

Chapter VI

Regional economic and social activities

The five United Nations regional commissions held their regular sessions during 1994, in continuing efforts to promote economic and social development in their respective regions.

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) held its twenty-ninth session/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the fifteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held its fiftieth session in New Delhi, India; the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) held its forty-ninth session in Geneva; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held its twenty-fifth session in Cartagena, Colombia; and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its seventeenth session in Amman, Jordan.

In July, the Economic and Social Council readmitted South Africa as a member of ECA (decision 1994/303) and admitted Armenia to ESCAP membership (resolution 1994/25). It recommended that the permanent headquarters of ESCWA be relocated to Beirut, Lebanon (1994/43), and decided that the Commission's sessions be held in odd years, starting in 1995 (1994/26).

The Council endorsed ECA's Plan of Action for the coordination of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1994/41) and approved the outline of ECA's work programme for 1995-1996 in information systems development (1994/42). It further addressed ECA activities in its resolutions on developing and strengthening the Commission's programmes in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs (1994/39) and on enhancing the capacity of ECA's Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (1994/40).

In October, the General Assembly urged United Nations agencies and organizations to intensify their cooperation with the Latin American Economic System (resolution 49/6) and, in December, it invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to elaborate a programme for improving the transit environment in the land-locked States of Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours (49/102). The Assembly endorsed an ECA resolution on strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development (49/134) and called on the Commission and the Organization of African Unity to cooperate with the

United Nations Industrial Development Organization in improving African industrial cooperation and integrating the African Economic Community into the industrial sphere (49/107).

Regional cooperation

In 1994, efforts continued to strengthen the role of the regional commissions as part of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. The executive secretaries of the regional commissions, meeting in New York on 24 and 25 February, discussed coordination and decentralization of activities between the regions and Headquarters and relations with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). They emphasized the need to recognize the commissions as full partners in the development and execution of a unified United Nations programme in the economic and social area; to maintain clear lines of communications between Headquarters and the regional commissions; and to define better the division of labour and responsibilities between global entities and the regional commissions. The executive secretaries welcomed measures implemented by the Secretary-General to improve communications, including entrusting his Special Adviser with the task of overseeing relations and promoting closer interaction between Headquarters and the commissions and resuming the practice of annual meetings of senior officials in the economic and social field. They also welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to enhance coordination at the regional level and seek the cooperation of specialized agencies to ensure that the commissions played fully their role as catalysts for more coherent system-wide regional strategies.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of decentralization measures aimed at strengthening the functions of the regional commissions and increasing their responsibilities, as requested by the General Assembly in 1993,⁽ⁱ⁾ and emphasized the importance of their full implementation.

The executive secretaries observed that decentralization had to be accompanied by a closer integration of the commissions' work programmes into an Organization-wide framework and by in-

creased cooperation and interaction at the technical level with expertise at Headquarters. In this respect, the Secretariat was to concentrate its services on specialized fields, for which demand in any one region was not strong enough to warrant the assignment of a full-time expert or which required a higher level of expertise, and to serve as a technical source for the experts based in the regions. It would also assume primary responsibility for overall programme management and policy development and assist the Secretary-General in the monitoring of activities, as part of an enhanced system of accountability.

In their relations with UNDP, the executive secretaries expressed concern over the dramatic reduction in UNDP resources allocated to regional and interregional programmes; UNDP's continuing disregard for the regional commissions as executing agencies in areas where they had a comparative advantage; and duplication of research and other activities at the regional level, resulting from the commissions' lack of involvement in the coordination process. They were also concerned that the commissions' involvement in UNDP's programming cycle took place at too late a stage to be meaningful and that some commissions had to deal with more than one UNDP regional bureau because of the different definition of regions by some entities.

The executive secretaries further discussed the progress of their joint programmes, issues relating to staff training and regional preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. (For details, see PART THREE, Chapters IX, XII and XIII, respectively.) They raised a number of issues regarding the role of the regional commissions in the Commission on Sustainable Development, emphasizing the importance of their involvement in the Commission's work.

JIU report. Decentralization of United Nations activities to the regional level was also the subject of a report by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). JIU reviewed and assessed efforts to restructure the regional dimension of United Nations economic and social activities. It considered the functions, comparative advantages and resources of the regional commissions, as well as new challenges before them; reviewed past attempts at decentralization to the regional level and the current restructuring exercise; and made recommendations to give further impetus to the restructuring of the United Nations economic and social sectors and to decentralization to the regional level in particular.

By a September note,⁽³⁾ the Secretary-General transmitted the JIU report to the General Assembly. (For details, see PART THREE, Chapter XVIII.)

Report of the Secretary-General. In a June report to the Economic and Social Council on regional

cooperation,⁽³⁾ the Secretary-General outlined the work of the five regional commissions, including matters requiring action by or brought to the attention of the Council, and provided a detailed account of the February meeting of the executive secretaries.

The report also dealt with the impact of international migration in countries of destination and countries of origin, as a subject of common interest to all regions, and examined activities that the regional commissions could consider initiating as part of interregional cooperation in that field.

In response to a 1993 Council request,⁽⁴⁾ the report summarized the reviews by the regional commissions of the relevant provisions of Agenda 21,⁽⁵⁾ adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and their plans for implementing those provisions. The report emphasized that greater regionalization and subregionalization of the United Nations system through its regional commissions was vital for integrating development and environmental issues. The regional commissions had an important role to play in supporting the Commission on Sustainable Development at the regional and country levels and in contributing to systematic reviews and appraisals of the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional and subregional levels.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July, by **decision 1994/289**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's report on regional cooperation⁽³⁾ and other documents considered in connection with the question of regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields, including, *inter alia*, summaries of: the survey of economic conditions in the ECE region, 1993-1994;⁽⁶⁾ survey of the economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 1993;⁽⁷⁾ survey of economic conditions in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1993;⁽⁸⁾ survey of economic and social conditions in the region of Africa, 1993-1994;⁽⁹⁾ and survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, 1993.⁽¹⁰⁾

REFERENCES

- (¹)YUN 1993, p. 586, GA res. 47/212 B, 6 May 1993. (²)A/49/423. (³)E/1994/50 & Add.1,2. (⁴)YUN 1993, p. 587, ESC dec. 1993/213, 12 Feb. 1993. (⁵)YUN 1992, p. 672. (⁶)YUN 1993, p. 627. (⁷)Ibid., p. 609. (⁸)Ibid., p. 636. (⁹)Ibid., p. 589. (¹⁰)Ibid., p. 644.

Africa

The Economic Commission for Africa held its twenty-ninth session/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2 to 5 May.⁽¹⁾ The session coincided with the thirty-

fifth anniversary of the Commission, and the Conference had as its theme: ECA at 35; building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development. The Ministers reviewed perspectives of Africa's socio-economic development; the continent's economic situation; implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), adopted by the General Assembly in 1991;⁽³⁾ building capacities for growth and sustainable development; issues related to regional and global cooperation for development in Africa; and programme, administrative and organizational questions.

In his message to the Conference, the Secretary-General pointed out that enhancing the capacity of populations and strengthening the capacity of national institutions and infrastructures were vital to meet the difficult challenge of development and the regional commissions were at the heart of the United Nations effort to meet that challenge. He emphasized that Governments had crucial development responsibilities, which included, among others, investing in infrastructure, facilitating the development of productive sectors, providing an environment for the promotion of private enterprise, ensuring proper social safety nets, and protecting the environment.

In his statement to the Conference, the Executive Secretary of ECA stressed the need for efficient regional infrastructures to integrate national markets, create economies of scale and attain a competitive edge in global trade. He pointed out that Africa's weak economic performance, in the face of rapid population growth, had been translated into unbearable pressures on existing social and physical infrastructures and the growing inability to meet other basic needs. The Executive Secretary emphasized that African countries were undergoing transitions from war to peace, from unaccountable governance to democracy and human rights, from centralized economic management to competitive market economies, and from modes of production that destroyed fragile ecosystems to sustainable development. He observed that substantial external financial transfers to Africa would be required to sustain growth through capacity-building.

The Executive Secretary called for innovative and flexible solutions to reduce Africa's external debt while maintaining the continent's access to multilateral finance flows, and for the improvement of African capacity to attract foreign investment and manage external resource flows.

The Conference of Ministers was preceded by the fifteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (Addis Ababa, 26 April to 1 May),⁽⁴⁾ which considered strategies and possible action for capacity-building in areas critical

for Africa's development: good governance, human rights, political stability, and peace and security; socio-economic policy analysis and management; human resources; entrepreneurial skills for public and private sector enterprise; physical infrastructure; food production, food security and self-sufficiency; exploitation of natural resources and diversification of African economies into processing and manufacturing; and mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources.

The Committee also reviewed the continent's economic performance in 1993 and the outlook for 1994,⁽⁵⁾ and took note of the biennial report of the ECA Executive Secretary for 1992-1993.⁽⁶⁾ It discussed issues relating to the implementation of the 1991 Abuja Treaty, adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), establishing the African Economic Community; the impact of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade agreements on African economies; African strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by UNCED in 1992;⁽⁶⁾ preparations for forthcoming international conferences; and regional cooperation for development.

The Committee considered a follow-up study on rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions,⁽⁷⁾ prepared by the ECA Ad Hoc Committee of 10 member States in response to a 1993 ECA request.⁽⁸⁾ It underscored the importance of making ECA-sponsored institutions cost-effective and viable and urged them to increase their income-generating activities and strengthen their capacity for resource mobilization, in particular from Africa's development partners. It took note of the proposed consolidation of eleven institutions into three and recommended that Commission members examine the study in depth.

The Committee approved activities proposed for inclusion in the 1994-1995 programme of work and priorities and took action on reports on ECA programme evaluation and on strengthening ECA's operational capacity. (For more details, see below, under specific headings.)

The Conference of Ministers reviewed, amended and adopted the Committee's report,⁽⁹⁾ including its resolutions and declarations on the reintegration of new democratic South Africa into Africa and on a human development plan of action for Africa. It noted⁽⁹⁾ with concern the worsening situation of the least developed countries (LDCs), the majority of which were in Africa, and called on ECA and Africa's development partners to intensify implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the 1990s.⁽¹⁰⁾ The Conference also discussed a proposal to rename ECA the Economic and Social Commission for Africa⁽¹¹⁾ and decided to take up the issue at a future meeting.

In a Declaration on the reintegration of new democratic South Africa into Africa, adopted on 4 May, the Conference noted that the successful constitutional change and the advent of a democratic Government in South Africa would have far-reaching economic and political implications for South Africa, its neighbours and Africa as a whole. It also took note of the document entitled "Towards socio-economic development of democratic South Africa: ECA's role in perspective",⁽¹²⁾ which discussed, inter alia, the Commission's initiatives in monitoring the process of transition in South Africa and its preparatory work in anticipation of post-apartheid South Africa and that country's eventual re-establishment of relations with the rest of the continent. The Ministers maintained that ECA's legislative and technical machinery, as well as its analytical capacities and technical and advisory services, could all be placed at the disposal of the new South Africa, and called on the international community and African regional organizations to assist in South Africa's socio-economic development. Recalling that South Africa had been excluded from the Commission's work since 1963,⁽¹³⁾ the Conference recommended that the Economic and Social Council readmit South Africa into the Commission. (For information on developments in South Africa, see PART TWO, Chapter I.)

On 29 July, by **decision** 1994/303, the Economic and Social Council decided to readmit South Africa as a member of ECA.

In another Declaration, the Conference called on the Executive Secretary of ECA to prepare a Human Development Plan of Action for Africa (see below under "Social development and humanitarian affairs").

Economic and social trends

Economic trends

Africa's economic performance was sluggish in 1994, according to the summary of a survey of economic and social conditions in that region.⁽¹⁴⁾ Although overall regional output grew by 2.4 per cent, compared to only 0.9 per cent in 1993, per capita income declined by 1 per cent as the population grew. In developing Africa, the growth rate of the combined gross domestic product (GDP) rose from 0.8 per cent in 1993 to 2.3 per cent in 1994, whereas South Africa registered a growth rate of 2.1 per cent, up from 1.2 per cent in the previous year.

The GDP of the continent's non-oil-exporting countries grew by 2.7 per cent, compared to only 1.5 per cent in the oil-exporting States, owing to the continuing decline in oil prices and production. Output in the mineral-exporting countries increased by 1.4 per cent, after a decline of 3.3 per

cent in 1993, while the growth rate in beverage-exporting States decreased from 1.9 per cent in 1993 to 0.4 per cent in 1994. The franc zone economies, following a 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc in January 1994, expanded by 1.6 per cent, having contracted by 1.4 per cent in 1993.

Manufacturing value-added (MVA) of developing Africa recovered in 1994 with an estimated increase of 5.04 per cent, following a 0.07 per cent decline in 1993. South Africa's MVA grew by 3.28 per cent after virtual stagnation in the previous year, bringing the MVA growth rate for the region as a whole to 4.43 per cent. Subregional growth rates varied from 8.35 per cent in West Africa and 6.4 per cent in North Africa to around 3 per cent in eastern and southern Africa and in sub-Saharan Africa, having declined in 1993 in all subregions but North Africa. However, MVA fell by some 8.79 per cent in Central Africa for the second consecutive year and decreased by 0.44 per cent in African LDCs, after a 2.5 per cent drop in 1993. The manufacturing sector in general continued to be characterized by low productivity, underutilization of capacity and inadequate industrial investments, acute dependence on external sources of raw materials, technology and other essential inputs, and obsolete machinery and ill-maintained equipment. With the liberalization of trade, the sector also had to compete with cheap imports from relatively more advanced developing countries of South-East Asia.

In the mining sector, total oil production declined slightly to 338.2 million tons from 339.2 million tons in 1993. Production increases in Angola, Gabon and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were offset by low output in other countries, particularly Nigeria. According to preliminary estimates, output in minerals and metal ores was rather poor, with slight decreases in the production of bauxite and gold and the continuing downward trend in cobalt and copper. Overall mining production was adversely affected by the low output of the mining industry in Zaire, which produced about 50,000 tons of copper against an annual capacity of 500,000 tons.

A number of African countries experienced strong inflationary pressures in 1994, the most prominent case being Zaire with an annual inflation rate of more than 8,500 per cent due to excessive budgetary deficits, followed by Angola with an inflation rate of more than 1,000 per cent. The franc zone economies (Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo) maintained tight monetary policies to keep inflation below the 50 per cent currency devaluation rate in most cases; however, inflation in the Congo was estimated at 60 per cent in 1994.

The growth in domestic demand was sluggish at 2.7 per cent, reflecting a mere 1.1 per cent

growth in aggregate private consumption. Preliminary estimates showed a noticeable rise in investment volume, reversing years of a downward trend. The budget deficit, however, continued to grow in several countries, owing to the social and political limits to expenditure reduction and the uncertainties and policy constraints of an unstable fiscal environment. Some countries financed the bulk of their deficits by issuing treasury securities rather than directly borrowing from their central banks. Fiscal deficits in the region were expected to average about 6 per cent of GDP in 1994, up from some 5 per cent in 1993. In response to persistent macroeconomic imbalances and instability, the overwhelming majority of African Governments continued to implement reforms focusing on fiscal austerity, restrictive monetary policies and the liberalization of foreign exchange and interest rates, aiming thereby to promote the private sector and make the public sector more efficient in spite of the enormous short-term costs and social consequences of such measures, but most countries were as yet unable to make the necessary transition.

External debt

Africa's external debt reached \$312.2 billion in 1994, a 3.2 per cent increase over 1993. While the debt of North African countries grew by only 0.5 per cent, it was more than offset by a record 5.4 per cent rise in the external debt stock of sub-Saharan Africa. The debt-to-GDP ratio for the region as a whole, including South Africa, rose to 71.6 per cent of regional GDP, from 66.1 per cent in 1993; however, with South Africa excluded, that ratio grew from 107.9 per cent to 126 per cent over the same period for sub-Saharan Africa alone. The debt/export ratio also increased from 228 per cent in 1993 to 231.3 per cent in 1994. Actual debt services, however, fell from 21.4 per cent of exports to 19.5 per cent for the region as a whole and from 15.5 per cent to 12 per cent for sub-Saharan Africa, but rose from 29.7 per cent to 31.1 per cent in North Africa.

The results obtained in Africa under the various debt relief schemes had so far been poor. Debt relief efforts by bilateral donors provided only partial relief for the official debt burden for a few countries, while most of the heavily indebted countries continued to face enormous payment difficulties. At the same time, economic reforms introduced in many countries were not sufficient to restore private investor confidence or bring the debt-service burden to manageable proportions. Radical measures were, therefore, needed to solve the African debt crisis in its entire complexity, including its commercial and multilateral debt.

Agriculture

According to ECA's report on the economic and social situation in Africa, 1995,⁽¹⁵⁾ total agricultural

output for the region as a whole increased by 2.1 per cent in 1994, compared to 3.7 per cent in 1993. The improvement in weather conditions during the year resulted in above-average harvests in most parts of the continent. The North Africa subregion achieved an impressive growth rate of 12.8 per cent, followed by the southern and West Africa subregions with 3.6 per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively. In contrast, the East and Central Africa subregions registered respective declines of 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent. Overall agricultural output in developing Africa grew by 1.8 per cent in 1994, down from 2.6 per cent in 1993.

Food production rose by 2.5 per cent, compared to 4.5 per cent in the previous year. Total cereal output reached 105.3 million tons from 96.4 million tons in 1993, representing a 9.3 per cent increase. The cereal crop grew by 18.6 per cent in East Africa, from 18.3 million tons to 21.7 million tons, and by 14 per cent in West Africa, reaching 9.9 million tons, while the Central and southern Africa subregions registered growth rates of 3.6 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively. Output of wheat increased from 13.4 million tons in 1993 to 15.5 million tons in 1994, while output of coarse grains rose from 67.9 million tons to 74.4 million tons over the same period. On the other hand, the production of roots and tubers grew by a mere 0.5 per cent, from 119.4 million tons to 120 million tons. Cassava production stagnated in Ghana and Madagascar for the second consecutive year, and fell by 15.9 per cent in Zaire, 5.7 per cent in Mozambique, 4.4 per cent in the United Republic of Tanzania and 2.7 per cent in Uganda. The production of sugar, coffee and cocoa increased by 15.9 per cent, 6.2 per cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively, whereas the output of tobacco, tea and cotton showed respective declines of 12.2 per cent, 7 per cent and 4.9 per cent.

As in previous years, policy initiatives focused on rural poverty alleviation, rationalization and liberalization of agricultural parastatals, subsidized credit, price guarantees and support, and sustainable agricultural activities in combination with the protection of the environment.

Trade

Indicators of trade performance in Africa were mixed in 1994. African countries benefited from higher demand for primary commodities and increases in their prices, while Africa's share of world merchandise trade stagnated at 2.4 per cent in 1994, a slight decline from 2.6 per cent in 1992. The volume of African exports rose by 2 per cent, while their value grew from \$87.9 billion in 1993 to \$89.6 billion in 1994, representing a 4.2 per cent increase. Import values increased by 6.5 per cent to \$97.8 billion, while import volumes registered modest growth, providing some respite for Afri-

can countries from balance-of-payments pressures and enabling them to increase capacity utilization. Export commodity prices of interest to Africa rose by 2.1 per cent in 1994, following a 7.6 per cent drop in 1993, while import prices grew by 1.6 per cent, compared to a 2.8 per cent decline in the previous year. Thus, Africa's terms of trade improved by 0.5 per cent in 1994, having deteriorated by 5 per cent in 1993.

The region's trade balance and services account registered larger deficits of \$8.2 billion and \$6.9 billion, respectively, compared to deficits of \$5.6 billion and \$6.2 billion in 1993. Unrequited transfers also grew from \$19.2 billion in 1993 to \$20.1 billion in 1994. Net official development assistance (ODA) flows to the region fell from \$24.7 billion in 1992 to \$21.4 billion in 1993, including a decline from \$18.7 billion to \$17.6 billion in sub-Saharan Africa and from \$5.4 billion to \$3.4 billion in North Africa.

Subregional economic performance

North Africa registered the continent's best performance in 1994, with a GDP growth rate of 4 per cent, compared to 1.1 per cent in 1993. This was due in part to Morocco's strong economic recovery, with a 10.5 per cent growth in GDP following its 1993 drought. At the same time, Algeria's economy remained constrained by political instability, high debt service and high import requirements of industry. The economy of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya contracted substantially in 1994 as a result of United Nations economic sanctions; however, its oil production remained stable after a sharp drop in 1993. In West Africa, the growth rate declined from 4 per cent in 1993 to 2.1 per cent in 1994, owing mainly to an economic slowdown in Nigeria from 7.2 per cent to 2.1 per cent over the same period. Overall output in the West African franc zone countries increased by only 2.8 per cent, compared to 8 per cent in the previous year, with their largest economy—Côte d'Ivoire—having turned around from a decline to a minimal growth of 0.8 per cent.

