13, 1989/89, 1989/93, 1989/110, 1989/113 and 1989/120.

12.30 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to carry out multisectoral and integrated analysis of a broad range of socio-economic issues with a view to presenting to intergovernmental bodies an integrated view of development problems and prospects, and (b) to produce studies and reports with policy options and recommendations on those problems and prospects, including the interrelationship between economic and social factors and the social and environmental soundness of the development process for enhancing international co-operation and strengthening national efforts aimed at the alleviation of the problems.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.31 Research and analysis will be undertaken to assess global changes in economic and social conditions, to elaborate upon the nature of problems that arise in the process of those changes and to examine the nature and consequences of policies and policy instruments available to Governments and intergovernmental organizations. Of special immediate interest are problems relating to long-term changes resulting from economic stabilization and structural adjustment policies and their interactions with social development, especially the allocation of resources to social sectors, changing patterns of income distribution, and consequences of the incidence of unemployment and underemployment, poverty and malnutrition.

12.32 The content of major social services - education, health, housing and welfare and community services - will be studied among countries and over time in order to understand the most productive ways of responding to changes in the composition of the population, morbidity and mortality patterns, the need to equalize opportunities for education among regions, the sexes and other groups and to absorb and use available innovative technology. Changing social institutions such as the family and new behaviour patterns, including the participation of women in the work force, will be areas for research. The focus on key aspects of human resource development will remain important during this decade.

12.33 As new policies and policy instruments require new institutional arrangements for their implementation, the reassessment of the role of Governments in furthering the processes of economic and social development, the nature of markets, the contribution of non-governmental organizations and the efficiency and

efficacy of selected institutions will be subjects of research and analysis during the period of the plan. Those questions will be especially important to many countries, in particular those of Eastern Europe, where innovation in institutional arrangements is expected, and in the least developed countries, especially in Africa, where the reform of existing institutions and the emergence of new institutions are considered important.

12.34 Research, studies and analyses will be undertaken on the interrelationship between economic and social factors and the consequences of changes in demography and incomes, advances in technology on the physical and the social environment and means of maximizing benefits and minimizing long-term costs to society; studies will be undertaken to examine the transformation of selected economic and social institutions to foster faster, more efficient and equitable growth patterns, to identify patterns of human resources development more conducive to desired patterns of economic growth, and to identify national and multilateral policies to help prevent the spread of emerging social ills, such as drugs and AIDS, which have important international dimensions.

12.35 Studies will be prepared on policies for the eradication of poverty and on national and international distribution of income and social benefits in relation to different patterns of production. Review will also be carried out of the interrelationships of various social and economic factors, in the context of development plans and strategies for the 1990s.

12.36 The levelling and eventual reduction of defence expenditures in developed and developing countries open the opportunity to shift human and financial resources to social and economic programmes domestically and internationally. Those eventual shifts and the social and economic impact in the sectors or areas concerned will be analysed in collaboration with regional commissions and relevant organs of the United Nations system.

12.37 Also during this period, studies on the transfer of resources to and from developing countries will continue, providing assessments of the flow of financial resources between the developing and developed countries, with analyses of ways of enhancing such flows and maximizing their benefits.

12.38 Research and policy-oriented analysis will also be focused on aspects of the world economy of relevance to national development in developing countries and on measures for enhancing international co-operation and for strengthening national efforts for integrated development. Attention will be given to the development and strengthening of links with the international scientific and intellectual community, in particular the non-governmental organizations and the regional commissions, with respect to regional problems.

12.39 To draw on resources not readily available in the Secretariat, to heighten the awareness of the public about matters of economic and social development considered by the United Nations and to better disseminate the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, a series of seminars and symposia will be held during the plan period. The subjects and terms for those meetings will be selected from among the subjects discussed above and from mandates received from intergovernmental bodies and international conferences.

12.40 Another continuing activity is the preparation of analyses of the special problems of low-income countries, particularly those in Africa. Institutional transformation, structural changes and social and economic policies in the region will be explored in relation to the relationship of Africa with other regions, and specific recommendations for international co-operation will be forthcoming. This work will be done in close co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. EXTERNAL DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

12.41 The legislative authority for subprogramme 3 derives from General Assembly resolutions 40/477, 41/202, 41/163, 42/198, 43/27, 43/198 and 44/205; and Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/76.

12.42 Present indications are that the debt problems of the developing countries will continue into the 1990s. The complexity of the problem is rooted in its gravity and long duration and in the interplay of a large number of factors: the diversity of the creditors, the widely differing capacity to repay and the social and political ramifications of protracted economic crises. Adverse external situations, such as falling commodity prices and rising interest rates, have compounded the problem. The debt overhang is an obstacle to development and has assumed a political dimension.

12.43 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to monitor the debt situation in its various aspects, (b) to search for new approaches and to evolve appropriate development strategies to support multilateral, national and bilateral efforts in resolving the external debt crisis of developing countries and other highly indebted countries and (c) to examine the implications of the debt crisis for the world economy.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.44 Research and analysis will be undertaken to monitor the debt situation in its various aspects, and consultations will be carried out with those who are either actually involved in debt discussions or who have an intimate understanding of the problem to search for new approaches and evolve appropriate development strategies that are based on lessons from the crisis that led to the economic stagnation in the 1980s in heavily indebted countries.

12.45 The debt problem has many aspects including political and social ramifications. The interaction among debt-servicing difficulties, investment and output growth are particularly important and will be reviewed in depth. In addition, special attention will be given to the social consequences of the adjustment efforts and the changing economic situation in developing countries with debt-servicing difficulties.

12.46 Since aspects of external debt are being examined in UNCTAD, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and in the regional commissions, the planned activities under the subprogramme will continue to be undertaken in close co-operation and co-ordination with these organizations with a view to ensure complementarity.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, TAXATION AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(a) Objectives

12.47 The legislative authority for subprogramme 4 derives from General Assembly resolutions 35/66, annex, paragraphs 96 and 110, and 41/182; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/13 and 1988/74.

12.48 In the 1980s financial institutions in many developing countries faced serious difficulties. The domestic financial resources were not always utilized to the greatest extent for economic and social development, and there was a need to reduce the gap between potential and actually mobilized resources through the formulation and implementation of sound and appropriate fiscal and financial policies. In the fiscal area, tax policies were required that would improve the assessment and collection of taxes and the allocation of expenditure. International co-operation on tax matters is important in this regard because developing countries, like developed countries, lose substantial financial resources as a result of international tax evasion and avoidance. Furthermore, measures such as the elimination of double taxation and the inclusion of tax-sparing provisions in national tax legislation of capital exporting countries and the conclusion of bilateral tax treaties would help developing countries attract greater amounts of foreign investment.

12.49 Developing countries have not yet fully exploited the contribution that entrepreneurship can make to economic development. This situation is partly due to national policies not sufficiently geared to the promotion of entrepreneurship, to deficiencies in institution building and to a lack of targeted technical assistance for small entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the development of entrepreneurship in developing countries suffered from the unfavourable international economic environment in the 1980s, in particular from the lack of sufficient export opportunities and inadequate availability of capital.

12.50 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to study issues related to the mobilization of financial resources, taxation and entrepreneurship and to provide policy options and recommendations to assist developing countries in mobilizing all available domestic financial resources and foreign financial resources on terms and conditions compatible with national priorities and legislation; and (b) to recommend appropriate fiscal and financial policies and measures in support of development, including measures to reform tax systems, combat tax evasion and widen the tax base, and to develop options for broad based development and encouraging indigenous entrepreneurs.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.51 Policy-oriented research will be undertaken on the structure and functioning of the financial sector of developing countries. Issues such as interest rate policies, credit allocation, prudential regulations, supervision of institutions and markets, as well as new financial institutions and markets will be addressed with a view to mobilizing additional savings. Research and consultations will be undertaken with a view to establishing a multilateral convention on mutual assistance in tax collection with guidelines for international co-operation aimed at combating tax evasion and avoidance. Increased attention will be given to the development and formulation of guidelines for tax treatment of branch and

subsidiary profits, international leasing of ships, containers, commercial equipment, aircraft leasing, and transfer pricing questions. Research will be undertaken on problems arising in connection with the utilization of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries.

12.52 Research will also be carried out to determine the appropriate tax reforms that are needed to improve tax systems, to broaden the tax base and to improve the taxation of economic activities, including agriculture, manufacturing and services, to minimize tax compliance costs and to promote allocative efficiency and growth.