Central Africa continued to be affected by the free fall of the Zairian economy and the lacklustre performance in the others, including the devastated economies of Burundi and Rwanda. The subregion's output fell for the fourth consecutive year, by 5.4 per cent in 1994, following a 5 per cent decline in 1993. Although two of the subregion's three oil-exporting States increased their oil production, only Gabon registered a modest growth of 1.6 per cent, while the Congo's economy contracted by 3.6 per cent, due to political factors and continuing budgetary problems. Cameroon moderated the rapid fall of its GDP since 1991 but still recorded a decrease of 1.5 per cent, owing to poor agricultural and industrial perform-

ance and a steady decline in oil production. Economic activity in the East and southern Africa subregions was adversely affected by drought conditions in the Horn of Africa, constraints of rehabilitation and reconstruction in Mozambique and renewed drought in Malawi. East Africa's GDP grew by a modest 1.6 per cent, after a 2.4 per cent decline in 1993, while southern Africa's economies expanded by a mere 0.4 per cent, having contracted by 3.2 per cent in the previous year.

Output in African LDCs, which constituted more than two thirds of Africa's economies, fell by 1.2 per cent in 1994, after a 0.1 per cent growth in 1993. Improved weather conditions and agricultural recovery in most Sahelian countries contributed to a 2.6 per cent increase in their aggregate GDP, compared to a 0.7 per cent decline in the previous year. Economies of sub-Saharan Africa, excluding Nigeria, expanded by 1.3 per cent in 1994, following a negative growth of 0.8 per cent in 1993.

Policy developments

In 1994, most African countries continued to implement economic reforms aimed at creating a stable macroeconomic environment for growth. Fiscal policies focused on enhancing public revenues and restraining public spending through institutional reforms and broadening the tax base. Steps were also taken to reduce the public sector payroll, cut or eliminate subsidies and hold down the growth rate of public consumption. In several countries, the institutional, legal and operational framework of domestic capital markets was revamped to generate greater confidence in the financial intermediation process and expand private participation in the financial sector. A number of States initiated currency reforms, most notably the franc zone economies. Progress was also made in the area of market and tax reforms to improve the investment climate. At the same time, progress in privatization was thwarted by the paucity of domestic savings, lack of aggressive entrepreneurship, underdevelopment of stock markets and reluctance to dispose of public enterprises entirely to foreign investors. In that regard, Governments were searching for an approach to ensure that nationals retained significant equity in privatized assets.

Social trends

The overall social situation in Africa continued to deteriorate in 1994, with women, children and youth bearing a disproportionate burden of the social crisis.⁽¹⁴⁾ The education sector was affected by severe cutbacks in public expenditure and by emphasis on cost-recovery and cost-sharing, and was characterized by falling enrolment, haphazard attendance, high attrition and repetition rates, low

morale and the exodus of teachers from the profession. Illiteracy rates remained among the highest in the world, reaching 40 per cent for men and 65 per cent for women over age 15 in sub-Saharan Africa alone.⁽¹⁵⁾

The health situation continued to be dominated by the pandemic of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), affecting up to 25 to 30 per cent of all adults in cities of Central, eastern and southern Africa. The number of cases of HIV infection in the region was estimated to have exceeded 10 million in 1994, and was projected to reach 14 million by the year 2000. Strategies to contain the pandemic included media campaigns, community mobilization programmes, promotion of person-to-person education and use of condoms, and control of sexually transmitted diseases. Compounding the spread of HIV/AIDS and the decay in health infrastructure and services was the problem of malnutrition, caused by the low per capita food production. Chronic undernutrition was projected to affect some 32 per cent of the population, or some 300 million people, in sub-Saharan Africa by the year 2010. In 1994, more than 30 per cent of African children suffered from moderate to severe malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies were the main cause of stunted growth, blindness, low birth-weight, goitre and impaired or irreversible mental and physical development among children. Nutritional anaemia and vitamin A deficiency also increased morbidity and mortality among young children.

With an average fertility rate of 6 children per woman, the region's population grew by around 3 per cent in 1994. However, most African Governments had yet to formulate specific population policies for lowering population growth rates. The high level of urbanization created additional economic pressures; by 2020, some 54 per cent of Africans were expected to live in urban areas. At the same time, urban unemployment continued unabated and was projected to reach 30 per cent by the year 2000. Another problem was the worsening plight of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, whose numbers exceeded seven million, or one third of the world refugee population.

On the positive side, political instability subsided in some African countries and the democratization process continued, culminating in the establishment of popularly elected Governments in a number of States. However, chronic flash points continued to give cause for concern.

Activities in 1994

During 1994, ECA activities focused on facilitating subregional and regional cooperation in Africa through the enhancement of human, infrastruc-

tural and institutional capacities for accelerated socio-economic development. The Commission's research, analytical work and operational activities were particularly directed at development issues and policies; trade, regional economic cooperation and integration; poverty alleviation through sustainable development; development administration and management; human resource development and social transformation; statistical and information systems development; infrastructural and structural transformation; and women in development.

Development policy and regional economic cooperation activities

ECA continued to assist its member States in elaborating and implementing reform measures advocated in major regional development policy and strategy frameworks, such as the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action,⁽¹⁶⁾ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,⁽²⁾ the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation⁽¹⁷⁾ and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

Extensive technical support and assistance were provided to member States and subregional and regional organizations in macroeconomic policy analysis, debt monitoring and management, the formulation of financial policies for development, including promotion of capital markets, and promotion of monetary and financial integration. Advisory services were extended to Benin, Cameroon, Guinea and other countries of the African franc zone to study the impact of the devaluation of the CFA franc, while Mauritius, Seychelles and Zaire were advised on monetary and fiscal adjustment. The ECA secretariat participated in numerous meetings of African subregional and regional bodies on development issues and launched pilot activities to promote the informal sector of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. It reviewed techniques for debt reduction and conversion (swaps) and their application to the African situation, and collaborated with the World Bank in holding an expert group meeting on the application of the World Bank Debt Extract System.

ECA's annual report, covering 6 May 1994 to 3 May 1995,⁽¹⁸⁾ noted that the Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group provided advisory services that focused on regional integration of physical, institutional and social infrastructures, production structures and trade; participation of all socio-economic groups in the economic integration process; adoption of subregional and regional common policies in agriculture, industry, energy, transport and trade; establishment of national mechanisms to implement subregional and re-

gional programmes; and programme planning, implementation and monitoring. The Group's activities also stressed strengthening economic integration, with special emphasis on the North African subregion, as well as poverty alleviation through coherent agricultural development policies, the implementation of Agenda 21, development administration and management, employment and human resources development, industrial and technological development, and women and development.

Major reports prepared by ECA in the socio-economic area included a survey of economic and social conditions in Africa for 1994-1995 and a development perspective study that assessed the regional economic performances and the situation of intra-African trade in Africa's overall economic development by the year 2008 and beyond. The ECA secretariat also reviewed the progress achieved by African LDCs in the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the 1990s⁽¹⁰⁾ and prepared a performance study of specialized farm credit institutions, which evaluated the successes and failures of 10 development banks in the region's least developed, island and land-locked countries in resource mobilization and credit allocation. Other studies dealt with issues of internal debt, financing development, promotion of capital markets, the impact of external shocks on African monetary zones and strategies for ameliorating them, harmonization of monetary and financial policies at the subregional level, and the impact of the European Union (EU) on exports and investments in selected West African countries. In addition, a report on relaunching the African development effort was submitted to an expert meeting of member States (Addis Ababa, December).

Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda

At its 1994 meeting, the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a report on the implementation of UNNADAF,⁽¹¹⁾ which gave a preliminary account of achievements by African countries, outlined major international initiatives in support of Africa's efforts and described the interrelationship between UNNADAF and other regional and international action programmes for Africa. The report stressed that, in spite of the determination of African countries to undertake far-reaching economic and social reforms and the renewed commitment of support of their partners in development, the region's continued poor economic performance and its social consequences, persistent structural impediments, shortfalls in the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources, social instability and insufficient focus of the international community on the region's strategic objectives were issues of contin-

uing concern in the implementation of the New Agenda.

The Committee recommended that the New Agenda be considered by the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development, chaired by the Secretary-General, and be properly reflected in the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. While acknowledging that the successful implementation of UNNADAF depended primarily on the efforts of African countries, the Committee underscored the importance of external resource mobilization through, *inter alia*, the establishment of a diversification fund for African commodities.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of African Governments to the successful implementation of UNNADAF, renewed its call to Africa's development partners to support the region's efforts, particularly in relation to resource flows, access to markets and debt relief, and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen ECA's capacity for coordinating implementation of the New Agenda.⁽²⁰⁾

During the year, ECA continued to perform its catalytic role in the implementation of UNNADAF and intensified its advisory services to member States and operational activities focusing on the priority areas of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. (For more details and General Assembly action concerning UNNADAF, see PART THREE, Chapter III.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 July, the Economic and Social Council, acting on the recommendation of ECA, adopted **resolution 1994/38** without vote.

Effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the memorandum prepared by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Recognizing that during the period of the Programme of Action, many African countries have made progress in fulfilling their undertakings and that further progress remains critically dependent on access to financing from the international community, including both official and private resources, in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of the New Agenda,

Noting that the first two years of the New Agenda have been affected by the constrained financial resource flows to Africa,

Mindful of the fact that Africa's social and economic development is primarily the responsibility of the Governments and people of Africa, in concert with the international community, which has accepted the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership with Africa,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of the New Agenda, the need for and feasibility of the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities and financial resource flows to Africa, which were submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session,

Taking into consideration the reports of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa on the implementation of the New Agenda and on programme evaluation in the Commission and the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1994-1997,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the expectations in the New Agenda and the priority attached to it,

1. Notes with appreciation the sustained efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure that the social and economic development of Africa remains on the agenda of the international community throughout the 1990s;

2. Recognizes the commitment of the Governments of Africa to the long-term sustainable socio-economic development and growth of the region through the successful implementation of the policies and priorities of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

3. Commends the Governments of Africa for their demonstrated commitment to promoting economic development by their adoption of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, whose objectives are consistent with those of the New Agenda;

4. Recognizes the importance of the regional dimension in the social and economic development of Africa and the potential contributions of the New Agenda in fostering it;

5. Affirms the need to strengthen collaboration between the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa in undertaking actions to promote the long-term socio-economic development of the region;

6. Notes with appreciation the goodwill of the Government of Japan in convening the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held on 5 and 6 October 1993, and the Tokyo Declaration on African Development adopted at that Conference;

7. Urges all the Governments of Africa to continue to take appropriate policy measures and actions for the sustained socio-economic development and growth of the region;

8. Renews its call to Africa's development partners, including the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and the international community at large, to fulfil their commitments to support Africa's efforts, particularly in relation to resource flows to the region, the enhancement of Africa's access to markets and debt relief;

9. Invites the Secretary-General, in the framework of the restructuring of the Secretariat, to explore ways and means to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Economic Commission for Africa to fulfil its coordination, follow-up and monitoring role in the implementation of the New Agenda;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to monitor the implementation of the New Agenda closely, especially those aspects related to the mobilization of resources, and to report thereon to the Conference of Ministers of the Commission at its twenty-first meeting.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/38

29 July 1994 Meeting 48 Adopted without vote

Draft by Commission (E/1994/50), orally revised following informal consultations; agenda item 7.
Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 48.

Framework agenda for capacity-building

At its 1994 session, the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole had before it a preliminary report on a framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa,⁽¹⁾ which synthesized issues and conclusions of reports on capacity-building in eight areas critical for Africa's socio-economic development, including: good governance, human rights, political stability, peace and security; socio-economic policy analysis and management; human capacities; entrepreneurial capacities for public and private sector management; physical infrastructural capacities; exploitation of natural resources and diversification of African economies into processing and manufacturing; food security and self-sufficiency; and mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources.

The report reviewed linkages between capacity-building and structural adjustment and inter-linkages within capacity-building areas, and identified policy issues and priorities as well as measures for action in each area. It also outlined a regional action programme of technical cooperation for capacity-building in Africa.

As part of the framework agenda for capacity-building, the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole also considered a report on critical capacities in support of good governance, political stability, peace and security in Africa,⁽²⁾ which reviewed OAU activities to establish a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution and provided recommendations for further action in that field.

In its 4 May resolution,⁽³⁾ adopted on the recommendation of the Committee, the ECA Conference of Ministers endorsed the report on a framework agenda as the basis of a more detailed study to be submitted to ECA in 1995. The Conference requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to undertake further studies aimed at strengthening the Framework Agenda; formulate a programme of support by Africa's development part-

ners to complement the efforts of member States in building and strengthening critical capacities; and sensitize all partners in development to the need for concerted efforts in strengthening capacity-building. The Executive Secretary was called upon to establish a coordination mechanism for the preparation of the Regional Action Programme and prepare a financing plan for the implementation of the first phase of the Programme for 1995-2005.

Infrastructural capacity-building

The Committee also had before it a report outlining a framework for building and utilizing physical infrastructural capacities in Africa.⁽²⁴⁾ The report reviewed the status of infrastructural capacities in the fields of transport and communications, energy production and water supply; considered the current utilization and required expansion rates of existing infrastructures; and made suggestions for an implementation strategy.

The Committee noted with concern that physical infrastructural facilities and services in many African countries suffered from the lack of gross investment and maintenance expenditures, as well as from massive destruction and degradation as a result of armed conflicts, and remained underdeveloped in comparison with other developing regions. It further pointed to the widespread deterioration and low utilization rate of existing infrastructures. It underscored that expansion and utilization of Africa's physical infrastructural capacity must conform to Agenda 21 and African strategies for implementing that Agenda to ensure that the provision of adequate physical structures did not contribute to environmental degradation.

ECA support for the African Economic Community

At its 1994 session, the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a report on the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.⁽²⁵⁾ The report noted that the Treaty, signed in 1991 by 51 of the 52 African countries, had been ratified by 35 States and was due to come into force on 12 May 1994. The Treaty provided for the establishment of the African Economic Community through the four-prong regional integration strategy: integration of physical infrastructures and production structures, trade liberalization, and economic policy convergence. Based on that strategy, sectoral harmonization was to be achieved in the fields of trade; free movement of goods and persons; money, finance and payments; food and agriculture; industry, science and technology; energy, natural resources and environment; control of toxic wastes; transport, communications and tourism; and human resources, social affairs, health and population.

The Committee emphasized that the implementation of the Treaty was a matter of utmost importance for Africa and urged the intensification of harmonization and coordination of activities in that respect by other African subregional organizations. The Committee urged Africa's development partners to ensure that their policies and practices promoted self-reliance and sustainable development in the region.

Following the Committee's consideration, the joint secretariat of ECA, OAU and the African Development Bank (AfDB) prepared proposals for the Treaty's implementation and a report on policy convergence, and formulated a framework for establishing a working relationship among sub-regional economic communities.

Statistical and information systems development

The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, at its eighth session (Addis Ababa, 21-26 March),⁽²⁶⁾ considered a wide range of issues relating to the development of statistics and economic and social information systems in support of Africa's sustainable development and regional integration. Among the matters discussed were technical assistance in planning, statistics, population and information science in Africa; strategic planning, short-term forecasting and economic modelling; system of national accounts; training in statistics and fundamental principles of official statistics; population issues; and information science issues.

The Joint Conference revised its terms of reference and referred proposed amendments to the ECA Conference of Ministers, along with draft resolutions on capacity-building for statistical development in Africa and on strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development (see below).

At its 1994 session, the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a progress report on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s,⁽²⁷⁾ adopted by ECA in 1992.⁽²⁸⁾ The Committee regretted the slowness of the response to needs assessment surveys at the national level, noting that only 14 countries were currently implementing the Plan of Action. It recognized the need for external technical assistance in support of the Plan's implementation, noted the difficulties which impeded the funding of ECA's activities relating to the Plan and called on funding organizations to increase their support of statistical development efforts in Africa.

The Committee also considered a report on critical capacities for effective socio-economic policy analysis and management⁽²⁹⁾ as part of the framework for capacity-building in Africa (see above). The report reviewed the current status of such ca-

capacities, identified priorities for capacity-building and utilization in policy analysis and management, and suggested measures to strengthen institutional and human resource capacity and infrastructural support in that field. The Committee noted that training in policy analysis and management, the institutional framework for generating policy analysis, and the supporting information infrastructure were crucial for capacity-building in that area.

It recommended the development of national database management, the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for information infrastructure, especially for forecasting systems, and linking international, regional and subregional initiatives with national activities.

In its 4 May resolution,⁽³⁰⁾ the ECA Conference of Ministers urged African Governments to implement vigorously recommendations of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s. It also urged donor agencies and UNDP to provide support to facilitate the work of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development, to recognize the need for building ECA's capacity to promote statistical development at the regional level and to enable ECA to have access to their programmes of technical assistance to national statistical institutions. The Ministers also approved⁽³¹⁾ amendments to the terms of reference of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, including the change of its title to the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Population and Information Specialists.

Acting on the recommendation of the Joint Conference at its 1994 session, the ECA Conference of Ministers approved⁽³²⁾ the outline of the work programme for 1995-1996 in information systems development and requested the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to review the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 so as to permit the delivery of ECA's activities on information systems development, in the spirit of the Assembly's 1993 decision.⁽³³⁾ The Council and the Assembly both took action on that request (see below).

During the year, the ECA secretariat continued to provide technical assistance and advisory services in database development and management, network building, statistical needs assessment and the preparation and implementation of statistical development plans. Training in Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS) methodologies and the use of computer programmes for information management was provided to Senegal, Uganda and the East and Southern Africa Development Information System. Workshops were held on database access, statistical computing, strategies for improving civil registration and vital statis-

tics systems, standardization and compatibility of information systems, and networking impact evaluation. The secretariat fielded advisory missions to the Niger on the revival of the West African Development Information System; to Mauritania on needs assessment in the collection, processing and exchange of information; and to South Africa on the development of a national information network and South Africa's participation in regional information activities.

In addition, projects were implemented for the development and improvement of environment statistics, capacity-building for electronic communication in Africa and electronic networking and connectivity among African countries. Major publications included African socio-economic indicators for 1993, foreign trade statistics for Africa, the African Statistical Yearbook, 1993, guidelines for the improvement of statistics on the situation of children in Africa, the PADIS Newsletter and a study of problems faced by African countries in the collection, processing and dissemination of trade statistics.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 July, the Economic and Social Council, acting on the request of ECA, adopted **resolution 1994/42** without vote.

Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council,

Convinced that information support is vital to Africa's recovery and sustainable development,

Concerned by the underdeveloped information and documentation sector in many African countries and the inadequate financial and material resources available for its growth,

Welcoming General Assembly decision 48/453 of 21 December 1993, in which the Assembly agreed to ensure the provision of adequate staffing and resources to permit the delivery of activities in the subprogramme of the Economic Commission for Africa on information systems development, beginning with the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995,

Recalling its resolutions 1992/51 of 31 July 1992, in which it requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that the activities of the Commission were grounded in sound data and information systems, and 1993/67 of 30 July 1993 concerning the subprogramme of the Commission on statistical and information systems development,

Recalling also resolutions 716(XXVI) of 12 May 1991 and 766(XXVIII) of 4 May 1993 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Appreciative of the continuing support given by the International Development Research Centre, as well as of the new support from the Government of the Netherlands and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, to the activities of the Pan-African Development Information System to strengthen the information capabilities of member States,

Appreciative also of the approval by the Council of Ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of the project on information technology for Africa for further consideration by the European Union in the framework of the Fourth Lome Convention,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the subregional development information centres of the Commission as information support for subregional economic cooperation and integration,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts being made by the development information system of the Commission in the delivery of technical assistance to member States and the large number of requests pending in this area,

Also noting with satisfaction the full incorporation of the activities on information system development into the programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Noting with concern, however, that the Commission has had regular budget activities in this area since 1984 without resources being provided for them,

Aware of the decreasing availability of extrabudgetary resources for the implementation and utilization of development information systems and technology,

Noting with grave concern the precarious financial situation concerning the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa in this area, which are designed to meet the serious needs of member States, and noting the urgent need to end reliance on extrabudgetary sources of funding,

1. Appeals to the States of the region to recognize the vital importance of developing their information sector by:

(a) Adopting national information and informatics policies;

(b) Providing sufficient resources in the national budget for essential growth in this area;

2. Urges member States to approve the utilization of new technology for electronic communication in order to permit Africa full access to the global information highway;

3. Also urges member States to formulate their needs for technical assistance in information systems development by:

(a) Giving priority to information systems development in the use of their United Nations Development Programme country indicative planning figures, utilizing the Technical Support Services mechanism where applicable;

(b) Considering development information activities in their pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

(c) Using, where appropriate, the financial provisions under the Fourth Lome Convention for this purpose;

4. Urgently appeals to the European Union to consider favourably the Pan-African Development Information System project approved by the Council of Ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group and submitted to it for funding;

5. Calls upon the donor community to support both national initiatives and the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa to strengthen development information capabilities in Africa;

6. Approves the outline of the work programme for 1995-1996 in information systems development, while urging the Economic Commission for Africa to continue its leadership role in the area of information systems and sciences, information technology and telematics in order to support Africa's efforts to achieve sustainable development;

7. Encourages the Economic Commission for Africa, through its information systems development activities, to facilitate intra-African information exchange in support of regional economic integration by developing norms and standards, in collaboration with other relevant technical organizations, for information compatibility and by promoting their use;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to allocate additional resources to the subprogramme of the Commission on statistical and information systems development, in accordance with General Assembly decision 48/453;

9. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to seek additional resources through voluntary contributions for the subregional development information centres of the Commission in the framework of the subprogramme on statistical and information systems development;

10. Invites the General Assembly to review the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, in the spirit of its decision 48/453, with a view to permitting the delivery of the activities of the subprogramme of the Economic Commission for Africa on statistical and information systems development.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/42

29 July 1994 Meeting 48 Adopted without vote

Draft by ECA (E/1994/50), orally revised following informal consultations; agenda item 7.