12.53 Policy-oriented research will also be undertaken to support the efforts of States in encouraging indigenous entrepreneurs. In this area, the research will address national policies in areas such as regulatory environment, tax policies and financial sector development to promote indigenous entrepreneurship. Consideration will also be given to support international technical co-operation in this field. Factors of the international environment that affect enterprises in developing countries will be investigated.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES AND EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGING ISSUES

(a) Objectives

12.54 The legislative authority for subprogramme 5 derives from General Assembly resolutions 40/207, 43/194 and 43/196; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1035 (XXXVII), 1079 (XXXIX), 1965 (LI), 1988/75, and 1989/85.

12.55 Authoritative and comprehensive monitoring of the progress of world development and analyses of both the medium- and long-term prospects for the world economy are required in order to assist intergovernmental bodies and Member States in their efforts to identify potential problem areas and emerging issues in the world economy. The organization of a large volume of information and of a continuously evolving and improving methodology for its analysis is therefore required, particularly since new issues are likely to emerge in a period of rapid political, institutional and social change in virtually all regions of the world. Long-term trends in economic and social development at the global, regional and national levels need to be studied in a systematic and quantitative manner by means of econometric, input-output modelling and other techniques in order to provide up-to-date analyses of emerging issues of concern to the international community, as one of means for assisting Governments in monitoring the implementation of the international development strategy for the 1990s. Policy modelling, projections and perspectives are also essential for studies undertaken under other subprogrammes, as well as for the overall planning of future activities both in the United Nations and in the specialized agencies.

12.56 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to strengthen the capabilities of intergovernmental bodies and Member States for the early identification of emerging problems in the world economy by improving existing mechanisms and means for providing socio-economic data and forecasts available in the United Nations in a comprehensive and readily accessible form; (b) to increase awareness at the national and international policy-making levels of major development issues and problems with up-to-date assessments of perspectives and alternative scenarios with a view to encouraging Member States to improve their own analytical work and forecasting activities; and (c) to further develop links and increase the flow of

socio-economic information between the United Nations and national research and information centres to the greatest extent possible.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.57 With regard to policy modelling of the global economy, the global econometric model of Project LINK will continue to provide quantitative analysis of the short- and medium-term outlook for external debt problems, commodity price shocks, the impact of closer integration of members of regional trading blocs etc. Research priorities will include the development of a framework for better analysis of world trade in services, capital goods, and commodities, the development of more and better models for African, western Asian and least developed economies, the development of satellite models for selected social indicators, and the expansion of the time horizon of the projections to the year 2000.

12.58 With regard to policy modelling of environmental and resource issues, the Global Input-Output Model (GIOM or "the Leontief model") of the world economy will be revised and updated to include better indicators of pollution and energy use, which will facilitate system-wide analyses of alternative growth paths under various pollution and energy-use constraints.

12.59 Analytical and comprehensive studies will be prepared of long-term socio-economic perspectives of the world economy, and several topic-oriented studies will be carried out on areas of common concern warranting the special attention of the international community. Those studies will be supplemented by drawing upon the existing new indicators being prepared by the Statistical Office and the Population Division, by the quantitative projection work undertaken in other parts of the United Nations system, and by wide consultations and exchanges with policy makers, professional and academic institutions in the context of international symposia, seminars, expert meetings and round-table discussions that will be organized by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

12.60 During the period of the plan, efforts will be made to improve access to data and modelling systems through local area networks for other parts of the United Nations system and to ensure ready access for researchers to other parts of the United Nations system.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(a) Objectives

12.61 The legislative authority for subprogramme 6 derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186, 42/187, 43/53, 43/182, 43/196 and 44/228.

12.62 Environmental problems cut across a range of policy issues, but are especially rooted in patterns of consumption, natural resource management and the choices among alternative technologies in the production and transportation of goods and services. Many instances of environmental degradation are clearly the consequences of poverty and the absence of economic growth. Such growth is required to facilitate structural adaptation in a manner that helps to protect and enhance the environment. Other instances of environmental damage are the unintended consequences of relentless economic expansion, particularly further industrialization, in many of the developed countries.