Financial implications. S-G, E/1994/50/Add.1.

Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 48.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of its Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, adopted **resolution 49/134** without vote.

Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Aware of the importance of information systems and technology for Africa's recovery and sustainable development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/42 of 29 July 1994, in which the Council invited the General Assembly to review the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 with a view to permitting the delivery of the activities of the subprogramme of the Economic Commission for Africa on statistical and information systems development, and also recalling General Assembly decision 48/453 of 21 December 1993, in which the Assembly agreed to ensure the provision of adequate staffing and resources in the subprogramme,

Endorses resolution 789(XXIX) of 4 May 1994 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, and requests the Secretary-General fully to implement the resolution within existing United Nations resources.

General Assembly resolution 49/134

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/726) without vote, 13 December (meeting 34); draft by Ghana (for African Group) (A/C.2/49/L.22), orally revised; agenda item 12.

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 3-8, 17-19, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29, 32, 34; plenary 92.

Public administration and finance

In 1994, the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a report on developing entrepreneurial capacities for public and private sector enterprise,⁽³⁴⁾ which gave an overview of the state of entrepreneurial capacity in Africa, identified constraints on existing and potential capacity, suggested measures for fostering and utilizing entrepreneurial skills, and outlined modalities for their implementation.

The Committee stressed that the development of entrepreneurial capacity should be accorded the highest priority on the development agenda of African countries. The development of the whole range of entrepreneurial capacities, including those in the informal sector, small-, medium- and large-scale enterprises and public enterprises, should be promoted and supported. However, political stability, competent economic management, efficient civil service, improved institutional capacity for entrepreneurial support, regular government-business consultation, sound public infrastructure, improved mobilization of productive resources and efficient financial institutions were necessary for promoting entrepreneurial capacity in the region. The Committee noted the proposed agenda for fostering entrepreneurial capacity at the local, national, subregional and regional levels, as well as proposals for external cooperation.

During the year, the ECA secretariat's work in development administration and management focused on enhancing the efficiency of African public services, improving the performance of public enterprises and promoting entrepreneurship and private sector development. It organized national workshops on public financial management issues in Ethiopia and Zambia, and held a senior policy workshop in Addis Ababa on stimulating and sustaining small- and medium-scale enterprises (November) and on assessing the impact of public sector management reforms (December). The secretariat published indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the performance of public enterprises in Africa, and a directory of the region's institutions offering education and training advisory services. Other publications dealt with fiscal policies to promote private sector investment, development and strengthening of credit and capital markets, the role of professional associations in management development and improvements in legal and regulatory constraints to decentralization.

Issues relating to intra-African cooperation in the civil service and administrative reform were also discussed in 1994 at the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Civil Service (Tangier, Morocco, 20 and 21 June), organized jointly by the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations

Secretariat and the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development. In its Tangier Declaration, communicated to the Secretary-General in October,⁽³⁵⁾ the Conference called for the promotion of conditions for a strong and efficient civil service capable of meeting the challenges posed by national economic development and the specific conditions of the world economy and suggested that a world conference on administration and management be organized to define a strategy with regard to the role of public administration in development. In **resolution 49/136**, the General Assembly took note of the Tangier Declaration.

International trade and development finance

ECA activities in international trade and development finance focused in 1994 on trade promotion policies and strategies for enhancing intra-African trade and trade with non-African countries, as well as on the harmonization of sub-regional activities in the areas of trade and finance.

At its 1994 session, the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a preliminary analysis⁽³⁶⁾ of the anticipated impact on African economies of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade agreements. (For details of the Uruguay Round agreements, see PART THREE, Chapter IV.)

The Committee noted that the African group of countries stood to gain least from the benefits of expanded trade and could incur losses estimated at \$2.6 billion annually. Tariff reductions on commodities of export interest to African countries would eliminate benefits enjoyed under the generalized system of preferences and the Lome IV Convention on trade between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group and the European Union. The Committee regretted that African interests had not been adequately taken into account in the Uruguay Round negotiations, and suggested that African countries should adopt common negotiating positions on international trade issues once the African Economic Community was fully established. The Committee further emphasized that African States should maximize potential benefits from the agreements and mitigate their negative repercussions through appropriate policy measures. It recommended that assessments and follow-up studies be done and seminars organized to increase awareness of the agreements' impact for Africa.

The Committee also considered a report on critical capacities for the mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources,⁽³⁷⁾ as part of the framework agenda for capacity-building in Africa (see above, under "Development policy and regional economic cooperation").

The Committee called on Africa's creditors to take steps to reduce the continent's debt burden and stressed the need for African countries to build competent institutional capacities to manage external financial commitments, minimize exposure to various risks and ensure the most efficient distribution of resources. It recommended the establishment of debt management units within African ministries of finance or central banks, the strengthening of links between the region's formal and informal financial markets so as to expand the system of financial intermediation, and collaboration among member States in financial institutional capacity-building. It also called for the downsizing of public ownership while encouraging private equity in financial institutions, stimulating competition in the financial sector, strengthening the legal and regulatory framework and implementing public enterprise reforms.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers, acting on the recommendation of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, reaffirmed its commitment to work towards the establishment of the proposed African Monetary Fund and mandated the continuation of studies on the subject.⁽³⁸⁾ It deferred until 1995 another resolution of the Conference, dealing with the impact of devaluations on African economies. Acting on recommendations of the 1993 Conference of African Ministers of Trade,⁽³⁹⁾ the Conference of Ministers adopted⁽⁴⁰⁾ the Tunis Declaration on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and called⁽⁴¹⁾ on African countries to implement the Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond, adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade in December 1990. The Conference also called for the implementation of measures to encourage intra-African trade and South-South cooperation in the service sector and to harmonize subregional investment and trade policies. It urged African countries to increase value added to their exports in raw materials and to explore opportunities for alleviating their balance-of-payments difficulties through exchange of goods.⁽⁴²⁾ In a resolution on the crisis in international commodity agreements,⁽⁴³⁾ the Ministers urged African States to strengthen cooperation in negotiations for successor arrangements to major international agreements and called for assistance in diversifying African economies, improving their productivity and access to markets, and in dealing with declining commodity prices.

During the year, the secretariat provided advisory services to countries of the ACP Group on activities preparatory to negotiations for a successor Lome Convention and the mid-term review of the Lome IV Convention, and to countries of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern

African States (PTA) on the newly created Bank Price Guarantee Scheme designed to stabilize export earnings through commodity risk management techniques. It continued to publish the African Trade Bulletin and its Flash newsletter on trade opportunities, and issued a survey of major trends and developments in the trade sector in 1993-1994 and prospects for 1995. Other publications dealt with the rationalization and standardization of products, trade liberalization of domestically produced goods, Africa's relationship with the World Trade Organization and assessment of the European single market and North African trade with Europe. The secretariat also collaborated with OAU and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in convening an international conference to assess the impact of the Uruguay Round on African economies (Tunis, Tunisia, October).

The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, at its fifth session (Libreville, Gabon, 1 and 2 March),⁽⁴⁴⁾ considered problems of financing development in Africa, including the problem of African debt, resource mobilization, the impact of currency devaluations on African economies and the establishment of an African Monetary Fund, as well as the problems of trade financing and Africa's relationship with the international monetary system.

Transnational corporations

Activities of the Joint ECA/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Unit on Transnational Corporations (TNCs) focused on research to promote foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa. The Unit researched a number of issues, including FDI in Botswana and Zimbabwe and experiences of Asian countries in promoting FDI; FDI and manufactured exports from free economic zones; FDI and primary commodities for export; promotion of multinational industrial enterprises in PTA States; privatization programmes in selected African countries; African multinational enterprises and regional trade development; and the role of small- and medium-size TNCs in the Gambia and Lesotho.

Industrial development

Activities geared towards building industrial capacities at the national and regional levels focused specifically on technology transfer, acquisition and negotiation in the sector of industry and factors affecting enterprise formation. Ad hoc expert group meetings were organized on the development of African metal industries based on South-South cooperation, perspectives for the development of petrochemical industries in North Africa based on local reserves, and perspectives for the integrated development of natural resources for the

production of phosphate, nitrogen and potassium fertilizers. The secretariat published the annual bulletin entitled *Focus on African Industry* and a study on the development of repair and maintenance of industrial facilities in Africa. Other publications dealt with selected technologies available with or without licensing, factors in enterprise formation in African countries, and building materials and construction industries in Africa. Assistance was provided in reviewing energy consumption and production costs in Ethiopia, diesel fuel development policy in Zimbabwe and an iron development project in Malawi. The secretariat also assisted in organizing the seventh International Conference on Small and Medium Enterprises (Addis Ababa, 9-11 March).

Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

ECA continued its cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in implementing the programme of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II), 1993-2002, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in 1992⁽⁴⁵⁾ and adopted by the General Assembly later that year.⁽⁴⁶⁾ Missions were fielded to 14 countries to review national industrialization plans and Decade implementation programmes, and studies were carried out on 11 subregional industrial projects. ECA collaborated with UNIDO in holding an ad hoc expert group meeting on the promotion of investment in industrial projects in the context of IDDA II, and implemented the IDDA technology-for-development project, including strengthening the Technology Information Exchange System network. It also initiated studies on basic industries and on food industries in the region.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers, acting on the recommendations of the 1993 Conference of African Ministers of Industry,⁽⁴⁷⁾ adopted⁽⁴⁸⁾ the Plan of Action for the harmonization of the implementation of IDDA II and the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (see below, under "Transport and communications"), which was subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council (see below). The Conference also called on African Governments to foster the development of the private sector and African entrepreneurship for the accelerated implementation of IDDA II, to support the establishment of small- and medium-scale industries, and called on AfDB and other subregional/regional financial and banking institutions to allocate increased resources to the African private sector.⁽⁴⁹⁾ In another resolution,⁽⁵⁰⁾ the Ministers called on African countries to establish multinational industrial enterprises

in the metallurgical, engineering, chemical and other basic industries and to mobilize resources for establishing and sustaining basic industries, and requested ECA and UNIDO to take follow-up actions to promote those industries and to provide the necessary financial assistance.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 July, the Economic and Social Council, acting on the recommendation of ECA, adopted **resolution 1994/41** without vote.

Implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992, by which the Assembly adopted the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and called upon the African countries and the international community to take certain concrete steps to ensure the full and successful implementation of the Decade,

Recalling also resolution GC.4/Res.8 of 22 November 1991 on the Second Decade, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization at its fourth regular session, in which the General Conference requested the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to provide greater support to African countries and their subregional organizations for the implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the Second Decade,

Mindful of resolution 739(XXVII) of 22 April 1992 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, in which the Conference of Ministers requested the General Assembly to provide the Commission with adequate resources to enable it to assist the African countries and subregional organizations in implementing the national and subregional programmes for the Second Decade,

Conscious of the crucial role that can be played by the private sector, local entrepreneurship and women in the accelerated development of industrializing and newly industrialized countries,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the African countries in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade and the need for a substantial flow of technical and financial resources from the international community towards the industrialization of Africa and, in particular, the implementation of the programme for the Decade,

Reaffirming also the need to coordinate and harmonize the activities of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

1. Calls upon all African countries to take concrete policy, institutional and other measures to ensure full implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, including the establishment of an enabling environment conducive to the development of the private sector and the attraction of substantial financial and technical resources for investment in the priority areas of the programme for the Second Decade;

2. Invites Africa's development partners and development finance institutions, in particular, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa and African subregional banks and funds, to contribute the financial and technical resources needed for the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa at the national and subregional levels;

3. Calls upon the African countries which have not yet done so to establish national coordinating committees for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to take full account of the priorities of the Second Decade in policy and programme formulation for the industrial sector, ensuring that the implementation of the structural adjustment programmes and of the programme for the Second Decade are mutually supportive;

4. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to report on concrete steps taken to ensure that the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and, in particular, the Coordination Unit for the Decade are provided with substantially increased human and financial resources so that the implementation of the fifty national and four subregional programmes for the Second Decade can be supported more effectively;

5. Endorses the plan of action for the coordination of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, taking into account the recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to undertake the concrete actions required to harmonize the activities of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa according to the plan of action, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and other relevant organizations;

7. Also requests the Executive Secretary and the Director-General to accord high priority to the development of the private sector, the participation of women and the utilization of African consultants in their activities related to the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

8. Further requests the Executive Secretary and the Director-General, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to take concrete steps for the promotion of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa at the international level, the mobilization of financial and technical resources for the Decade and the implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to review the implications of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the fundamental changes at the international level for the industrialization efforts of the African countries;

9. Requests the Director-General to ensure that every opportunity is taken to mobilize financial resources for the programme for the Second Decade;

10. Invites the General Assembly to ensure further that the necessary resources are allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it to support the African countries in their efforts to implement the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa more effectively, and especially to support the activities of the Committee of 10 of the Commission, at the regional, subregional and national levels;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary and the Director-General to report jointly on the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference of Ministers of the Commission at its twenty-first meeting.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/41

29 July 1994 Meeting 48 Adopted without vote

Draft by ECA (E/1994/50), orally revised following informal consultations; agenda item 7.

Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 45, 47, 48.

Report of the Secretary-General. In response to a 1992 General Assembly request,⁽⁴⁶⁾ the Secretary-General submitted a September report⁽⁵¹⁾ on the implementation of the programme for IDDA II. The report outlined positions and priorities of UNIDO and ECA in the context of IDDA II and reviewed the progress achieved in implementing the Decade programme through legislative activities, joint UNIDO/ECA activities and national IDDA II programmes.

UNIDO had accorded the highest priority to agricultural machinery, investment promotion, engineering, food processing, textiles, chemicals, management and rehabilitation and human resource development. Regional project emphasis was on agro-industries, transfer of technology, feasibility studies, and energy and environment. IDDA funds were used as project seed money, and nearly \$900,000 worth of projects were implemented. Projects favouring the LDCs accounted for the bulk of activities in the region. Investment promotion activities within the framework of the Decade included an investment forum for Zambia (January 1994).

Within the framework of IDDA subregional programmes, ECA carried out feasibility studies of 11 subregional projects in the priority areas of metal, chemical, engineering and agro-industries.

UNIDO also provided direct support projects for agro-based, chemical, metallurgical, engineering and small-scale industries, as well as in the areas of energy and the environment, technology development and promotion, industrial investment, institutional infrastructure, industrial management and rehabilitation, human resources development and the integration of women in industrial development.

At the same time, ECA concentrated its activities on the development and promotion of basic industries; establishment of a regional statistical information database for industrial development; promotion of small-scale and intermediate industries; cooperation and exchange of experience

among member States in the field of industrial technology and technical training; and South-South and North-South cooperation to attain Africa's industrialization objectives.

At the national level, African countries, in the implementation of their IDDA II programmes, embarked upon the rehabilitation of existing industries and expansion of industrial capacity to improve productivity and introduce new technology. They also created an enabling environment for investment and streamlined procedures for licensing, tariff reform, economic liberalization, privatization and the promotion of small- and medium-scale industries.

However, those efforts were constrained by the lack and inadequacy of finance, rigidity in accessing it, inadequacy of skilled manpower and a prohibitive tax system. Local resourcing in raw materials and semi-finished products, the narrowness of domestic markets, low level of per capita income and absence of significant linkages within the industrial sector and with other economic sectors were among other constraints on African industrial development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/107** without vote.

Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992, by which it adopted the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, and its decision 48/456 of 21 December 1993, by which it endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/65 of 30 July 1993,

Recalling also the Mauritius Declaration on Africa's Accelerated Industrial Recovery and Development in the Context of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002) and Beyond, adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its eleventh meeting, held at Port Louis from 31 May to 3 June 1993,

Taking cognizance of the establishment of the African Economic Community and the need to ensure its operation,

Recalling further the resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization at its fifth session, in particular resolution GC.5/Res.12 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, resolution GC.5/Res.16 on the industrialization of the least developed countries and resolution GC.5/Res.20, containing the Yaounde Declaration, which emphasized that the organization should pay special attention to the industrialization of the least developed countries and accord high priority to the industrialization of Africa and to the realization of the objectives of the Second Decade,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002);

2. Reaffirms the importance of industrialization as a dynamic instrument of growth, essential to sustainable economic and social development of developing countries, particularly in Africa;

3. Considers industrial development to be an important vehicle for poverty eradication, income and employment generation, social integration and vertical diversification;

4. Recognizes the need for increasing the integration of African industry in world manufacturing, and for that purpose calls for the support of the international community in achieving the goals of the Second Decade;

5. Also recognizes the responsibility of the African countries in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, and calls upon them to continue to undertake appropriate measures to promote economic growth and sustainable development, including by continuing to promote a favourable climate for foreign investment;

6. Requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to give full assistance to improving the competitiveness of the industrial sector in Africa and to formulating measures to improve it in the light of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

7. Also requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with the African Development Bank and other subregional, regional and international financial and banking institutions, to provide support to African countries, especially in the development of new and innovative measures to mobilize resources and promote foreign direct investment;

8. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to facilitate cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in order to provide support to improve African industrial cooperation and to integrate the African Economic Community into the industrial sphere, particularly in the areas of industrial policy, technology, human resource development, industrial investment, small-scale industries, enterprise development and institutional infrastructure, all of these being essential for poverty eradication, employment generation, social integration and vertical integration;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

General Assembly resolution 49/107

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/728/Add.6) without vote, 1 December (meeting 31); draft by Ghana (for African Group) (A/C.2/49/L.23), orally revised; agenda item 88 (f).

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 28, 29, 31; plenary 92.

Transport and communications

Activities in the field of transport and communications were aimed at assisting ECA member States to better plan efficient and well-maintained infrastructures. The secretariat assisted in preparing the work programmes of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union and of the North Afri-

can Transport Committee, assessed Morocco's infrastructure capacity-building and advised the Union of African Railways on restructuring, improvement of service and maintenance of African railways. Studies were undertaken on the establishment of a coastal shipping company in the West and Central African subregion, the improvement of navigation on the inland water systems in Chad, needs assessment for dredging the ports on Lake Kivu and maintenance of navigable waterways on Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika. The secretariat issued technical publications dealing with infrastructural requirements for a regional transport database at ECA, the format and contents of a transport statistics yearbook for Africa, improvement of management and maintenance systems in transport, maritime transport and intra-African trade and restructuring and development of African rail transport.

Transport and Communications Decade

ECA continued activities aimed at implementing the programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II), adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1991⁽⁵²⁾ and endorsed by the General Assembly later that year.⁽⁵³⁾ In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted the Plan of Action for harmonizing the implementation of IDDA II and UNTACDA II (see above, under "Industrial development"). The secretariat evaluated the UNTACDA II programme and drafted an action plan for the next phase of the Decade. It initiated activities to implement UNTACDA II human-resource and institutional development projects in Madagascar and Sierra Leone as well as the second phase of the regional transport database project. Contacts continued with member States concerning the signing and ratification of the Statutes of the Trans-African Highways Bureau, and two issues of the UNTACDA II Newsletter were published.

The African Ministers responsible for civil aviation, at a special meeting (Mauritius, 9 September), agreed on several key measures to implement the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a New African Air Transport Policy, adopted at their Special Conference in 1988.⁽⁵⁴⁾ The Ministers recommended incorporation of the Declaration into national policies, liberalization of traffic rights and the establishment of multinational airlines, integration programmes among airlines and coordination machinery, as well as the adoption of supplementary measures on rationalized use of airspace, air transport charges, facilitation, security, transfer of revenues and designation of airlines.

As a follow-up to the special meeting, the secretariat organized ministerial meetings in the Central African and in eastern and southern African subregions, and prepared proposals for implementing the Declaration.

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

Pursuant to a 1993 Economic and Social Council request,⁽⁵⁵⁾ ECA and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) continued in 1994 their participation in studies on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar, provided for under 1980 and 1989 cooperation agreements between Morocco and Spain. Studies undertaken in 1993-1994 dealt with the physical environment, engineering and socio-economic issues and project feasibility. Their findings were discussed at a public symposium on the project (Cairo, Egypt, 5 April), organized under the auspices of ECA and ECE.

Tourism

In 1994, the ECA secretariat collaborated with international and regional organizations and institutions to develop and implement programmes and projects for tourism development and to facilitate the establishment of a Pan-African Association for Tourism. As a result of that cooperation, the mandate of the Salon international de l'artisanat de Ouagadougou (SIAO) was broadened to include the promotion of tourism in Africa, and the SIAO 1994 Fair was dedicated to tourism and handicrafts.

Science and technology

ECA activities in science and technology were geared towards assisting member States in implementing regional industrial, transport and agricultural development programmes.

The ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a report on science and technology for the development of Africa,⁽⁵⁶⁾ which reviewed ECA's efforts in that area and the proposal for the establishment of an African Foundation for Research and Development (AFRAND). The Committee emphasized the need to remove impediments to promoting science and technology for development in Africa, such as the continuing mystification of science and technology, the failure to assimilate scientific and technological practices, the lack of effort to harness existing capacities in science and technology in individual countries and the absence of serious interface between African scientists and policy makers. It requested the ECA secretariat to pursue its feasibility study on the establishment of AFRAND.

The ECA Conference of Ministers, acting on the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development at its 1993 meeting,⁽⁵⁷⁾ welcomed the upgrading of the Committee of Experts to the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology and urged active participation of African

ministers responsible for science and technology in it. It requested ECA, in collaboration with other organizations, to develop mechanisms for evaluating the management of science and technology in member States.⁽⁵⁸⁾

During the year, the secretariat organized a round table on the science and technology protocol of the African Economic Community and a meeting of the Southern African Working Group on Science and Technology to review ways of stimulating subregional cooperation, as well as ad hoc expert group meetings on the application of nuclear science and technology for development in agriculture and food preservation and on technology transfer, negotiation and acquisition in the industrial, transport and communications sectors. A training workshop on concepts, methodologies and institutional arrangements for technology assessment was held at Kampala, Uganda (20-24 September). The secretariat issued technical publications dealing with the influence of economic policies on science and technology development in Africa and technology assessment. It undertook studies on the use of incentives for the development and application of science and technology, foreign direct investment as a vehicle for science and technology development, and science and technology indicators in Africa.

Assistance was provided in revitalizing science and technology institutions in the Congo and in reviewing various research proposals from African scholars to the African Technology Policy Studies Network. The secretariat participated in a symposium on science and technology in Africa/regional meeting on the development of the university-industry-science partnership programme (Nairobi, Kenya, 14-22 February) and in ad hoc consultations on science and technology (Paris, 24 and 25 March), both organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In addition, the secretariat assisted the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) and the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) in technical and administrative backstopping, and provided technical advice for the twelfth meeting of the ARCT Executive Board (Dakar, Senegal, 15 and 16 May).

Natural resources, energy and marine affairs

ECA continued to promote the development of energy, mineral resources, water and marine resources, and cartography and remote sensing services, and to assist member States in formulating national, subregional and regional policies and strategies for sustainable exploitation, development and management of natural resources and energy.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted a resolution on the development and

strengthening of ECA's programme activities in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs,⁽⁵⁹⁾ and submitted it for consideration to the Economic and Social Council.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 1994/39** without vote.

Development and strengthening of the programme activities of the Economic Commission for Africa in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 33/202 of 29 January 1979, 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and 48/162 of 20 December 1993, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/10 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/6 of 22 May 1989 and resolutions 572(XXI) of 19 April 1986 and 602(XXII) of 24 April 1987 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Endorsing the findings and conclusions of the self-evaluation of the Economic Commission for Africa on the subprogrammes concerned with natural resources, energy and marine affairs carried out during the biennium 1992-1993,

Mindful of the regrouping of those subprogrammes in the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 into a single subprogramme aimed at enhancing the interrelationships between the natural resource, energy and marine affairs sectors to ensure greater programme impact,

Aware of the enhanced significance and strategic importance of the present natural resources subprogramme for sustaining the long-term objectives of the medium-term plan, in particular with regard to economic cooperation in the region and the integration of Africa in the context of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991,

Recognizing the urgency involved in strengthening both the substantive and the operational capacity of the subprogramme in order to enhance its intended impact within the region,

Noting with concern the continued stagnation of available resources, both regular and extrabudgetary, required to carry out activities in support of regional policies, programmes and projects in order to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of the countries of Africa to explore, exploit and develop their natural resources fully,

Highly appreciative of the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General in the context of decentralization to strengthen the activities of the Commission in the area of natural resource development, especially in the fields of mineral resources, water resources, cartography and remote sensing, energy and marine affairs,

Convinced that the current process of decentralizing the regular programme activities needs to be supported by a corresponding decentralization of extrabudgetary

resources to complement and maximize existing regional capacities,

1. Appeals to all partners in the operational activities for the development of Africa to give due consideration to the priorities assigned to the development of natural resources within the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa with a view to funding related project activities;

2. Calls upon member States to facilitate the implementation of the activities of the Commission in natural resource development through effective national institutional mechanisms, in particular with regard to the follow-up of the recommendations of the Commission emanating from the self-evaluation of the sub-programmes concerning marine affairs, natural resources and energy;

3. Calls upon the Secretary-General, within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, to continue to ensure the effective decentralization of relevant global programmes and activities to the Commission;

4. Requests that an in-depth evaluation of the sub-programme of the Commission on natural resources and energy development be undertaken during the biennium 1994-1995;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report on the implementation of the present resolution at the twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/39

29 July 1994 Meeting 48 Adopted without vote

Draft by ECA (E/1994/50), orally revised following informal consultations; agenda item 7.

Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 45, 47, 48.

Natural resources

The ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a report on capacities to exploit natural resources and diversify African economies into processing and manufacturing,⁽⁶⁰⁾ as part of the framework agenda for capacity-building in Africa (see above, under "Development policy and regional economic cooperation activities"). The report reviewed manufacturing and human capacities in the region, including an overview of Africa's natural resources and the degree of their utilization, and made suggestions concerning institutional capacities development and an implementation strategy.

The Committee observed that the continent's natural resources were not fully and efficiently used and were not processed locally, and underlined the need for African countries to move away from producing primary commodities for export and to develop balanced economies emphasizing agricultural and food production and natural resources extraction with the production of manufactured goods and the provision of services to support indigenous production. The Committee urged member States to support the African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and

Manufacturing and the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys.

During the year the secretariat carried out field studies and issued publications on the production of fertilizers from raw mineral materials and on the increased production of and intra-African trade in copper and copper-based products. It organized an ad hoc expert group meeting to establish guidelines for enhancing the development of natural resources and energy in the region.

The secretariat provided advisory services in gold mining in Ethiopia, improvement of artisanal gold mining in Cameroon and Gabon, and the establishment of a cement plant in the Congo based on local deposits of iron ore and limestone, as well as on its new mining legislation and its metallogenic map. Surveys of the minerals potential in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda were carried out, and technical support was extended to the East and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre.

In the field of water resources, studies were conducted of problems and prospects for small-scale irrigation systems in Burkina Faso, the Niger and Senegal and for intercountry cooperation in integrated water resources development of the Nile River basin. Assistance was provided to the Seychelles in studying water resources problems with a view to developing fisheries, agriculture, tourism and housing. The seventh issue of MAJI, an information bulletin on water resources activities in Africa, was published.

Energy

Activities in the field of energy emphasized the economic viability of small-scale energy development for rural electrification. The secretariat undertook studies on the viability of using photovoltaic energy for rural electrification in Africa and on the economic viability of manufacturing turbines and generators for mini-hydropower plants in African countries, and issued a technical publication on problems related to sustainable development and utilization of natural resources and energy. It prepared a paper on the contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to African energy supplies and participated in a workshop on institutional aspects of the energy sector in Africa and in a symposium/exhibition on the production of electrical materials in Africa (Casablanca, Morocco, May).

Marine affairs

A high-level regional leadership seminar on marine and ocean affairs (Addis Ababa, 28 March-2 April)⁽⁶²⁾ was organized jointly by ECA and the International Ocean Institute (IOI) in connection with the coming into force, in November 1994, of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law

of the Sea⁽⁶³⁾ (see PART FOUR, Chapter III). The seminar adopted a strategy and programme of action for marine/ocean affairs development in Africa, aimed at developing African capabilities to exploit its sea resources. The strategy recommended the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks for marine resource exploitation, formulation of appropriate policies in that area, the study of the special needs of land-locked countries, project identification and elaboration, and financial resource mobilization from international funding agencies.

At its 1994 session, the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole endorsed the Strategy and Programme of Action and urged member States to incorporate it into their national and subregional programmes for the management of marine and ocean resources. The ECA Conference of Ministers called⁽⁶⁵⁾ on African countries to ratify the Convention on the Law of the Sea; establish a coordinating mechanism for marine affairs and national policy frameworks for the development and utilization of marine resources; and strengthen their capacity to survey, explore and exploit those resources. The Conference also called on African coastal States to establish boundaries, baselines and coordinates of extended maritime zones and a legal framework for their utilization and to strengthen their machinery for the exploration and exploitation of fisheries and marine mineral and energy resources, development of maritime transport and communication systems, protection and conservation of the marine and coastal environment, and development of coastal areas and tourism.

The ECA secretariat collaborated with IOI in studying the feasibility of establishing a centre for training and policy research in marine affairs in Dakar, and took part in the IOI annual meeting in Madras, India, which reviewed recent developments in global ocean management. An ad hoc expert group meeting (Addis Ababa, November), organized in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), adopted methodological guidelines for assessing the contribution of the coastal/marine sector to gross national product (GNP).

Cartography and remote sensing

Activities in cartography and remote sensing focused on reorienting programmes in that sector to respond to the needs and goals of natural resources development. The secretariat conducted a detailed assessment of its remote sensing programme for Africa and made special efforts to reactivate and normalize the activities of the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing. It continued to provide guidance and policy advice to the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing and

to the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys. Publications during the year included the Cartographic and Remote Sensing Bulletin, an accession list of maps and charts and a classified catalogue of maps.

Food and agriculture

As part of the framework agenda for capacity-building in Africa (see above, under "Development policy and regional economic cooperation activities"), the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a report on capacity-building for food production, food security and self-sufficiency in Africa.⁽⁶⁴⁾ The Committee recognized that African programmes of action and strategies for developing the food and agriculture sector had not been vigorously implemented and that inappropriate public policies had contributed to the poor performance of that sector. It emphasized that strengthening human and infrastructural capacities in food and agriculture was essential to increased food production. The Committee recommended that African countries should encourage consumption of natural food and agricultural products, balance their consumption and production patterns and encourage member States to increase the use of early-warning systems and to use the assistance of international agricultural research centres.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers decided that the seed pathology centre in Egypt should be transformed into a regional centre for Africa, and called for financial and technical support to implement that project.⁽⁶⁵⁾

ECA secretariat activities in food and agriculture emphasized alleviation of rural poverty; food self-sufficiency and food security; and environmental protection, in particular the conservation of land, water and forests. Assistance was provided to member States in enhancing the effectiveness of small-holder farming. Technical publications were issued dealing with the livestock factor in improving food security; development and improvement of agricultural information systems and databases; measures for strengthening cooperation for the exploitation and management of shared fishery resources and effective implementation of established exclusive economic fishery zones; the food and security situation and its outlook in Africa; and food and agriculture production, food security and food self-sufficiency in the region.

The secretariat published the Rural Progress and AFMESA newsletters and issued a technical manual on the framework for goal-oriented food security planning and programming in Africa. It prepared a model for food security policy analysis and impact assessment at the national, subregional and regional levels and reports on border food trade in selected countries and on the promotion of non-

conventional food. Field projects were implemented on sustainable agricultural and environmental rehabilitation in Ethiopia and on credit schemes without collateral for poor rural farmers in selected African countries.

Cooperation in fisheries

In June 1994, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Economic and Social Council a report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on cooperation in fisheries in Africa,⁽⁶⁶⁾ in response to a 1992 Council request.⁽⁶⁷⁾ The report noted that the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean had been postponed.

On 25 July, the Economic and Social Council, by **decision** 1994/264, took note of the Director-General's report and requested the Secretary-General to report on the activities of the Ministerial Conference at the Council's 1995 session.

The third session of the Ministerial Conference was subsequently rescheduled for 10-14 July 1995.

Environment

The ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole reviewed the progress made in implementing the African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21,⁽⁶⁸⁾ adopted by ECA in 1993.⁽⁶⁹⁾ The Committee noted that efforts had been made to incorporate the Strategies into national, subregional and regional environment and development programmes. It also noted that member States had been participating actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, which was adopted in June 1994 and welcomed by the General Assembly in **resolution** 49/234 (see PART THREE, Chapter VIII). The Committee encouraged development planners and the private sector to minimize environmental degradation and took note of preparations for a regional conference to develop Africa's approach to the implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity (see PART THREE, Chapter VIII). It recommended that the ECA Executive Secretary should study modalities for harmonizing the mandates of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the ECA Conference of Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning.

The Committee considered the mid-term regional report on the implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)⁽⁷⁰⁾ and the African Common Posi-

tion on IDNDR and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction,⁽⁷¹⁾ held in Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994 (see PART THREE, Chapter III). The Committee called for the strengthening of national mechanisms for natural disaster preparedness and management and developing disaster management training strategies.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted⁽⁷²⁾ the African Common Position for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and urged member States to strengthen cooperation in fostering IDNDR goals and objectives. The Conference appealed for support to reduce the impact of natural disasters and mitigate their effects in African countries. It also approved the programme of work and budget for 1994-1996 of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development.⁽⁷³⁾

During the year, the secretariat prepared reports on policies for improving integrated micro-watershed management and soil conservation for arid and semi-arid areas in the North African sub-region, promotion of green belts and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems in selected Sahelian countries to prevent desertification and soil erosion and measures for the conservation of edifice closed forests and biodiversity under sustainable criteria. Advisory services were provided to member States for the protection and development of the marine environment and the formulation of forestry action plans. A subregional workshop was held (Gaborone, Botswana, November) to formulate follow-up projects to the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, and national policy workshops on the role of sustainable development were organized in Ghana. In addition, ECA participated in inter-agency consultations with UNEP on modalities for reviewing the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa (24 and 25 January) and with UNIDO on cooperation and capacity-building in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (September).

Social development and humanitarian affairs

The ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered a report⁽⁷⁴⁾ on building, strengthening and effectively utilizing human capacities for sustained development in Africa, as part of the framework agenda for capacity-building (see above, under "Development policy and regional economic cooperation activities"). The report reviewed the status of human capacity in the region and institutional and infrastructural support, and outlined a framework for action aimed at building human capacities through education and training; creating structures for an efficient labour market; reducing hunger, increasing the delivery of and access to health services

and improving access to safe drinking water, sanitation and housing; and ensuring participation of people and their organizations in the development process and promoting good governance and a strengthened civil society.

The Committee noted that the main priorities for human capacity development in the region were the eradication of illiteracy, the provision of education at all levels, improvement of health conditions and nutritional standards, improvement and maintenance of basic infrastructures, creation of an appropriate institutional framework for policy formulation and implementation in human development, and creation of employment and income-generating opportunities. It recommended the implementation of policy reforms and measures to attain those objectives and called for harmonization and coordination of action plans and programmes in different sectors such as health, education, employment and food, both at the international and regional levels. The Committee also reviewed ECA's activities in the field of emergency and humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in Africa⁽⁷⁵⁾ and made recommendations in that regard, including the proposed establishment of an African trust fund for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers welcomed the proposal to set up a trust fund for peace-building, post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.⁽⁷⁶⁾ In a Declaration on a human development plan of action for Africa, adopted on 4 May, the Conference expressed concern over the continuing deterioration of Africa's human and social situation. It urged member States to give priority to the implementation of people-centred development strategies, policies and programmes, to increase substantially public expenditure in all areas of human capacity-building and to maintain its growth significantly above the population growth rate. It also called for an increase of official development assistance (ODA) in support of human development from the current 7 per cent to at least 20 per cent and for increased United Nations activities in human development and capacity-building in Africa. The Conference requested the ECA Executive Secretary to prepare a Human Development Plan of Action for Africa.

In preparation for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development, at its first meeting (Addis Ababa, 17-21 January), adopted the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa,⁽⁷⁷⁾ which outlined the continent's major human and social development objectives and an agenda for action to attain them. The African Common Position was

submitted to the Preparatory Committee on the World Summit for Social Development (see PART THREE, Chapter XII) and was subsequently adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers on 11 June 1994 (Tunis, Tunisia).

During the year, regional and national workshops on issues relating to popular participation in the development process were held in Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia and Uganda, and seminars were organized on education for peace and nation-building in Cameroon, South Africa and Uganda; human development policies and programmes in Benin, Cameroon, Seychelles and Zambia; entrepreneurship development, employment planning and productivity enhancement in the Sudan; and the social impact of structural adjustment programmes in Egypt. The secretariat provided advisory services to Senegal on developing a long-term strategy for job creation. It convened a regional consultation on the impact of armed conflict on children and ad hoc expert group meetings on the re-orientation of educational curricula to Africa's development challenges and education for peace; the impact of political conflicts and instability on social progress and cohesion; and youth, drugs and health. The secretariat co-sponsored a global NGO forum on building sustainable societies and the role of NGOs in emergencies and social development (Addis Ababa, 14-17 March).

Publications were issued dealing with policy measures and practices for improving the production of educational and instructional materials in African countries, the role of African subregional economic communities in education, gender disparities in formal education, development and financing of the informal sector, popular participation in development, the situation of youth, social welfare, issues relating to drug and substance abuse and health-related issues, including reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases.

Population

The ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole reviewed preparatory activities of African countries for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Egypt from 5 to 13 September 1994 (see PART THREE, Chapter IX). It noted that the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development, adopted by the third African Population Conference in 1992⁽⁷⁸⁾ and endorsed by ECA in 1993,⁽⁷⁹⁾ constituted the African Common Position on population at ICPD.

The secretariat provided advisory services to Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Swaziland in population data collection, analysis and training, in particular with regard to

the 1991 Population and Housing Census. It issued the African Population newsletter and the African Population Studies series, and produced publications on family planning targets in relation to fertility reduction and reproductive health care in African countries; implications of population age structure on resource utilization and social security; socio-economic and health consequences of teenage pregnancy and measures to reduce the magnitude of that problem; and patterns, causes and consequences for development planning of female migration in selected countries.

Human settlements

As part of preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), scheduled to be held in Turkey in 1996 (see PART THREE, Chapter IX), ECA, in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), organized a special Meeting of African Ministers Responsible for Human Settlements and a regional meeting of governmental experts (Nairobi, Kenya, 28 to 30 March). The Ministerial Meeting, which was preceded by a high-level regional expert group meeting on the preparation of Habitat II (Nairobi, 21-25 February), adopted a Declaration on the preparatory process to Habitat II. The Declaration outlined the most critical challenges, issues and features of importance to human settlements in Africa, and set out a list of regional priorities and modalities for setting in motion the preparatory process at the national, subregional and regional levels. It identified sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world and adequate shelter for all as the two major themes for Habitat II of basic concern to Africa.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers endorsed⁽⁸⁰⁾ the Declaration as a collective strategy for effective African participation in the preparatory process, and requested the ECA Executive Secretary to establish the necessary coordinating mechanisms.

During the year, advisory services were provided to Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Zambia in the preparation of their work plans and national reports for Habitat II. The secretariat issued guidelines for the elaboration and implementation of policies on shelter provision for urban and rural poor, a manual on human settlements planning and management in disaster-prone areas, and a publication on the formulation and implementation of human settlements policies towards mitigating rural/urban imbalances in African countries. It also continued to implement a UNDP-supported regional project on the development of building materials industries in Africa.

Integration of women in development

The ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole reviewed regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995, activities for the creation of an African bank for women and the establishment of the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (AFWE), whose executive committee held its first meeting in 1994 (Addis Ababa, 8 March). The Committee took note of AFWE's activities, including the elaboration of its work programme for 1994-1997, centred on the promotion of capacity-building efforts and the adoption of mechanisms for collaboration with national and subregional women associations. It recommended the convening of a committee of experts to consider the conduct of a comprehensive study on the creation of an African bank for women. That meeting was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 24 to 29 August and discussed the results of the feasibility study completed by the ECA secretariat and adopted relevant recommendations.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers, acting on the recommendation of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) at its fifteenth meeting (Addis Ababa, 20-22 April),⁽⁸¹⁾ adopted⁽⁸²⁾ the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace,⁽⁸³⁾ elaborated at the 1993 Regional Conference on Women and Peace,⁽⁸⁴⁾ and strongly urged African Governments, NGOs and international agencies to support its implementation. It requested ECA to ensure the Plan's incorporation in the Africa Platform of Action of the fifth Regional Conference on Women (see below). The Conference called for the enactment of legislation to guarantee women safety from violence, endorsed recommendations for the establishment of a financial institution specialized in women's needs, exhorted member States to facilitate the promotion of women's entrepreneurship and called upon ECA, OAU and AfDB to support AFWE.

The Conference also recommended⁽⁸⁵⁾ that the African Training and Research Centre for Women change its name to the African Centre for Women and requested the Centre to intensify its efforts to promote the advancement of women.

The fifth African Regional Conference on Women (Dakar, Senegal, 16-23 November), preparatory to the Fourth World Conference on Women, adopted the African Platform for Action: African Common Position for the Advancement of Women, which provided a framework for action in policy formulation and in the implementation of programmes for the advancement of women, as well as the regional input to the Global Platform for Action, to be adopted at the World

Conference (for more details, see PART THREE, Chapter XIII). The Regional Conference was preceded by an NGO Forum (13-15 November) and an Intra-African Youth Forum and Consultation. The African Platform for Action incorporated contributions from two regional ad hoc expert group meetings and subregional workshops for eastern and southern Africa (28 February-2 March), West Africa (17-19 March), North Africa (27-29 March) and Central Africa and the Great Lakes countries (18-20 April).