12.63 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to enable Member States to apply an economic perspective to issues arising from a consideration of the relationships among socio-economic development, resource use, technological change and the environment so as to promote sustained and ecologically sound development and (b) to foster awareness among Member States of current and emerging global issues, such as the impact on economic development of environmentally sound technologies, and to derive appropriate policy conclusions.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.64 The Secretariat will undertake two principal types of activities subject to modifications resulting from the outcome of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Studies will be prepared that will analyse the interaction and reconciliation between the need for rapid socio-economic development, on the one hand, and the avoidance of environmental degradation, on the other, in their global and regional contexts. The subprogramme will integrate in that analysis the environmental indicators being developed in the Statistical Office and other institutions in their monitoring of global socio-economic trends and will also take into consideration the periodic evaluation to be undertaken in the international development strategy. Particular attention will be paid to the relationships among patterns of consumption, resource use and choice of technologies for which the global input-output model of the world economy, being revised and expanded under subprogramme 5, will provide major inputs. The impact of less resource-intensive technologies on economic growth and its social implications will be highlighted.

12.65 The studies will include quantitative analyses of scenarios to the year 2000 and beyond under alternative assumptions regarding policies and technological choices and will explore the economic consequences of various strategies for preventing or mitigating environmental degradation. The interdisciplinary analyses required for the preparations of those studies will draw heavily on inputs to be provided by specialized organizations of the United Nations system, including not only the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), but others such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in respect of environmental aspects of agricultural development, forestry practices and watershed management. Inputs would also be provided by other subprogrammes for which the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) is responsible where environmental aspects are taken up in connection with other issues, e.g., poverty in subprogramme 2 above, energy in programme 20, water in subprogramme 1 of programme 19, population, resources, environment and development in programme 18, and environmental statistics and accounting in programme 24.

12.66 In the context of the international development strategy for the 1990s and follow-up to the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, the Secretariat will undertake analyses of alternative transportation technologies and transportation systems, including their environmental implications. It will also collect, analyse and disseminate information concerning policy issues, new transport technologies, infrastructure and institution building, environmental concerns, and transport legislation. The increasing systematization of this work is expected to result in a computerized transport data base during the latter part of the plan period. This work will continue to be undertaken in close collaboration with concerned international organizations such as the International Road Transport Union, the International Road Federation, the World Bank, UNDP, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Commission,

the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), etc., and biannual meetings will continue with regional commissions' chiefs of transport divisions to discuss and take appropriate steps on emerging or critical transport issues.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. SYSTEM-WIDE ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC AREAS WITHIN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

(a) Objectives

12.67 The legislative authority for subprogramme 7 derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77, 1989/108 and 1989/114.

12.68 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to assist the Council in identifying major policy themes for in-depth consideration and to assist it in undertaking analyses of those themes selected for policy formulation in order to enhance programme effectiveness and reduce overlapping and duplication; (b) to co-ordinate in the United Nations system priority attention to areas of international concern with the aim of harmonizing system-wide policies and programmes to respond to those concerns; and (c) to develop co-operative and co-ordinative mechanisms for the formulation and development of system-wide medium-term plans.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.69 In order to make the United Nations system more responsive to economic and social development issues in the 1990s, the Council has called for the replacement of previous co-ordination instruments, such as cross-organizational reports, by thematic analyses on major policy themes selected from a multi-year work programme.

12.70 During the period of the medium-term plan, activities will be undertaken in relation to the preparation of thematic analyses on leading international economic and social issues; they will review relevant existing activities, identify policy options and make action-oriented proposals to the Council to assist it in establishing policies and priorities. Policy issues and relationships between fields, sectors and activities of relevant bodies of the United Nations system concerned will be reviewed. Relevant decisions and recommendations of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system will be analysed. Ongoing and planned programmatic activities relating to the theme and their system-wide implementation will be studied, highlighting obstacles and advantages. Emerging problems and the potential need for action by the United Nations system will also be identified. Appropriate attention will be drawn to the social and economic aspects of selected policy themes with recommendations made to promote complementarities, co-operation and, as appropriate, system-wide joint activities to enhance programme effectiveness and reduce overlapping and duplication in the United Nations system.