Other activities during the year focused on the economic and political empowerment of African women. In cooperation with UNIDO, projects were implemented in Kenya to enhance the production, managerial and marketing skills of women in textiles and related products, while in the Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal, women entrepreneurs were provided with management training and training in food processing technologies.

The secretariat issued the Femmine newsletter covering the preparations for and results of the Regional Conference on Women. It also sponsored a film production competition to encourage the work of women artists and published international legal instruments relevant to women.

Programme, administrative and organizational questions

The ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole considered proposals⁽⁸⁶⁾ for updating the 1994-1995 programme of work and priorities. Those proposals related to the subprogrammes on trade, regional cooperation and integration; poverty alleviation through sustainable development; statistical and information systems development; and infrastructural and structural transformation. The Committee approved the activities proposed for inclusion in the 1994-1995 programme of work and priorities.

The Committee also considered a report on strengthening ECA operational capacity,⁽⁸⁷⁾ which reviewed the status of extrabudgetary resources as well as issues and perspectives for resource mobilization. The Committee noted that extrabudgetary resource allocations to ECA had declined from \$45.6 million in 1990-1991 to some \$29.2 million in 1992-1993, due to the reduction in funds from UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and diminished pledges and contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development. It also noted the increased efforts of the Commission to attract funding from bilateral sources. The Committee discussed the proposal to allocate some 1 per cent of UNDP's funding to finance regional and subregional integration projects.

In May, the ECA Conference of Ministers appealed to all bilateral and international partners to increase their financing of ECA's projects and programmes, and invited Commission members to further support the subregional and regional programmes through the allocation of domestic resources and voluntary contributions.⁽⁸⁸⁾ The Conference made a special appeal to EU to facilitate Africa's access to resources for financing regional projects.

Programme evaluation

The ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole reviewed a report⁽⁸⁹⁾ on the self-evaluation of ECA's subprogrammes in marine affairs (non-living resources); least developed, land-locked and island developing countries; environment and development; trade development and cooperation; natural resources; and energy, including new and renewable sources of energy. The Committee noted that the findings confirmed the need for improving ECA's relevance to the priorities of member States and for considering, in particular, the specific needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It regretted that some key activities of interest to African countries had not been undertaken due to the lack of resources.

The report also transmitted the Secretary-General's reports submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its 1994 session dealing with enhancing the cost-effectiveness of the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres⁽⁹⁰⁾ (MULPOCs) and with an in-depth evaluation of the programme for African recovery and development under the 1992-1997 United Nations medium-term plan.⁽⁹¹⁾

The Secretary-General recommended that each MULPOC should focus its short-term activities on the rationalization of subregional groupings and their programmes, taking into account the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and UNNADAF (see above, under "Activities in 1994"). He also recommended that available resources be allocated only to projects of the highest integration impact, particularly those that were likely to receive full funding, and that the allocation of resources to MULPOCs for the biennium 1994-1995 be revised. Those recommendations were subsequently endorsed by CPC in May 1994. (For information on the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, see PART THREE, Chapter III.)

In May,⁽⁹²⁾ the ECA Conference of Ministers called on the General Assembly to supplement the Commission's efforts to increase MULPOCs' human and financial resources, within the framework of future budget provisions.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 1994/40** without vote.

Enhancing the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 311(XIII) of 1 March 1977 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, establishing the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Commission,

Recalling also resolution 702(XXV) of 19 May 1990 and the pertinent provisions of resolution 726(XXVII) of 22 April 1992 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the allocation by the General Assembly, through its resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991, of five additional Professional posts in the Centres,

Noting with appreciation that most of the additional resources made available to the Economic Commission for Africa under the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation in 1994-1995 have been redeployed to the Centres with a view to strengthening their capacity to provide advisory services within the subregions,

Considering, however, that critical areas remain uncovered by the expertise currently available in the Centres and require additional resources on a sustained basis which cannot be met through the regional advisory services programme of the Commission,

Noting with satisfaction the continuous material support of member States in providing the Centres, inter alia, with office premises free of charge and seconding national experts to the Centres on a temporary basis,

Taking note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session on the evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa", and more specifically of the sections of the report devoted to the Centres,

Recalling that the budgets for the Centres for the biennium 1994-1995 were approved with due regard to current budget constraints in the United Nations and the pressing priorities of member States and their inter-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the validity in the short, medium and long term of the mandate of the Centres as spelt out in the annex to resolution 702(XXV) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and noting the activities carried out by the Centres towards the rationalization and harmonization of subregional economic groupings, as well as the substantive support to the latter in the formulation and implementation of their multisectoral programmes,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the General Assembly for the measures already taken to strengthen the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to respond adequately to the needs of their member States and their intergovernmental organizations;

2. Supports the efforts being made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide the Centres with the required critical staff and non-staff resources to enhance their effectiveness.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/40

29 July 1994 Meeting 48 Adopted without vote

Draft by ECA (E/1994/50), orally revised following informal consultations; agenda item 7.
Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 48.

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Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its fiftieth session (New Delhi, India, 5-13 April),(¹) had as its theme topic "Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation". On 13 April,(²) the Commission adopted the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic

Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, in which it pledged to intensify regional and subregional cooperation for development; accord high priority to economic cooperation, especially in trade, investment, technology transfer and tourism; promote the sharing and free flow of information on development strategies and policies, trade, technology and investment; develop physical infrastructure and accord due recognition to transport and communication links; promote capital and technology flows; strengthen cooperation in human resources development; increase support for the socio-economic development of the region's least developed, land-locked and island developing countries; and recognize the special technical assistance needs of the economies in transition. The Commission reaffirmed its political support for regional economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and called for regional and subregional cooperation in, and international support for, the implementation of the Delhi Declaration. It requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to recommend measures for strengthening regional cooperation and for addressing the needs of the region more effectively.

ESCAP reviewed the implementation of its 1992 resolution on its role and functions in the context of United Nations restructuring in the economic and social fields.⁽³⁾ It noted that the issue had been continuously discussed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission and that, as of 1 January 1994, its work programme was organized into six thematic subprogrammes: regional economic cooperation, environment and sustainable development, poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development, transport and communications, statistics, and least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. The Commission also reviewed the implementation of its 1993 resolution on strengthening its role in the coordination of regional operational activities⁽⁴⁾ and endorsed the proposal that concerned agencies, organizations and ESCAP should consider ways of making their cooperation arrangements more effective and broad-based, including through the functioning of inter-agency committees and task forces.

The Commission also adopted resolutions on the action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific; participatory human settlements development; regional preparations for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women; status of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific; regional preparations for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development; update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region; the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-

East Asia; and the implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer. It also recommended to the Economic and Social Council a resolution on the admission of Armenia to membership of ESCAP. (For information on those resolutions, see below, under relevant subject headings.)

In a message to the session, the Secretary-General noted that the Asian and Pacific region had emerged as a pole of growth for the global economy as a whole, having sustained high levels of growth for a number of years. It was also encouraging that many developing countries were giving special attention to the modernization and upgrading of their physical infrastructure to accelerate economic growth and enhance regional economic cooperation. However, the continuing stagnation among the region's least developed and island developing countries, as well as the difficulties of transition to market economies experienced by several other States, served as a grim reminder of the uneven development pattern in Asia and the Pacific. The Secretary-General pointed out that those countries needed special support and assistance since their enhanced prospects for economic and social development also raised the potential and possibility for peace.

Economic and social trends

Economic trends

The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1995⁽⁵⁾ reviewed world economic developments in 1994 and their implications for the ESCAP region. It discussed the region's macroeconomic performance and policies, regional performance and policies in international trade and balance of payments, fiscal reforms and liberalization of the financial sector, and social security issues, including social protection of the elderly and disabled, employment, health care, family support and related policies.

A summary of the survey⁽⁶⁾ noted that the region's developing countries shared some 10 per cent of world GDP, accounted for about 15 per cent of world trade and tourism and were receiving an estimated third of world-wide remittances from expatriates. As a group, they had emerged as the largest recipient of private capital and credit inflows to developing countries. Those inflows combined provided significant support to their balance of payments and domestic income growth.

The average growth performance of ESCAP developing countries improved in 1994, with a combined growth rate estimated at 7.7 per cent, against 7.2 per cent in 1993. This was, however, accompanied by a rise in the annual inflation rate from 7.3 per cent in 1993 to 9.9 per cent in 1994, mainly

due to a dramatic upsurge of inflation in China from 13 per cent to 21 per cent and double-digit rates in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. China's efforts to arrest inflation led to a decrease in its growth from 13.4 per cent in 1993 to 11.8 per cent in 1994.

Although the economic performance of individual countries and among various subgroups continued to diverge, the differential between them continued to narrow. The economies of East Asia and South-East Asia registered a marginal growth against 1993, from 9.7 to 9.8 per cent and from 7.2 to 7.5 per cent, respectively, while the combined GDP growth rate of South Asian countries was estimated at 5.1 per cent in 1994, compared with 4.3 per cent in 1993. The average growth rate of the region's LDCs stood at 5.4 per cent in 1994, up from 4.8 per cent in the previous year. At the same time, output continued to fall in Central Asian States, and was estimated to be substantially lower in Pacific island countries than their 1993 rate of 10.5 per cent.

Among the region's three developed economies, Australia and New Zealand were out of the recession phase and performed well in 1994 and Japan showed definite signs of recovery, with much of their growth boosted by the manufacturing and construction industries. Australia's GDP grew by 4.7 per cent, compared with 3.5 per cent in 1993, while Japan's economy expanded by an estimated 1.3 per cent, having stagnated in the previous year. After a prolonged recession in 1989-1992 and continuous contraction of GDP, New Zealand recorded a growth rate of 3.8 per cent, slightly down from 4.1 per cent in 1993. Annual inflation decreased in Japan from 1.2 per cent in 1993 to 0.8 per cent in 1994 and rose only marginally in Australia and New Zealand, from 1.8 to 2 per cent and from 1.4 to 1.5 per cent, respectively. Due to tight fiscal policies focusing on expenditure control, the budget deficit in Australia grew from 3.7 per cent of GDP in 1993 to 4 per cent in 1994, while New Zealand showed a budget surplus for the second consecutive year, of 1 per cent in 1994 and 0.1 per cent in 1993. At the same time, Japan pursued expansionary fiscal policies to boost its economic recovery, and saw its budget deficit rise from 0.2 per cent in 1993 to 2.7 per cent in 1994.

In East Asia, a slow-down of GDP growth in China was accompanied by a decrease in its industrial production output, from 23.6 per cent in 1993 to an estimated 16 per cent in 1994, while its agricultural production, hard hit by heavy floods in the south and severe drought in the north, was expected to grow by 3 per cent, compared with 4 per cent in the previous year. The economy of Hong Kong expanded by 5.4 per cent, slightly below the 1993 rate of 5.6 per cent, owing largely to decreased domestic demand. At the same time, lower food import

prices, a stable labour market and modest increases in rents helped stabilize its inflation rate at 8.3 per cent, down from 8.5 per cent in 1993. A new phase of strong expansion appeared to have emerged in 1994 in the Republic of Korea, with its economy growing at an estimated 8.6 per cent, up from 5.5 per cent in 1993. The growth was fostered by a large increase in industrial exports and investment, and, to a lesser degree, private consumption. However, substantial rises in prices for food and services brought about a 5.6 per cent increase in inflation over the previous year.

The economic situation in Mongolia was characterized by relative stability of the national currency, a marked fall in inflation from more than 300 per cent in 1992 to 200 per cent in 1993, and an estimated GDP growth rate of 2.5 per cent in 1994, after five years of decline. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced a new economic policy package stressing agriculture, light industry and foreign trade as top priorities. New laws on banking were enacted, and the leasing of land to foreigners was permitted to promote foreign direct investment (FDI).

The seven Central Asian members of ESCAP, which included newly admitted Armenia (see below, under "Programme and organizational questions"), continued to face a steep decline in output together with extremely high inflation, due to the problems of transition to a market economy. Of the seven, only Armenia showed indications of a possible modest growth of GNP by the end of 1994, after a decline of 9.9 per cent in 1993. It also increased agricultural production and managed to bring the monthly inflation rate of retail prices down from 26 per cent in January to 1 per cent in mid-year; however, inflation resumed its upward trend in September.

In Azerbaijan, both the net material product (NMP) and industrial output fell by an estimated 25 per cent in the first eight months of 1994, compared with respective declines of 13.3 and 6.8 per cent in 1993. Agricultural output also declined, with grain output estimated at 90 per cent of the 1993 level. Inflation remained serious, as the consumer price index rose by 325 per cent from January to October 1994, fuelled by a large budgetary deficit and a sevenfold increase in the money supply. GDP decline in Kazakhstan was between 30 and 35 per cent for January-August 1994, against a 12.8 per cent decrease in 1993, while industrial output was estimated at 28 per cent below the 1993 level as of November 1994. Agricultural output was also down as a result of disruption in input supplies and unfavourable climatic conditions, while inflation rose by 699 per cent between January and November, having reached 2,265 per cent in 1993.

Output in Kyrgyzstan fell by 25 per cent during the first 11 months of 1994, compared with a

17.4 per cent fall in 1993, while the decline in basic foods production was estimated at some 40 per cent. Problems of converting Kyrgyzstan's military output to civilian uses contributed significantly to its poor industrial performance. The monthly inflation rate, however, dipped to 2.5 per cent in July and August, due to tighter fiscal and monetary control. In Tajikistan, industrial output dropped by 25 per cent during the first nine months of 1994, with consumer goods production falling by 41 per cent. Inflation slowed down significantly, having risen by 2,000 per cent in 1993. During January-August 1994, NMP and industrial production in Turkmenistan fell by 17 and 32 per cent, respectively, having recorded respective growth rates of 7.8 and 5.3 per cent in the previous year. As a result of the liberalization of food prices and a heavy budget deficit financed through credit expansion, inflation rose by 400 per cent in 1993 and by an estimated 366 per cent between January and August 1994. In Uzbekistan, NMP declined at a rate of 8 per cent in January-August 1994, compared with a 3.5 per cent decrease in 1993, while industrial production dropped by 1 per cent over the same period, against a 7 per cent fall in the previous year. At the same time, consumer goods and agricultural output increased by 4.4 and 12.4 per cent, respectively, with grains production rising by an estimated 41 per cent. Inflation, which reached 158 per cent from January to September due to credit expansion, was moderated through the introduction of new currency in July, a more restrictive monetary policy, a moderate budget deficit and an increased supply of goods and services.

In the South Asian countries, macroeconomic reforms began to yield positive results in 1994. Reform measures, coupled with good weather, contributed to India's improved economic performance, as its industrial output grew by 6.5 per cent in 1994, up from 3.3 per cent in 1993, and its agricultural production increased by 3.5 per cent, against 2.3 per cent in the previous year, with food-grain output rising by an estimated 3.8 per cent. In Pakistan, GDP growth increased from 2.3 per cent in 1993 to 4 per cent in 1994, having reached 7.7 per cent in 1992. The poor performance of the agricultural sector, owing to bad weather conditions, was the major cause of the sluggish growth. Iran's growth rate stabilized at around 5 per cent in 1993 and 1994, with the 5.8 per cent increase in crude oil production and the 2.9 per cent rise in value added of the industrial sector being lower than the 1993 levels. In Sri Lanka, the GDP growth rate was estimated at 5.9 per cent, a 1 per cent drop from 1993, mainly due to deceleration in agricultural growth from 4.9 per cent in 1993 to 3.9 per cent in 1994. At the same time, industrial output increased by 7.5 per cent, compared with 7 per cent in the previous

year. Annual inflation rates for countries of the subregion in 1994 ranged between 10 and 11 per cent. In Iran, however, inflation had grown by 22.9 per cent in 1993.

The countries of South-East Asia, with the exception of Brunei Darussalam, achieved impressive growth rates in 1994, ranging from 4.5 per cent in the Philippines to some 10 per cent in Singapore. As was the case of Singapore, Indonesia's rate of 6.6 per cent and Malaysia's rate of 8.4 per cent were largely the same as in 1993, while Thailand and Viet Nam registered slight increases in their 1993 rate of 8.1 per cent, to 8.3 per cent and to 8.8 per cent, respectively. The Philippines recorded a 2.5 per cent rise over its 2 per cent growth rate of 1993, as its industrial output grew by 6 per cent in 1994, against 1.8 per cent in 1993, and agricultural production expanded by 2.9 per cent, up from 2 per cent in the previous year. The economy of Brunei Darussalam, which contracted by 4 per cent in 1993, was expected to achieve a small growth in 1994, as declining oil prices began an upward trend during the year. Industrial production grew in most countries of the subregion, ranging from 8 per cent in Indonesia and 11 per cent in Malaysia to between 13 and 14 per cent in Singapore and Viet Nam. Agricultural output declined by 2 per cent in Singapore, continued the steady growth of 2.5 per cent in Thailand and 3.9 per cent in Viet Nam, but increased at a lower rate of 1.2 per cent in Malaysia, down from 3.9 per cent in 1993. The most significant growth occurred in Indonesia, where production rose by 4.5 per cent, compared with 1.4 per cent in 1993. Inflation accelerated from 7.6 per cent in 1993 to 9 per cent in 1994 in the Philippines, from 2.4 to 4 per cent in Singapore, from 3.5 to 5 per cent in Thailand, and from 5.2 to 12 per cent in Viet Nam. It reached 9.2 per cent in Indonesia, but remained at around 4 per cent in Malaysia.

In the region's LDCs, GDP growth rates remained at their 1993 level of between 4 and 6 per cent. Several countries, such as Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Solomon Islands, achieved some success in maintaining macroeconomic stability. However, the economic situation in other countries was characterized by persistent macroeconomic imbalances and slow progress in improving economic management and creating a more conducive climate for private-sector participation in development. Renewed emphasis was placed in 1994 on domestic resource mobilization, privatization programmes and improving the efficiency of public enterprises. However, economic reforms were impeded by political instability, limited administrative capacity, institutional and infrastructural weaknesses, inadequate entrepreneurial ability, difficulty in arriving at a national consensus and resistance to change.

Bangladesh recorded its highest growth rates for both the agricultural and industrial sectors since 1990, 2.6 and 8.3 per cent, respectively. Nepal's economy rebounded with an estimated 7.8 per cent growth rate in 1994 compared to 2.9 per cent in 1993, boosted by an 11.7 per cent rise in manufacturing output and a 7.7 per cent increase in agricultural production. GDP grew by 5.9 per cent in Maldives, slightly down from 6.2 per cent in 1993, and by 6.4 per cent in Myanmar, having increased by 6 per cent in the previous year. In Bhutan, in 1993, it had stabilized at 5 per cent and at 9 per cent in Tuvalu; however, it had dropped from 8.2 to 6 per cent in Solomon Islands, from 7 to 5.7 per cent in Cambodia and to 4 per cent in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and from 4 per cent to 2.9 per cent in Kiribati. Samoa's economy expanded by 4.8 per cent in 1993, after a 4.2 per cent contraction in 1992, while output in Vanuatu grew by 2 per cent after a 0.1 per cent decline over the same period.

Among the ESCAP Pacific island countries, the GDP of the Cook Islands was expected to grow by 6 per cent in 1994, mainly due to the service sector expansion, compared with a mere 1.2 per cent growth in 1993. Fiji's economy was to expand by 3.2 per cent, up from 2 per cent in the previous year, based on a record sugar production and increased tourism. Papua New Guinea was likely to experience a sharp deceleration from its 1993 growth rate of 14.4 per cent because of a major fall in petroleum output, while Tonga's economy was expected to rebound with a growth rate of 4.8 per cent in 1994, having expanded by 2.8 per cent in 1993. The Marshall Islands registered a 5 per cent growth rate in 1993. Most Pacific island countries maintained the 1993 annual inflation rates of below 8 per cent, and as low as 3 per cent in Tonga and 2 per cent in Fiji.

Both the export and import trade of the ESCAP region remained generally buoyant in 1994, with the exception of LDCs, Pacific island countries and economies in transition. Exports from the region in 1993 totalled \$994.8 billion, an 8.2 per cent increase over the previous year, with the developing economies accounting for more than half of that amount, having increased their exports by 9.9 per cent in 1993. Total regional imports for 1993 grew by 8.4 per cent over 1992 to reach some \$914 billion. The developing countries' share was about 56 per cent, as they expanded their imports by 10.9 per cent for the year. Imports to the region's developed economies grew by 3.7 per cent in 1993 and 8.7 per cent in 1994, while their exports increased by 5.8 and 4.9 per cent, respectively.

Most countries continued to implement trade liberalization measures, and LDCs took action to relax foreign exchange controls, reduce import duties, introduce improved tariff systems and

diversify their exports. External sector reforms were largely responsible for the increase in trade and capital inflows to South Asian countries. The strong economic performance of South-East Asian economies was directly linked to the impressive growth of their exports at rates ranging from 11 to 27 per cent. Economic recovery in the developed countries and relocation of electronics manufacturing to the region's developing economies provided a stimulus to the expansion of trade in East Asia: exports expanded by 13.8 per cent in the Republic of Korea, 16.3 per cent in Hong Kong and 24.9 per cent in China.

In the area of regional economic cooperation, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization declared its commitment to establishing free and open trade and investment in the region no later than 2020, and urged the establishment of an APEC community committed to free trade. In September, the Economic Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed to accelerate the implementation of the programme for the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), to be achieved by 2003. Two programmes of tariff reduction were set up under AFTA, and ASEAN member States agreed to explore further measures on border and non-border areas of cooperation. Efforts were also made in 1994 to ensure ratification of the agreement establishing the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement, adopted in 1993 by member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Social trends

Poverty remained a fundamental problem in the ESCAP region, with some three quarters of the world's poor living there. Despite sustained economic growth and various types of policy interventions, large segments of the population continued to suffer from poor nutrition, lack of health and education and inadequacy of housing and sanitation. The situation was aggravated by increasing reliance on market forces in economic management.

To provide relief against such deprivation, Asian and Pacific countries were implementing social security policies and other measures aimed at mitigating economic and social distress. Their social security programmes included the delivery of benefits and compensations through such mechanisms as social insurance, social assistance, employer liability and State provident funds.

A major emerging concern in the region was the provision for old-age security and against the risk of invalidity or death, as the elderly in the ESCAP developing countries were projected to rise from 246 million in 1995 to 627 million in 2025. In general, 57 per cent of the world's 1,181 million

elderly aged 60 and above would live in Asia and the Pacific by 2025. Most countries in the region had introduced measures in their social security schemes in response to those trends. Advanced social insurance systems were established in China, Iran, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and most economies in transition, while provident funds were used to provide for old age in most South and South-East Asian and Pacific island countries. Social assistance was used to support some 76 per cent of the elderly in Australia and as a supplement to social insurance in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, whereas Indonesia, India, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka provided it to the destitute and those living in absolute poverty.

Advances in industrialization had resulted in a rise in accidents, injury and various diseases in the course of work, leading to temporary or permanent disability or even death. Many of the region's Governments enacted legislation providing or extending coverage of losses resulting from employment injury, including through direct liability, compulsory insurance or social insurance. Social insurance was also extended to include provisions dealing with pregnancy, confinement and infant care, as well as general medical care.

Despite the measures under way in the region, the need for public provision of social security remained immense. The vast majority of the region's poor and vulnerable population was outside the formally legislated social security networks, with many of them falling outside other forms of public support systems as well. As a result, the issue of expanding the coverage of an administratively feasible and financially viable social security system was likely to assume increasing importance on the Asian and Pacific policy agenda.

Activities in 1994

Development policy and regional economic cooperation

At its 1994 session,⁽¹⁾ the Commission had before it a study on the infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation⁽⁷⁾ as well as its summary,⁽⁸⁾ which reviewed physical infrastructure deficiencies and the resource gap, examined ways of improving the administration and management of infrastructure, and analysed means of financing infrastructure development. It also outlined a draft action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific, which identified main policy issues, provided recommendations and proposals for action at the national and regional levels, and made suggestions for the plan's implementation, priorities and time-frame. Financial requirements for infrastructure

development in the region's developing countries were estimated at \$1,500 billion for 1994-2000, of which \$500 billion was available or already committed, leaving a gap of some \$1,000 billion.

On 13 April,⁽⁹⁾ the Commission welcomed the draft action plan as a basis for developing a fully operational plan of action, requested the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group to elaborate it further, and asked the Executive Secretary to submit the revised action plan, to be referred to as the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, for consideration by the Commission at its 1995 session.

In response to the Commission's request, the Steering Group, at its fifth meeting (Kunming, China, 29 August-1 September), considered issues relating to infrastructure and revised the draft action plan. Following the Steering Group's meeting, the World Infrastructure Forum, Asia 1994 (Jakarta, Indonesia, 17-21 October) established an Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors in infrastructure development.

The Commission also reviewed the progress made in implementing the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in 1990,⁽¹⁰⁾ in the ESCAP region.⁽¹¹⁾ It expressed concern about the inadequacy of ODA to the developing countries, and urged the international community to provide appropriate technological and adequate financial support to the region's economies. The Commission urged its member States to strengthen cooperation to attain their social and economic development goals and to reduce intercountry gaps through fuller use of complementarities in trade, investment, technology and resource endowments.

The Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, at its third session (New Delhi, 4 and 5 April 1994),⁽¹²⁾ endorsed the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer, approved by the Committee's Steering Group at its fourth meeting (Kathmandu, Nepal, 8-11 March). The Action Programme was endorsed by the Commission (see below, under "Science and technology").

In 1994, the ESCAP secretariat organized a consultative meeting of executive heads of subregional organizations (Bangkok, Thailand, 4 February), which discussed inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment, human resources development, transport and communications, energy and poverty alleviation, and suggested that such consultations be held annually. During the year, ESCAP entered into a framework agreement for cooperation with SAARC (February) and signed

memoranda of understanding with the secretariat of the Pacific Forum (June) and with the South Pacific Commission (December). It collaborated with the Asian Development Bank in convening a regional symposium on privatization (Karachi, Pakistan, January/February) and with the World Bank in holding a seminar on East/South-East Asian growth experience (Bangkok, May). In addition, expert group meetings were held in Bangkok on recent experience in tax system reforms and their impact on income distribution and poverty (July) and on development issues and policies (December).

The secretariat provided advisory services to Viet Nam on macroeconomic modelling and short-term forecasting, and launched an Asia-Pacific Development Journal, the first two issues of which appeared in June and December. Under the subprogramme for LDCs, Pacific island countries and economies in transition (see below), a study tour/investment forum for promoting FDI was organized in Kobe City, Japan, and Seoul, Republic of Korea (June/July).

Least developed and land-locked developing countries

Activities under this subprogramme focused on follow-up to the 1993 recommendations of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, as well as on implementing the Commission's 1993 resolution on strengthening assistance to LDCs.⁽¹³⁾ Preparations were initiated for a mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the 1990s, adopted in 1990 by a United Nations conference⁽¹⁴⁾ and endorsed by the General Assembly later that year.⁽¹⁵⁾ The secretariat provided support in implementing ongoing economic reforms in those countries, aimed at improving macroeconomic management, relaxing direct controls, enhancing domestic resource mobilization, promoting private-sector development, reforming public enterprises, increasing the inflow of foreign investment and technology, and instituting more effective measures to address issues such as poverty alleviation, human resources development and environmental protection. The secretariat also examined resource flows to LDCs, including the matching of assistance to needs and the effective utilization of aid by recipients.

An expert group meeting on early development experience of the newly industrializing economies (Bangkok, September) considered key factors in their rapid development from which lessons could be derived for LDCs. Another expert group meeting (Bangkok, November) dealt with improving the access of women to formal credit and financial institutions in selected LDCs. The meeting reviewed experience of banks and NGOs in the re-

gion and considered innovative banking policies in that regard. During the year, the secretariat provided advisory services to Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal on improving women's access to such credit and institutions.

Advisory services were also provided to Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives and Nepal on country studies for the mid-term review of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the 1990s, and to the Lao People's Democratic Republic on population projections. The secretariat offered technical assistance and training to selected LDCs in trade facilitation and export promotion, environmental implications of fertilizer use and fertilizer legislation, investment promotion, disaster management, urban geology, mining regulations, water and mineral resources development, and statistics. Other activities included a national seminar on urban water management (Yangon, Myanmar, February), an expert group meeting on sustainable agricultural development strategies for LDCs (Bangkok, 17-19 May), and the issue of a publication on transport planning for land-locked countries, dealing with transit and border-crossing issues.

Land-locked States in Central Asia

In July 1994, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly a report on transit transport systems of the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,⁽¹⁶⁾ prepared by UNCTAD in response to a 1993 Assembly request.⁽¹⁷⁾ The report provided an overview of the economic environment and potentials of the Central Asian land-locked States, reviewed recent political and economic developments in that subregion and new patterns in inter-republic and foreign trade, and analysed existing transit transport corridors and alternative transit routes. The report contained recommendations for undertaking a comparative analysis of the viability of existing and potential transit corridors, streamlining the pattern of payments for transit services, improving physical transit infrastructure facilities, and assisting those countries to negotiate and put in place the necessary transit facilitation agreements and arrangements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/102** without vote.

Transit environment in the land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/169 and 48/170 of 21 December 1993,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, convened by the Trade and Development Board in New York from 17 to 19 May 1993, and in particular the conclusions and recommendations of the above Meeting pertaining to the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

Recognizing that the overall socio-economic development efforts of these countries, seeking to enter world markets through the establishment of a multicountry transit system, are impeded by a lack of territorial access to the sea as well as by remoteness and isolation from world markets,

Supporting the current efforts being undertaken by the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours through relevant multilateral, bilateral and regional arrangements to address the issues regarding the development of a viable transit infrastructure in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Transit transport systems of the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours: current situation and proposals for future action",

Noting that the report, as stated in paragraph 1 of its introduction, represents a first approximation only towards a fuller elaboration of more concrete programmes of action for dealing with the issues,

Recognizing that to be effective, a transit transport strategy for the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours should incorporate actions that address both the problems inhering in the use of existing transit routes and the early development and smooth functioning of new, alternative routes,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening international support measures to address further the problems of newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

1. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in consultation with the Governments concerned and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and relevant regional organizations and in accordance with approved programme priorities and within existing financial resources, to elaborate a programme for improving the efficiency of the current transit environment in the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours and to make a comprehensive analysis and study of the transit system for Central Asian countries, paying particular attention to the development of all new, appropriate and feasible alternative transit routes and corridors, including the shortest ones;

2. Invites donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions, within their mandates, to provide newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours with appropriate financial and technical assistance for the improvement of the transit environment for these countries;

3. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations referred to in the present resolution, to study the possibility of holding, within existing financial resources, a regional symposium for the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, with the participation of other interested States, on transport and transit issues in the region, upon completion of the comprehensive analysis and study requested in paragraph 1 above and before this issue is taken up by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

General Assembly resolution 49/102

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/728/Add.1) without vote, 13 December (meeting 34); draft by Vice-Chairman (A/C.2/49/L.64), orally revised and based on informal consultations on draft by Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (A/C.2/49/L.43); agenda item 88 (a).

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 29-31, 34; plenary 92.

Special problems of Pacific is/and countries

The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (second session, Bangkok, 30 and 31 March 1994)⁽¹⁸⁾ reviewed the development performance and prospects of those countries, as well as ESCAP activities. It noted that island countries faced a wide range of special structural constraints and that the economic performance in the subregion continued to be volatile over time and uneven among island economies, but recognized that the positive GDP growth of several island economies was due to their ongoing policy reforms and structural adjustment. The Special Body emphasized the crucial importance of FDI, private-sector promotion and closer trade and investment relationships between the Pacific subregion and the dynamic Asian economies. It stressed the need for strengthening economic restructuring and policy reforms to ensure that Pacific island countries benefited from a more liberalized trade environment following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (see PART THREE, Chapter IV). It also pointed to the need for increased mobilization of domestic resources and external technical assistance for human resources development. The Special Body noted that ESCAP technical assistance activities were supplemented by valuable arrangements in the framework of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC) with member States such as China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. It also noted that the annual ESCAP training and orientation programmes for Pacific island countries had resumed after a lapse of two years. It expressed apprecia-

tion for contributions to the Pacific Trust Fund, established to ensure the participation of Pacific island countries in ESCAP's annual sessions.

In April, the Commission endorsed the report of the Special Body on its second session and suggested that increasing investment flows to the Pacific and ensuring durable linkages between Pacific and Asian economies be a theme topic for its third session.

During the year, the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre provided advisory services to the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu in the areas of development planning and policy, trade promotion, development finance, statistics, port and harbour development and management, and women in development. As part of its ongoing technical assistance project, the secretariat organized an expert group meeting on the economic performance and prospects of Pacific island economies (phase II) (Port Vila, Vanuatu, July), which discussed, *inter alia*, the possible establishment of a Pacific island development bank. In addition, advisory assistance on comprehensive flood-loss prevention and management was extended to Fiji and Samoa, and a publication was issued on selected issues in development policy and subregional cooperation in the 1990s among Pacific island countries.

ESCAP transition economies

In April, the Commission reviewed ESCAP activities for the 10 Asian and Pacific disadvantaged economies in transition to a market system (Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam). It observed that macroeconomic stabilization in those countries constituted a basic prerequisite for the successful transition to a market-oriented economy. Diversification of their trade links, as a major element for integration with the international economy, called for a reduction in excessive dependence on traditional trade partners and the widening of production and export bases. The Commission pointed out that the transition process required the establishment of basic institutional infrastructure for market-oriented economic systems and investment in human resources and physical infrastructure, in particular the development of transport and communications links. Economies in transition were encouraged to enhance the role of the private sector, including through privatization; establish a transparent legal framework; reduce price controls and subsidies; and promote competition. The Commission urged the international community to assist those economies in strengthening their aid-absorptive capacity.

The Commission also considered the secretariat's proposals for follow-up activities to a 1993 meeting on the development of North-East Asian economies in transition through intra-regional trade expansion and subregional economic cooperation.

On 13 April,⁽¹⁹⁾ the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to continue ESCAP initiatives in promoting subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia, in particular in the areas of trade, investment, transport, communications and environmental cooperation for sustainable development. It asked ESCAP members and associate members to submit proposals on economic development and cooperation in that subregion.

During the year, the secretariat provided technical assistance to economies in transition in macroeconomic stabilization and structural reform policies, development of transport and communications links, enterprise restructuring and human resources development, as well as in statistics, economic information, forecasting and policy-making. It organized a regional seminar on macroeconomic reform in disadvantaged economies in transition (Bangkok, November) and issued a publication on the subject, highlighting the experience of Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan in implementing economic reforms. Courses on statistical operations were conducted in Cambodia, Mongolia and Viet Nam, and advisory services in international trade were provided to the Central Asian States, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia. Other activities included national workshops on urban water management in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and advisory missions to Azerbaijan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan to review their water sectors and identify priority areas in water management.

Economic and technical cooperation

During 1994, ESCAP received \$22.4 million in contributions for technical cooperation activities, an increase of some 40 per cent over 1993, including \$10.75 million from sources within the United Nations system and \$11.65 million from donor States, developing member countries and other organizations.⁽²⁰⁾ Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway contributed 81.63 per cent of total bilateral assistance received. China, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea were the largest contributors among the developing member countries that provided assistance in 1994. In addition to cash contributions, donor States and developing member countries provided 221 work-months of expert services, compared with 230.25 in 1993. Financial requirements for the 125 new project proposals recommended for bilateral funding in

1995 amounted to \$11.3 million. Bilateral donors approved 91 projects, totalling \$6.87 million, for execution under ESCAP's work programme, excluding special projects and regional institutions. A corps of 10 regional advisers undertook 102 missions to 31 developing countries of the region.

At its 1994 session, the Commission emphasized the need to pursue TCDC activities in a planned manner rather than on an ad hoc basis, and stated that the catalytic role of ESCAP in promoting such activities could be strengthened by identifying the region's priority needs for ECDC/TCDC support and preparing a feasible programme to meet those needs. It noted that the lack of information on needs and capacities available within the region was a major impediment to the expansion of TCDC activities and requested the secretariat to strengthen its role in collecting and disseminating information among member States. The Commission also recommended that TCDC national focal points be made more effective, and recognized the possibilities for cooperation between ESCAP and other regional organizations in promoting ECDC/TCDC. The Executive Secretary appealed to the more advanced developing countries to consider establishing a cooperation fund with ESCAP, along the lines of the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and the China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects, to facilitate the formulation of extrabudgetary technical cooperation activities.

During the year, the secretariat carried out about 100 promotional TCDC activities financed from extrabudgetary resources and under the regular programme of technical cooperation. With the support of China, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, 39 operational TCDC activities were implemented through the TCDC supplementary fund. The region's least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and economies in transition were the main beneficiaries of TCDC activities, which were aimed at promoting self-reliance through an exchange of experience and information and the sharing of expertise and technologies, and included areas such as transport and communications, tourism, water resources, trade and investment, population information, technology development and transfer, natural resources, human settlements, statistics, women in development, aid coordination, and social issues relating to disabled, young and elderly people and drug demand reduction.

Within the framework of TCDC, Singapore offered training courses on civil aviation management, environmental health, port management and operations, information technology management, telecommunications and computer application systems in customs documentation. Training was also provided by China in a number of areas, including agriculture, energy, natural resources,

environmental applications for development, and environmental protection technology. A study tour, with matching exercises, on strengthening the capabilities of TCDC national focal points for 11 selected Pacific island developing countries was organized by the secretariat with the support of China (Beijing, 25-29 October). Uzbekistan concluded TCDC agreements on water resources management with China and Thailand, and six exchange visits for population programme managers were facilitated by the TCDC supplementary fund.

International trade and finance

In April, the Commission reviewed ESCAP activities to implement the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, which it had endorsed in 1993.⁽⁴⁾ Implementation of the Action Programme had been facilitated by funding from UNDP and donor Governments. High priority had been accorded to the study of intraregional trade patterns, strengthening the regional trade information infrastructure, networking of trade-related research institutions, and promoting inter-subregional cooperation. Other priority areas included the enhancement of quality control, development of export-oriented small and medium enterprises, and assistance to the disadvantaged economies in transition. The Commission emphasized the importance of trade and investment for the growth of the region's developing economies and suggested that activities in that regard should address macroeconomic as well as micro-economic issues.

Other activities in international trade and finance focused on implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century (see above), as well as the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer (see below, under "Science and technology"). The secretariat prepared studies on regional cooperation in export credit and export credit guarantees, expansion of manufactured exports by small and medium enterprises, and sectoral flows of FDI in Asia and the Pacific.

The secretariat provided advisory services in export promotion, enhancement of intraregional trade and implications of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade agreements to Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. It assisted Maldives in the alignment and standardization of trade documents and Samoa and Tonga in the development of the coconut industry, and advised Mongolia on its accession to the 1975 Bangkok Agreement on trade negotiations among ESCAP developing member States.

As part of activities for the establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Trade Match, a company database of Western Australia's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Implications of the Uruguay Round agreements were discussed at an expert group meeting on inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment (Bangkok, September) and at a regional symposium (Seoul, November/December). Two other expert group meetings, both held in Bangkok in November, focused on trade, investment and the environment for the comprehensive development of Indo-China and on regional databases for trade in goods. National workshops on trade facilitation and export promotion were held in Maldives (Male, August/September), Viet Nam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, November) and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Vientiane, December), and national seminars on networking of trade-related research institutions were organized in Pakistan (Bhurban, October) and China (Beijing, December).

Training activities included a national training programme on export market research in Mongolia (Ulan Bator, October) and a training course in market access for Vietnamese exporters (Ho Chi Minh City, November). The secretariat also organized regional seminars on the development of the export-oriented electronic goods sector (Beijing, June), on assessing the potential and direction of agricultural trade within the region (Bangkok, November) and on changing comparative advantage patterns and intraregional trade expansion (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, December).

Transport and communications

At its 1994 session, the Commission reviewed activities relating to land, rural and urban, and multimodal transport; maritime policy development; commercialization in transport and communications; transport management information systems; and phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (see below). It expressed concern that transport and communications systems of many countries of the region were either not fully developed or in need of rehabilitation and modernization. The Commission endorsed the 1993 recommendations of the Committee on Transport and Communications.⁽²¹⁾ It also endorsed the 1994-1995 action plan and implementation strategy for the Asian land transport infrastructure development project, comprising the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway network and facilitation measures.

As part of the project's implementation, the secretariat prepared a draft study on developing land transport linkages from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to seaports of China, Iran and Pakistan, and initiated a feasibility study on

connecting the rail networks of China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean peninsula. Assistance was provided to South-East Asian countries in designing their sectors of the Trans-Asian Railway, in determining route standards and requirements and in promoting rail transport facilitation.

Studies were completed on container shipping and port development in the East Asian subregion and on the transport corridor from Singapore through Malaysia, Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. The secretariat provided advisory services to Myanmar on multimodal transport development and freight forwarding, to Thailand on optimum requirements of lighters in inland waterways, and to Sri Lanka and Thailand on the commercial aspects of railway modernization. Activities to promote multimodal transport included two country-level workshops (Tehran, Iran, May; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, August), a subregional seminar (Colombo, Sri Lanka, November) and a training-of-trainers course (Johor Bahru, Malaysia, December), as well as a regional review seminar on multimodal transport development in South-East Asia (Bangkok, September). Three country-level seminars (Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, June; Bangkok, September) and a subregional seminar (Singapore, September) were held to promote adoption of the International Maritime Organization's 1965 Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic.

Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific

In April, the Commission reiterated its support for the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, noting with concern that 40 per cent of the projects in the programme still required financing. It urged donor countries and agencies to take further steps to mobilize resources for implementation of the programme pursuant to a 1993 General Assembly resolution.⁽²²⁾

The Inter-Agency Steering Committee on phase II of the Decade (third meeting, Bangkok, 7 and 8 November) and an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting (Bangkok, 9-11 November) reviewed the draft action plan on infrastructure development (see above, under "Development policy and regional economic cooperation"). It was noted that the action plan would ensure a smooth transition from phase II to action at the national and regional levels in support of infrastructure development, with emphasis on transport and communications.