12.71 Under the overall co-ordination of the Office of the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs will allocate as necessary the appropriate capabilities, resources and relevant expertise to assist in undertaking analytical studies on specific economic and social issues of system-wide scope. Close attention will continue to be given to co-operating with relevant organizations and units of the United Nations system in the elaboration and development of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development to the year 2000 and of future system-wide medium-term plans decided at intergovernmental level.

SUBPROGRAMME 8. INTERORGANIZATIONAL CO-OPERATION

(a) Objectives

12.72 The legislative authority for subprogramme 8 derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197 (annex), 37/137, 38/149, 39/229, 43/15, 44/170, 44/213, 44/226 and 44/231; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/72, 1296 (XLIV), 1988/59, 1988/61 and 1989/108 and Council decision 1989/110.

12.73 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to establish and develop procedures for achieving through inter-organizational co-operation concerted implementation by the United Nations of policy guidelines, directives and priorities emanating from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and integrating into a coherent whole the relevant expertise and inputs of the organizations of the system; (b) to facilitate the functioning of the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) in respect of responsibilities for interorganizational co-operation; (c) to obtain and disseminate information on the programmes, activities and outputs of the programmes of the United Nations and the United Nations system in the area of consumer protection and to assist Member States in the implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection; and (d) to assist non-governmental organizations in the economic and social sectors in implementing resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Council.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.74 Because of the decentralized nature of the United Nations system, broad policy goals are pursued under the aegis of a complex structure of mandates emanating from a variety of intergovernmental bodies. Clearly articulated goals and strategies for the system are required in many fields, and information on proposed plans and programmes needs to be exchanged in order to achieve a more harmonized approach in specific areas of work. The range and complexity of subjects considered by the Economic and Social Council, CPC and ACC demand substantive support both in terms of the information required and of the effective implementation of agreed lines of action. To this end, reports on the activities of the United Nations system on various issues will continue to be submitted to the Council and its subsidiary bodies as well as to CPC and CPC/ACC Joint Meetings. The process of prior consultation will continue to be reviewed through the machinery of ACC with a view to improving its effectiveness as an instrument for the harmonization of policies and to providing substantive servicing of and participation in the meetings of ACC and its subsidiary bodies on issues within the mandates of the programmes in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Interorganizational co-operation will also be provided for activities relating to the commemoration of international anniversaries, years and decades designated by the Assembly.

12.75 During the period of the plan, research work will be undertaken to update and maintain the Macrothesaurus for information processing in the field of economic and social development as a co-operative activity of international and regional organizations. A fourth edition of the Macrothesaurus is expected to be prepared and published during the period of the plan. Work will continue on co-ordination of collection, compilation and dissemination of consolidated information on harmful products. Work will proceed on the ongoing review of the Consolidated List of

Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale has been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not approved by Governments with a view to its improvement. This work will be carried out in close collaboration with UNEP, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and other concerned bodies of the system.

12.76 The activities related to the implementation of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection will be continued and expanded. In particular, assistance will be given to Governments, at their request, for the elaboration of national legislation and policies in this field. This will be carried out, inter alia, through regional seminars and thematic workshops. The need for consumer guidelines in specific sectors will be examined in this context. Activities will be further developed on the basis of recommendations of intergovernmental bodies.

12.77 Another area of activity is related to assisting non-governmental organizations. The General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies are continuously addressing to non-governmental organizations an increasing number of requests in a wide variety of fields. There is a need to assist those non-governmental organizations in responding to requests from intergovernmental bodies, co-ordinating their activities in order to avoid duplication and to ensuring complementarity. There is also an increased demand from Member States and the Secretariat for information and contacts regarding non-governmental organizations. To those ends, the subprogramme will increasingly serve as a focal point for the activities undertaken by the non-governmental organizations in consultative status, inter alia, by providing guidance to the various substantive non-governmental organization committees and co-ordinating the activities of these committees through appropriate mechanisms, continuing to act as the substantive secretariat of the Economic and Social Council Committee on non-governmental organizations and give increased attention to developing consultations and contacts through annual consultations and ad hoc meetings between Member States and non-governmental organizations in consultative status. Finally, the subprogramme will also continue to assist non-governmental organizations in developing collaborative relations with substantive and programme offices with the view to contributing to the implementation of the respective mandates of the programmes.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND POLICIES

(a) Objectives

12.78 The legislative authority for subprogramme 9 derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 43/199, 44/169, 44/211, 44/212, 44/220 and 44/227.