The secretariat continued to publish Decade News, and issued the Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific.

Reports of the Secretary-General. In response to a 1984 Economic and Social Council request,⁽²³⁾ the Secretary-General submitted in May 1994 a biennial report⁽²⁴⁾ on implementation of phase II of the Decade. The report reviewed the status of implementation of the regional action programme, the mobilization of resources, inter-agency and interregional cooperation and Decade coordination, monitoring and reporting issues.

The Secretary-General reported that of the 47 activities of the regional action programme, 27 were currently being implemented. A number of national institutes had been identified for direct involvement in the programme's implementation, particularly in undertaking research and training. At the inter-agency level, 7 of the 10 joint agency proposals in the programme were being implemented in the areas of telecommunications, postal services, multimodal transport, road-user charges, urban transport and facilitation of maritime traffic. The commercial sectors also had been closely involved in the implementation of activities related to the development of the maritime sector and the commercialization of transport and communications operations. However, many activities had been delayed, owing to the lack or late arrival of extrabudgetary funds from donors.

By decision 1994/289 of 26 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's report.

In September, the Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly on resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme,⁽²⁵⁾ as requested by the Assembly in 1993.⁽²⁶⁾ The report provided an overview of the funding situation, noting that some \$30 million had so far been contributed or pledged to implement 34 of the 47 activities. Of that total, \$21.9 million came from UNDP and \$3.3 million from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, while an additional \$4.75 million was contributed by Japan for the commercial sector. No funds were received for 13 activities, while the funding secured for most other activities was not sufficient for their full implementation.

By decision 49/441 of 19 December, the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report.

Tourism

The Commission recognized the increasing importance of tourism for Asian and Pacific countries and endorsed ESCAP activities relating to tourism development with an emphasis on an integrated, environmentally sound approach. It recommended that tourism be accorded the highest priority and urged the secretariat to intensify its efforts in that sector. The Commission

pointed to the urgent need to develop expertise for assessing the economic, sociocultural and environmental impact of tourism, as well as tourism marketing and investment.

The secretariat continued to assist developing countries in the area of tourism development. Advisory services were provided to Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic on tourism promotion and development, and to Maldives on resort lease agreements. The secretariat fielded fact-finding missions to Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands for the development of integrated tourism planning in Pacific island countries, and undertook case-studies on the economic impact of tourism in Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. Studies were also prepared on foreign investment in the tourism sector in Samoa and Vanuatu, and on the cultural and environmental impact of international tourism in Pakistan. A workshop on promoting tourism development in countries along the Mekong River (Kunming, December) examined possibilities for increased cooperation among Governments and private sectoral international organizations.

The secretariat continued to disseminate technical information and data on tourism development through the ESCAP Tourism Review and the ESCAP Tourism Newsletter.

Industrial and technological development

Activities under the programme for industrial and technological development focused on implementing the mandates of the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific and the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific, adopted in 1992,⁽²⁶⁾ and those of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development, endorsed in 1993.⁽²⁷⁾ The activities were aimed at establishing and strengthening institutional and policy infrastructure for industrial and technological development and endogenous industrial and technological capabilities of member States.

The secretariat organized workshops on participation of women in manufacturing (Bangkok, April) and on strengthening technological capacity in the export of manufactures of selected countries (Colombo, September), as well as a sub-regional workshop on matching investment and industrial relocation (Manila, Philippines, October). A symposium on FDI and trade between Fiji and the private sector of Thailand (Bangkok, July) and a regional symposium on development and cooperation in food-processing industries (New Delhi, November) were also held during the year. Advisory services were provided to China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines on policy

measures in technology development for small and medium enterprises and to Mongolia on the development of small and medium enterprises, while Thailand was assisted in establishing its industrial estate authority and industrial port. Publications were issued on the application and extension of the technology atlas and on major issues in human resources development policy and planning for industry.

An ESCAP/UNIDO joint programming meeting (Vienna, August) identified priority areas for cooperation and joint activities, including industrial and technological development and restructuring; food processing and food quality management technology; information technology; privatization and private-sector development; skills development and women's participation in industry and technology; development of small and medium industries; and standardization and quality control.

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

The Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC) issued four publications and carried out 24 projects in the programme areas of energy, economic management, gender, poverty alleviation, public management and regional cooperation. Eight projects were funded by UNDP and 16 by other agencies and countries, including Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden. Total funds available to APDC for 1994 amounted to \$2,836,173, a decrease of 4.6 per cent from 1993. The 1994 operating budget, however, showed a surplus of \$18,634, compared with a deficit in 1993. On 1 August, APDC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ESCAP. The APDC General Council (ninth session, Kuala Lumpur, 5 and 6 December) approved the work programme for phase VI (1995-1998) and resolved to augment the level of country contributions.

Natural resources and marine affairs

Mineral resources

Mineral resources activities focused on the evaluation of geological and mineral resource potential in selected LDCs, regional and subregional assessment of industrial non-metallic minerals, promotion of foreign investment in the mining industry, environmental management of natural resources development, and integration of geoscientific data into land-use and urban planning. Regional studies were prepared on mineral concentrations and hydrocarbon accumulations, exploitation and use of mineral and metallurgical waste, and confinement of toxic waste in underground spaces.

The secretariat assisted Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Nepal in incorporating urban ge-

ology information into urban planning; Viet Nam in setting priorities for a national urban geology programme; Bhutan in preparing a draft mining code; Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam in evaluating and developing industrial minerals; Myanmar in identifying needs for mineral resources development and applying remote-sensing and geographic information-system data for natural resources and environment management; and Sri Lanka in negotiating agreements on the development of phosphate deposits and manufacturing phosphate fertilizer for export. Other activities included a workshop on geochemistry and gold exploration (Chiang Mai, Thailand, February), an expert working group meeting on geological aspects of land-use planning (Bangkok, May) and an international seminar on minerals and mineral-based industries in Asia and the Pacific (Kathmandu, December), which dealt with trade and technology cooperation issues.

In May, the Steering Committee of the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP) changed that body's name to the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia to reflect the expanded scope of its programme activities, while retaining its acronym. The 1994 activities of CCOP continued to focus on the sectors of energy, mineral zones and coastal zones, and included one working group meeting, five workshops, three in-house training courses and one exploration promotion forum on technology transfer. The oil and gas resource management programme was completed, while, in the mineral sector, efforts concentrated on the application of computer technology to regional map compilation and the interpretation of geoscientific data. Activities continued towards the creation of a geoscience database for coastal-zone management. At its thirty-first annual session (Kuala Lumpur, October), CCOP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Canada on cooperation in geoscientific programmes.

Water resources

The secretariat continued to provide advisory services in water resources development and management. During the year, it provided assistance to Azerbaijan in improving its water supply and sanitation systems; to Brunei Darussalam in monitoring dam safety; to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in international administration management and cooperation in water resources; to Mongolia in collecting information on irrigation projects; to Pakistan in developing and testing canal linings; and to Uzbekistan in setting priorities in water management and irrigation and in

identifying requirements for setting up bottled-water plants. It prepared studies on computer applications for groundwater assessment and management and on assessment of water resources and their use in Japan, and published the *Water Resources Journal*. The secretariat organized a group training/study tour for experts from Central Asian States (Bangkok, July) to review developments in international river basins in Asia and an expert group meeting on protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems (Bangkok, October), which adopted guidelines in that regard. In addition, national seminars on urban water resources management and improvement of water supply and sanitation services were held in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, April), Myanmar (Yangon, May), Turkmenistan (Ashkhabad, September) and Kazakhstan (Almaty, September). Among other activities were a seminar on private sector involvement in the provision of water supply and sanitation services (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, April), a training course on groundwater contamination (Bangkok, April/May) and a workshop on promotion of investments for water supply and sanitation projects (Baku, Azerbaijan, August). The Inter-agency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific met in Bangkok in June and December.

Marine affairs

Work in marine affairs centred on the assessment, development and management of non-living resources in Asian and Pacific coastal zones, as well as on the coming into force in November 1994 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea⁽²⁸⁾ (see PART FOUR, Chapter III). The secretariat issued a publication on integrated coastal-zone management in Asia and prepared studies on assessment of mineral/petroleum resource potential in North-East Asia and on obsolete oil and gas production structures in Asia-Pacific waters.

Mekong River basin development

The Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin continued its activities for the development of the Mekong's water and related resources.⁽²⁹⁾ At a meeting of the Mekong Working Group (Vientiane, January), further progress was made towards a new agreement among the four riparian States (Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam) on sustainable development in the lower Mekong basin.

Some 49 projects received funding in 1994, and the first bridge over the Mekong River—the Friendship Bridge between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand—was opened on 8 April. Other major projects completed included studies on international aspects of the My

Thuan bridge, run-of-the-river hydropower possibilities and the development of upper Mekong navigation. A preliminary study on the Chruai Changvar port was also completed, as was a development plan for Tonle Sap and Chakdomuk and a master plan for the integrated development of the Mekong delta. In addition, priority hydropower projects were identified for Cambodia, and human resources development activities were organized for the riparian countries, focusing on the environment, hydrology, agriculture, irrigation and international water law. A series of workshops on private participation in hydropower development was also organized during the year.

Donor contributions in cash and in kind totalled \$9.6 million in 1994, compared to \$10.7 million in 1993. The draft Mekong work programme for 1994-1995 included more than 90 projects, with a funding requirement of some \$115 million, of which some 60 per cent had already been secured.

Energy

Activities in the field of energy were linked to the implementation of the UNDP-funded Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment, comprising energy-environment planning, coal development and utilization, natural gas and petroleum development, rural energy-environment development, conservation and efficiency, and electric power system management. Studies were prepared on prospects for natural gas development in the region and on the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy, and advisory services were provided to Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam on issues relating to energy efficiency, natural gas and petroleum, wind energy development and utilization, an energy-environment strategy in the transport sector, and human resources development for water supply and the rehabilitation of the power sector. The secretariat continued to disseminate information through publication of the energy resources development series and ESCAP Energy News.

The secretariat held workshops on national strategies and regional cooperation in energy efficiency promotion (Bangkok, March), natural gas utilization (Bangkok, June), demand-side management (Jakarta, July), energy efficiency standards and labelling (Singapore, September), and integrated rural energy and environmental planning for sustainable rural development (Beijing, September). Other workshops were held on the role of consumer organizations and other NGOs in promoting energy conservation and sustainable energy use (Penang, Malaysia, November), and private-sector participation in power generation and its consequences for environmental quality

(Kuala Lumpur, November/December). Training was provided in energy-efficiency improvement in industrial and commercial buildings (Hanoi, April), energy management (Ho Chi Minh City, July) and energy surveys (Bangkok, September). An ESCAP/UNDP regional meeting of experts and policy makers (Hong Kong, May) discussed energy-environment strategies for urban transportation.

Agriculture and rural development

ESCAP activities in agriculture and rural development during 1994 focused on the alleviation of rural poverty and sustainable rural development. The secretariat initiated country studies on the effects of price liberalization and market reform on poverty of rural communities and farm families in China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam, and launched a project on utilization of agricultural biomass for sustainable rural development. Under a joint ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment, pilot projects were initiated in Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, and training workshops on the "success-case-replication" methodology on income-earning activities were held in the Philippines and Viet Nam.

Activities continued under the ESCAP/FAO project on sustainable agricultural development strategies for LDCs. The database on pesticides and the environment was completed and installed in facilities of the participating countries and, on the recommendation of a regional evaluation and planning workshop (Bangkok, September), was later expanded thematically and geographically. The secretariat provided advisory services on the collection and management of pesticide data to the Philippines and Thailand, revised a manual on agro-pesticides and published the Illustrated Pesticide Safety Guide in several Pacific languages. It issued *Agro-chemicals News in Brief*, *Poverty Alleviation Initiatives* and a newsletter on activities of the Regional Information Support Service. Other publications dealt with agricultural research systems and their responses to community development needs in the region and with employment strategies for the rural poor.

The ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific continued to provide information, training and advisory services for its members. Training seminars on fertilizer-marketing management in a changing economy were organized in Viet Nam (Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, April/May), and a training programme in fertilizer-marketing management was carried out in Sri Lanka (Colombo, September). Seminars were also held

on fertilizer-sector development in Mongolia (Ulan Bator, May/June), environmental and marketing aspects of fertilizer-sector development in Cambodia (Phnom Penh, November) and fertilizer marketing and legislation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Vientiane, December). Among other activities were a soil-testing network planning meeting (Bangkok, May/June), a symposium on fertilizer legislation (Phuket, Thailand, October) and a regional conference for Asia and the Pacific, organized in cooperation with the International Fertilizer Industry Association (Kuala Lumpur, December). A directory of sources of fertilizer-related information was issued, and country studies were prepared on the supply, marketing, distribution and use of fertilizers in Bangladesh and in Iran.

Despite severe human and financial constraints, the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) assisted its 12 participating countries in the exchange of information, hardware and experts, and organization of study tours of manufacturers. It was also implementing phase I of a UNIDO project on the promotion and development of agro-related metalworking industries in six LDCs and two island developing countries. In April, the Commission reviewed RNAM activities and endorsed recommendations of its Governing Body on the periodicity of its meetings and the establishment of an Asian agricultural machinery manufacturers association.

The Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber (CGPRT) Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific expanded considerably its activities and resource expenditure in 1994.⁽³⁰⁾ The Centre implemented six projects dealing with women's role in upland farming development in Asia, farmers' agricultural diversification strategies, synthesis of soybean studies, implications of agricultural diversification and food-crop trade for agricultural policies in South-East Asia, market prospects of upland crop products and policy analysis in selected Asian countries, and sustainable upland agriculture in South-East Asia. It conducted a training course on market research and survey relating to CGPRT crop development, and undertook a project on a national and regional statistical database system for CGPRT crops. The Centre completed the statistical database for Sri Lanka and Pakistan and established a database at the provincial level in Myanmar. In-country training in the management and use of statistical databases was carried out in Indonesia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Centre issued publications on Sri Lanka's statistical profile, the vegetable subsector in Indonesia, changes in food consumption in Asia and their effects on production and use of upland crops, up-

land agriculture in Asia, and marketing and processing of food legumes and coarse grains and their effects on rural employment in Asia.

The Centre's activities were reviewed by its Governing Board (thirteenth session, Bogor, Indonesia, 6-8 December).

In 1994, the Inter-agency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific was replaced by the Inter-agency Committee on Poverty Alleviation, established by the Inter-agency Meeting on Strengthening Coordination at the Regional Level (Bangkok, May).

Science and technology

At its 1994 session, the Commission endorsed the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer, adopted by the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation. The Programme was designed to promote technology flows to and among Asian and Pacific countries, technology transfer from the most advanced to the less advanced economies, creation of a national climate conducive to the transfer and adoption of technology, and TCDC.

On 13 April,⁽³¹⁾ the Commission requested member States and their private sectors to support the Programme's implementation by, *inter alia*, facilitating access to and providing information on technology flows and technological capability-building efforts. It called for special attention to be paid to priority areas identified in the Programme as well as to endogenous capability-building for the transfer, adaptation, use and generation of technology and to adequate involvement of ESCAP institutions. The Commission invited international and regional organizations and donor States to address the needs of the recipient countries in the implementation of the Programme and urged cooperation between ESCAP and other bodies of the United Nations system.

The Commission also reviewed preparations for a ministerial conference on space applications for development and noted recommendations of a consultative group meeting of senior experts preparatory to the conference (Bangkok, 1-4 March). It also welcomed the Executive Secretary's decision to set up a Space Technology Applications Unit in the ESCAP secretariat.

The Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific (Beijing, 23 and 24 September)⁽³²⁾ adopted the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and launched the Regional Space Applications Programme based on the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications and the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Declaration expressed the commitment of Governments to promote regional cooperation in space technology applications and stressed the need for national capability-building aimed at increasing the use of space technologies for the benefit of Asian and Pacific countries.

Activities undertaken during the year included the holding of a symposium on space technology and applications for sustainable development, held parallel to the Ministerial Conference; a regional remote sensing seminar on tropical ecosystem management (Bali, Indonesia, August), which recognized the importance of monitoring the ecological status of the natural environment on a sequential basis; and another regional seminar (Bangalore, India, November) focusing on the integrated application of remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) for land and water resources management. An in-depth training programme in remote sensing and GIS applications was launched in October (Wuhan, China), and a training course was held on the integrated application of remote sensing and GIS for land-use mapping (Yogyakarta, Indonesia, August-October). The work plan for the Regional Remote-sensing Programme was reviewed at both the annual meeting of the directors of national remote-sensing centres and programmes in the region and the tenth session of the Programme's Intergovernmental Consultative Committee, held in Tehran in May.

The secretariat disseminated information on space applications through the Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal and the Remote Sensing Newsletter and issued a compendium of space technology and applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Other publications dealt with the acquisition and use of industrial technologies for food processing in least developed and land-locked developing countries; patent laws and regulations; the organizational structure for technology acquisition and use; and technological transaction patterns for enhancing regional cooperation.

Centre for technology transfer

During the year, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology organized 12 regional and national workshops, nine regional training programmes, seven regional seminars and an exhibition on the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies. The Centre established a network for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to assist small and medium enterprises in the areas of technology information and promotion, the matching of business partners, technology search and consultancy. It successfully completed activities under phase I of the Mechanism for Exchange of Technology Information and signed an agreement with the Russian House for

International Scientific and Technological Cooperation for close cooperation in technology transfer. The Centre also promoted the transfer of small-scale productive technologies, encouraged the entrepreneurship of rural women in the field of technology and provided training in technology evaluation, monitoring and assessment. The results of its activities were disseminated through the bi-monthly Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor and Value Added Technology Information Service.

The Centre's work was reviewed by its Governing Board at its ninth session (New Delhi, 1 and 2 December).⁽³³⁾ The Board endorsed a three-year work programme for the Centre, focusing on promotion of environmentally friendly technologies, promotion of technology information and utilization, strengthening of technology management, and encouragement of more effective participation of women in the field of technology.

Social development

In April, the Commission reviewed regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in 1995 (see PART THREE, Chapter XII), including plans to convene an Asian and Pacific preparatory ministerial conference later in the year. It endorsed the proposal that decisions of the conference should constitute a regional input to the World Summit. On 13 April,⁽³⁴⁾ the Commission welcomed the convening of the conference and called for financial and technical support to regional preparations for the Summit.

The Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (Manila, 12-18 October 1994)⁽³⁵⁾ assessed the progress made in implementing the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted in 1991,⁽³⁶⁾ and adopted the Manila Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

The Agenda for Action set goals and targets for social development in Asia and the Pacific in the areas of poverty alleviation, population, health, education, employment, shelter, the environment, disasters, crime, social protection and the family. Specific goals included, inter alia, eradication of absolute poverty by the year 2010; reduction of maternal mortality rates to half of the 1990 level by the year 2000 and further reduction by one half by 2015; reduction in illiteracy rates by half from the 1990 level and a primary education completion rate of 80 per cent by the year 2000; and universal access to basic education by 2010. Among health targets for the year 2000 were universal access to primary health care, reduction in malnutrition to half of its 1990 level, and eradication of polio and neonatal tetanus. Infant mor-

tality rates were to be reduced to 40 or less per 1,000 live births by 2010 and to 35 or less by 2015, and under-five mortality rates to 70 or less and 45 or less by the years 2000 and 2015, respectively. Life expectancy at birth was to exceed 70 years by 2005 and 75 years by 2015.

The Manila Declaration urged ESCAP members to establish and strengthen national mechanisms for implementing the Agenda for Action and called for international assistance in its implementation.

Regional preparations for the World Summit were further reviewed by an expert group meeting (Bangkok, July) and the Inter-agency Task Force on Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond at its third and fourth sessions (Bangkok, July and December). The Task Force considered the outcome of the Preparatory Ministerial Conference and discussed inter-agency collaboration in the implementation of the Agenda for Action. An NGO symposium on a Social Development Agenda for the ESCAP Region into the Twenty-first Century (Bangkok, July) was also held.

The secretariat continued to implement regional projects on the enhancement of social protection for the poor and on comprehensive national policies on ageing, and provided a substantive contribution to a regional workshop for policy makers on social services for the elderly. It issued an annotated bibliography on policy and programme issues in the field of ageing and prepared publications on Asian and Pacific success stories in social development and two issues of the Social Development Newsletter.

In response to the problem of rising crime and juvenile delinquency, the secretariat provided advisory services on upgrading prison administrations, classification systems to separate youth offenders from hardened criminals, the strengthening of juvenile justice administration systems and improved methodology for data collection.

Disabled persons

At its 1994 session, the Commission reviewed the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, proclaimed in 1992,⁽³⁷⁾ including activities under the Agenda for Action for the Decade, adopted in 1993,⁽³⁸⁾ and the status of the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region, adopted at the launching of the Decade. The Commission emphasized the need to integrate disability concerns into mainstream development plans, policies and programmes and to promote legislation in support of the full participation and equality of disabled persons. The secretariat was urged to integrate its Decade activities into its work under the theme

of poverty alleviation, emphasizing such issues as social-services delivery, urbanization, rural employment and the environment.