12.79 Widespread international economic instability and the foreign-debt and balance-of-payments problems of developing countries in recent years have increased the importance and urgency of strengthening the technical and institutional capacity of those developing countries for planning their economic and social development in order to gain the greatest benefits from the resources available to them for development. Through technical co-operation activities many developing countries have raised significantly their technical and institutional capacity for development planning, and many are now able to apply effectively more specialized and advanced planning techniques. However, the critical economic difficulties they still face, many of them caused or influenced by external factors to their economy, create a need for continued international support in this field, emphasizing immediately applicable and useful assistance.

12.80 The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of developing countries to prepare and implement integrated policies and plans aimed at accelerating and enhancing their economic and social development.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.81 Particular attention will be given to public-investment programming and monitoring, foreign-debt and balance-of-payments issues, short-term and operational planning, budget deficits, co-ordinating external assistance, mobilization of financial resources and activities related to structural adjustment and recovery programmes. Assistance will also be provided in medium-term national planning, sectoral planning, long-term perspective planning, forecasting techniques and multinational and subnational (regional) planning. Assistance will be provided, as appropriate and at the request of Governments, through expertise and training and through operation-oriented research aimed at developing innovative models and methodologies for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of development-planning activities in developing countries. Special support will be given to the least developed countries, island developing countries and the countries in other special categories where the needs are greatest. Consideration of TCDC modalities of co-operation will be made whenever appropriate. Assistance will be given to the World Food Programme in appraising government requests for food aid.

SUBPROGRAMME 10. PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
(INCLUDING COUNTRY PROGRAMMING)

(a) Objectives

12.82 The legislative authority for subprogramme 10 derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 44/169, 44/211 and 44/220.

12.83 External technical and financial co-operation is an important means for the developing countries of overcoming constraints to development. The need for co-ordination by the Government of aid from many sources requires close harmonization and careful planning of international technical and financial assistance. Co-ordination needs to be an integral part of the overall economic and social development planning. This is particularly crucial in the case of the least developed countries and other developing countries facing special handicaps where external assistance constitutes a greater proportion of available resources.

12.84 The specific objective of the subprogramme is to support developing countries in planning and co-ordinating international technical and financial co-operation provided to them within their overall development priorities and the needs for external assistance stemming therefrom.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.85 Technical co-operation will be provided, at the request of Governments, in enhancing the developing countries' capacity to co-ordinate external technical and financial assistance within the framework of their overall economic and social development priorities, policies and plans. Assistance, including assistance in UNDP country programming, will be provided through expertise, training and operation-oriented research aimed at developing improved methodologies and

techniques for enhancing the developing countries' capacity for aid co-ordination. Special support will be given to the least developed countries and the other developing countries facing special handicaps where external assistance is particularly important.

SUBPROGRAMME 11. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGING CROSS-SECTORAL PROGRAMMES

(a) Objectives

12.86 The legislative authority for subprogramme 11 derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 44/77, 44/78, 44/169, 44/171, 44/211, 44/212 and 44/227; and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/41.

12.87 Intergovernmental bodies continually stress the need to establish effective linkages among major interdependent development issues. Among the development issues thus identified are the need for a unified approach to economic and social development at all levels, full and effective participation by the entire population at all stages of the development process, integrated rural development, environmental aspects of development, strengthening of scientific and technological capacity and natural disaster protection.

12.88 The objective of the subprogramme is to facilitate cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary approaches in the provision of technical co-operation on major development issues and policies.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

12.89 Technical co-operation will be provided, at the request of Governments and in response to the guidance of intergovernmental bodies, to promote a unified approach to economic and social development, integrated rural development, popular participation, women's integration in development, alleviation of sectors of critical poverty, environmental aspects of development, science and technology for development, natural disaster protection and other emerging areas. To ensure an integrated and effective approach, technical co-operation will be provided within the framework of the developing countries' overall economic and social development priorities policies and plans. The technical co-operation will be provided, as appropriate and at the request of Governments, through expertise, training and the development of action-oriented research materials.