ESCAP activities in 1994 focused on the development and strengthening of self-help organizations of people with disabilities, promotion of barrier-free built environments, and exchange of information on the indigenous production and distribution of assistive devices. The secretariat organized a workshop on the management of self-help organizations of people with disabilities for East and South-East Asia (Bacolod City, Philippines, January), disseminated a publication on Decade mandates and provided advisory services on the promotion of the Decade and preparation of national plans of action to Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Promotion of non-handicapping environments was the subject of an expert group meeting (Bangkok, June) and a regional meeting (Bangkok, November), which adopted guidelines covering planning and building design, public awareness initiatives and legislation and policy provisions for the promotion of access by disabled persons to buildings, public facilities, transport and communications systems, information, education and training, and technical aids. The guidelines were disseminated by the secretariat. The Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns (tenth meeting, Bangkok, October) reviewed progress on disability legislation, public awareness, accessibility and communication, education, prevention of causes of disability and rehabilitation services, and discussed preparations for the first (1995) regional meeting to review the progress of the Decade.

As at 31 December 1994, contributions to the ESCAP technical cooperation trust fund for the Decade totalled \$242,818, and eight proposals for funding had been approved, amounting to \$110,000.

Human resources development

In 1994, the ESCAP secretariat convened an expert group meeting (Bangkok, January) to review the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Commission in 1988.⁽³⁹⁾ In April, acting on the meeting's recommendations,⁽⁴⁰⁾ the Commission adopted the Jakarta Plan of Action, as revised in 1994,⁽⁴¹⁾ and urged ESCAP members to accord priority to the implementation of policies, plans and programmes to promote human resources development and to establish national focal points for such development. It called for adequate financial resources to support the Plan's implementation and requested the Executive Secretary to undertake human resources development activities for the benefit of the poor and other disadvantaged

groups, promote human resources development policies, strengthen intersectoral cooperation, facilitate intraregional exchange of experience and expertise, and provide training to enhance the planning and delivery of human resources development services. He was also requested to undertake a mid-point review of the progress achieved under phase III (1994-2000) of the Jakarta Plan of Action and to report to the Commission in 1997.

The revised Jakarta Plan of Action included an analytical framework, a framework for action and implementation arrangements. The analytical framework identified the key components of human resources development; established the areas of special concern, such as targeting the poor, enhancing competitiveness, developing women's human resources and harnessing science and technology; and outlined the role of government and other enabler groups, possible scenarios of the Plan's application and national issues in the regional and international context. The framework for action comprised proposals for the promotion and management of human resources development covering policy, planning and programming; institutional strengthening; research and information; monitoring and evaluation; and regional support. The section on arrangements for the Plan's implementation dealt with issues of participation, priority-setting, coordination and an implementation time-frame.

Activities undertaken during the year included a workshop on promoting the role of the private sector in human resources development (Bangkok and Buriram, Thailand, March), a national training-of-trainers workshop for youth participation in sustainable development (Legazpi City, Philippines, October) and a meeting on strengthening the role of youth organizations in the promotion of functional literacy (Colombo, November). The secretariat prepared a register of leading multidisciplinary policy research institutes in the region and a study on fiscal incentives to support the growth and viability of NGOs. It provided advisory services to China on the establishment of an association of Asian and Pacific universities and to Singapore on the youth training and employment promotion component of the Jakarta Plan of Action. The secretariat also initiated a survey of youth policies and programmes in the region and convened a panel of eminent persons (Bangkok, November) to examine proposals for achieving regional cooperation in human resources development.

Women in development

At its 1994 session, the Commission considered preparations in Asia and the Pacific for the Fourth World Conference on Women, scheduled to be held in Beijing in 1995 (see PART THREE, Chap-

ter XIII). In April,⁽⁴²⁾ the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that the draft plan of action for the advancement of women in Asia and the Pacific, prepared at an expert group meeting on women in development (Bangkok, 8-11 February), identified the concerns of countries in the region and listed measurable goals and strategic objectives and action to be taken. The draft action plan was to be considered at a ministerial conference in June (see below). In preparation for that conference, the Commission called on ESCAP members to prepare country reports on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women⁽⁴³⁾ and urged the highest level of representation. It also urged provision of assistance to the least developed and Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition to facilitate their participation. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to present the regional action proposals emanating from the June conference as the main Asian and Pacific input to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

The Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (Jakarta, 7-14 June)⁽⁴⁴⁾ adopted the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific. The Plan of Action identified goals, strategic objectives and action to be taken in the critical areas of concern, including the feminization of poverty, women's access to and participation in economic activities, women's role and concerns in environment and natural resources management, access to power and decision-making, women's human rights and violence against women, access to health and to education and literacy, portrayal of women in the media, mechanisms for promoting the advancement of women and women's role in peace-building. The Plan also included a mission statement, a global and regional overview and arrangements for its implementation.

As a follow-up to the Conference, the secretariat organized a regional meeting of national coordinating bodies of NGOs (Bangkok, 29 November-2 December) to formulate recommendations for promoting coordination among NGOs and facilitating their relations with government agencies and the United Nations in implementing the Jakarta Declaration. Another regional meeting (Manila, 15-18 December) recommended programmes and strategies for strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women. National workshops on women's information networks were held in Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Papua New Guinea, and technical assistance in establishing and strengthening women's information centres was provided to Bhutan and Nepal. As part of the Women's In-

formation Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP) activities, the Jakarta Declaration and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies were translated into local languages in India, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal, and two issues of the WINAP Newsletter were published. Other publications included a statistical compendium on women and an overview of women in Asia and the Pacific for 1985-1993.

Databases on NGOs and women's periodicals were developed in India, Nepal and the Philippines, and four national workshops on integration of women in development planning were organized in Sri Lanka (Colombo, October), one each on water, energy, fisheries and education. A national seminar on promotion of legal awareness among women was held in India (New Delhi, December).

Population

ESCAP population activities in 1994 included regional preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (see PART THREE, Chapter IX) and follow-up to the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in 1992⁽³⁷⁾ and endorsed by the Commission in 1993,⁽⁴⁵⁾ as the main regional input to ICPD. Pursuant to the Commission's 1993 resolution on population and sustainable development, brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council,⁽⁴⁶⁾ a Senior Officials Meeting on Targets and Goals of the Bali Declaration was held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 January 1994.⁽⁴⁷⁾ The Meeting reviewed the Declaration's recommendations and considered implementation strategies for achieving replacement fertility levels and mortality reduction goals.

The Meeting adopted 37 recommendations aimed at improving implementation of the Bali Declaration, including inter alia popularization of the planned-family concept and support for family-planning programmes, improvement of the status of women, increased attention to primary health care and to the immunization of children, integration of maternal and child health services with family-planning services, community participation in population programmes, promotion of NGO and private-sector involvement, elimination of discrimination against women and improvement of female education, strengthening of the data and knowledge bases on linkages among population programmes in various areas, training of health and family planning personnel as well as researchers and programme managers, rational allocation of resources in priority areas and international cooperation.

In April, the Commission endorsed the Meeting's recommendations and recognized the need to bring into balance population dynamics, socio-economic development, the use of natural resources and the quality of the environment, and to develop long-term strategies for addressing that issue.

During the year, the secretariat continued to implement several regional research projects in the areas of population ageing, migration and urbanization, women's status and role in development, population data for local development, and population information processing and dissemination. Two study directors' meetings, held in Bangkok, focused on population change, women's role and status, and development issues (January) and on using population data for local area development planning (February), while an expert group meeting (Chiang Mai, August) analysed linkages between population factors and sustainable development. Workshops were organized on demographic data analysis (January) and database development for population and health information managers (November), both in Bangkok, and training was provided in the role of the family in the elimination of leprosy (Bangkok, August) and in census/survey data analysis for local area development planning (Bangkok, September). The secretariat convened a national seminar on human resources for sustainable development (Bangkok, June) and provided advisory services to Bangladesh, China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Viet Nam on ageing surveys, population information systems, studies of population dynamics and integration of population factors into development planning. The Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (POPIN) continued to disseminate information through its Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin, and organized a workshop on South Asia and a new POPIN (Kathmandu, November/December). ESCAP population activities were also covered in the Asia-Pacific Population Journal.

Human settlements

On 13 April,⁽⁴⁸⁾ the Commission adopted the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization, prepared by the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific in 1993,⁽⁴⁹⁾ as a blueprint for urban development and improved urban management. It urged its members to encourage the involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations in the formulation and implementation of shelter projects and to establish national and local forums for cooperation in formulating urban action plans. The Commission called for involvement of all those concerned with human settlements issues in the preparations for the second (1996) United Nations Conference on

Human Settlements (Habitat II) (see PART THREE, Chapter IX), and for human settlements to be included in educational curricula. It expressed support for the decentralization to local governments of responsibilities for infrastructure construction and maintenance, the adoption of a public-housing finance system accessible to low- and middle-income families, expansion of community-based housing finance systems targeting poor families, and monitoring of shelter sector performance through the housing indicators programme.

The Commission endorsed the Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and Management in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Ministerial Conference, and supported the Urban Management Programme, which sought to improve the efficiency of urban land and housing markets and promote deregulation, improved building standards and zoning policies, title to land and more efficient administrative procedures.

As recommended in the Regional Action Plan, an Inter-organizational Committee on Urbanization was established and held its first meeting in 1994 (Bangkok, 10 and 11 February). The Committee adopted its terms of reference, setting as its objectives the coordination and promotion of regional activities on urbanization and urban management and facilitation of international cooperation in that field.

The secretariat conducted an international training course on applicable construction technology and materials (Chengdu, China, April/May), and organized an international workshop on the establishment of a human settlements database in Asia and the Pacific (Anyang, Republic of Korea, December). It assisted the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements to convene a symposium on solutions to eviction (Bangkok, January) and a high-level training seminar on urban environment policies (Bangkok, March).

Among publications on human settlements were a diagnostic manual on healthy cities in Asia, a directory of human settlements research and training institutes in the region (second edition), and guidelines on subnational area planning and sustainable development of secondary cities in Asian and Pacific countries. The secretariat provided advisory services to India, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam on the promotion of urban forums, community-based housing finance and action research, subnational area planning and cooperation between local authorities and NGOs. Other activities included a brainstorming meeting on innovation and policy evolution and a meeting of senior officials on subnational area planning through action-oriented research, both held in Phuket in October.

Environment

The focus of ESCAP's environment sub-programme in 1994 was directed towards the implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by UNCED in 1992,⁽⁵⁰⁾ and the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, endorsed by ESCAP in 1991.⁽⁵¹⁾

In April, the Commission endorsed the 1993 recommendations of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development⁽⁵²⁾ and recognized the close linkage between the Regional Strategy and Agenda 21. It considered that a framework of action for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific to support Agenda 21 and the Regional Strategy should be elaborated with the following priority areas: the development of environmentally sound and sustainable development indicators; studies on mutually supportive trade and environment regimes; rehabilitation of degraded environmental ecosystems; effective application of economic instruments for dealing with national, regional and global environmental externalities; access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and national capability-building for the implementation of Agenda 21, including mitigation of natural and man-made disasters. The Commission stressed the need for developing policy and programmes on energy efficiency, sustainable use of natural resources and effective management of water resources, and invited special attention to the areas of population, environment and development, and the alleviation of poverty. The secretariat was urged to evaluate the economic potential and possibility of mineral resources exploration on the shelf zone of North-East Asia.

The Commission also endorsed a plan for implementing Agenda 21 in Asia and the Pacific,⁽⁵³⁾ to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development (see PART THREE, Chapter I), and urged the secretariat to strengthen sustainable development efforts in the areas of coastal and marine environment and development, desertification control, biodiversity conservation, management of natural parks and reserves, promotion of clean technologies and management of hazardous wastes, development of environmental management tools and methodologies, strengthening regional and subregional cooperation in transboundary environmental issues, and involving NGOs, the media and other major groups in environmental enhancement programmes.

The ESCAP Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (second session, Bangkok, 24-28 October)⁽⁵⁴⁾ reviewed the implementation of Agenda 21 in respect of cross-sectoral clusters and the conservation and management of resources for development. It adopted recommendations to ESCAP on the transfer of environmen-

tally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building; land-use planning; natural disaster reduction, particularly flood-loss mitigation; mineral resources development; space technology applications for development; and energy development and management, in particular the Asia Energy Efficiency 21 regional project to encourage private-sector investment in energy-efficient processes and products. The Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (fifth meeting, Jakarta, May/June) also approved a coordinated plan of action on the implementation of Agenda 21.

In other activities undertaken during the year, the secretariat organized a regional seminar on people's participation in mangrove rehabilitation and management (Yangon, February), an expert-level workshop on the prevention of illegal traffic in hazardous wastes (Tokyo, March) and a meeting on the Asia-Pacific input to the International Convention to Combat Desertification (Bangkok, March). An intergovernmental meeting was also held on capacity-building in coastal environmental management in the South Asian seas region (New Delhi, May), and a regional meeting was convened on the state of the environment in Asia and the Pacific (Yangon, July).

A meeting of senior officials on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia was also held (Beijing, November) to consider issues relating to clean coal-fired technology and sulphur dioxide reduction in older coal-fired electricity generation, a biodiversity management programme, seed research, formulation of an information base for forests and grasslands and environmental pollution-data collection, standardization and analysis. Pursuant to the Commission's 1993 decision to convene a ministerial-level conference on environment and development in 1995,⁽⁵⁵⁾ the secretariat organized a consultative meeting (Bangkok, December) which revised the conference's agenda and considered a regional action programme for submission to the conference. The secretariat also cooperated with the Asian Development Bank in convening a regional workshop on coastal environmental management (Bangkok, December).

Case-studies were prepared on principles and methodologies of environmentally sound and sustainable development, and guidelines were issued for the development of a legal and institutional framework to prevent illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes, and for coastal environmental management. The secretariat published a range management manual for Asia and the Pacific, a handbook on the Universal Code of Environmental Conduct for youth organizations in the region, and a framework and guidelines for natural resource accounting. Another publication dealt with the gender perspective of the Universal

Code. Information continued to be disseminated through ESCAP Environment News and Environmental News Briefing.

The secretariat provided advisory services on environmental policy and programme development, environmental impact assessment and subregional environmental cooperation to Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Technical assistance was extended to the Philippines in strengthening marine environmental protection, and to the Republic of Korea in trade-related environmental issues. The ESCAP/UNEP Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific assisted China, Iran and Mongolia in developing national plans to combat desertification.

Natural disaster reduction

The Typhoon Committee (twenty-seventh session, Macau, 6-12 December)⁽⁵⁵⁾ reviewed activities undertaken in 1994 under the meteorological, hydrological, disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research components of its work programme. It considered issues relating to the quality of numerical prediction products, exchange of observation data, flood-loss prevention and management, and preparations for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (see PART THREE, Chapter III) and revised and adopted the Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan.

During the year, the ESCAP secretariat organized seminars on flood-loss prevention and management (Fiji and Samoa, June; India, September), issued a publication on seismic and volcanic hazards and disaster mitigation and monitoring systems in Asia and the Pacific, and provided advisory services on water-related natural disaster reduction to Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones held its twenty-first session (Yangon, March).

Statistics

Statistical development activities in 1994 focused on the strengthening of national capabilities, compilation and dissemination of statistical information, and promotion of computerization in the public sector. The secretariat provided advisory services to Bangladesh, China, Guam, India, Malaysia, Micronesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam in the areas of environmental, price and gender statistics, environmental and resource accounting and national accounts statistics. It disseminated information through the Government Computerization Newsletter, the Statistical Newsletter and a bulletin of statistical indicators. The secretariat also issued a compilation of foreign trade statis-

tics in the region for 1988-1992 and a review of six country studies on the development of statistical estimation techniques and procedures as a means of improving the timeliness of data.

Activities in the area of gender statistics included the convening of a regional training workshop for core members of national working groups on gender statistics (Bangkok, January), meetings of country experts for preparing profiles on women in Asia (Bangkok, May) and the Pacific (Suva, Fiji, May), and subregional workshops on profiles on women in Asia (Bangkok, October/November) and the Pacific (Port Vila, November). Seminars on the 1993 System of National Accounts were held for Asia (Bangkok, September) and the Pacific (Canberra, Australia, September), and a consultative meeting was organized on environmental and resource accounting (Bangkok, October).

The Committee on Statistics, at its ninth session (Bangkok, 28 November-2 December),⁽⁵⁶⁾ reviewed statistical and public-sector computerization activities in the region, development of national statistical services and capabilities, issues relating to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (see below) and programmes of work in statistics. The Committee considered amendments to its terms of reference and decided to take up the matter again in 1996. It recommended that the period 1995-1999 be declared the quinquennium for improving civil registration and vital statistics in the region and called for greater use of electronic channels in the acquisition and provision of data and information at both the national and international levels. The Committee requested the secretariat to increase awareness of the role of information technology among middle- and high-level management; provide member States with information on available statistical software packages and on the extent of use of information technology in data collection and coding; promote national information technology development; and facilitate the management of technological development in the public sector. The Committee endorsed its proposed programme of work for 1996-1997.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

In April, the Commission reviewed the activities of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo) and endorsed its programme of work for 1994. The Commission recommended⁽⁵⁷⁾ that the Institute continue its operations as a regional institution and acquire the legal status of an ESCAP subsidiary body as of 1 April 1995. Acting on that recommendation, the Committee on Statistics, at its ninth session, recommended a draft statute of the Institute.

During the year, the Institute conducted training courses on population and housing statistics,

poverty monitoring, profiles on women, human development indicators and statistical capacity-building. It organized workshops on demographic data analysis (January) and on census/survey data analysis for local area development planning (September), and conducted a subregional course on statistics for formulating and monitoring poverty alleviation programmes (Dhaka, Bangladesh, June/July).

Programme and organizational questions

In April,⁽¹⁾ the Commission reviewed the implementation of its 1992-1993 programme of work and endorsed proposals for completing or terminating planned activities which had not been carried out by 31 December 1993.⁽²⁾ It approved the tentative calendar of meetings for 1994/95⁽³⁾ and endorsed proposed changes to the programme of work for 1994-1995,⁽⁴⁾ affecting 14 subprogrammes. The Commission urged that ESCAP activities be consolidated into six thematic subprogrammes.

It also endorsed the revised priority-setting criteria for ESCAP activities, recommended by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.⁽⁵⁾ Under those criteria, priority was to be accorded to activities of major importance to the region's developing countries, geared towards promoting regional and subregional cooperation, enjoying support from member States and entailing efficient use of resources.

The Commission approved proposals for the second revision of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, including the proposed schedule of self-evaluation of thematic subprogrammes.⁽⁶⁾ Subsequently, CPC recommended⁽⁷⁾ the proposed revisions⁽⁸⁾ for approval by the General Assembly.

Membership

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 1994/25** without vote.

Admission of Armenia as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council

1. Approves the recommendation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific that Armenia be included within the geographical scope of the Commission and be admitted as a member of the Commission;

2. Decides to amend paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/25

26 July 1994 Meeting 45 Adopted without vote

Draft by ESCAP (E/1994/50); agenda item 7.

Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 45.

Terms of reference

By a June note,⁽⁹⁾ the Secretary-General transmitted to the Economic and Social Council proposed amendments to ESCAP's terms of reference, to reflect the current situation in the region. The amendments included replacing the words "United Nations Technical Assistance Administration" in paragraph 1 (d) by the words "relevant United Nations bodies", and adding "Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of) and Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth of)" to paragraph 2. On 26 July, the Council, by **decision 1994/289**, took note of the Secretary-General's note and, by **decision 1994/288**, approved the proposed amendments.

Fifty-first session of ESCAP

At its fiftieth session, the Commission decided to hold its fifty-first session in Bangkok in March or April 1995, and chose as its theme topic for that session "Strengthening of regional cooperation in human resources development with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific".

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Europe

The forty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 18 to 26 April 1994,⁽¹⁾ at a time when historic transformations in the ECE region continued to provide

new challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation but were also a source of uncertainty and concern. The process of regional integration gained momentum with the coming into force of the Maastricht Treaty establishing the European Union (EU) and the enlargement of the Union with the conclusion of membership negotiations between EU and Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Measures were approved to foster closer association between EU and several Central and Eastern European countries, and partnership and cooperation agreements were negotiated with the Russian Federation and the newly independent States, covering a broad range of political, economic and commercial relations.

At the same time, problems of economic adjustment persisted in many ECE member States during the year following the 1993 session. Rising unemployment in most countries, the fragility of the process of transition to a market economy in Central and Eastern Europe and continued armed conflicts in several ECE countries remained the predominant concerns. Recession coupled with high inflation continued in most economies in transition, and some of them reported the emergence of "reform fatigue" among their populations as it became clear that the length and costs of the transition had been widely underestimated. However, output in some economies in transition showed signs of recovery and considerable progress was achieved in the area of privatization. Economic growth also gained momentum in Western European and North American countries as they entered the recovery phase after the recent recession. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (see PART THREE, Chapter IV) was also expected to have a far-reaching impact on the region's economies.

At its 1994 session, the Commission reviewed its implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), including the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the 1992 Helsinki Document, as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean region in the light of the Final Act. On 26 April,⁽⁵⁾ the Commission stressed the need for continued efforts to protect and ameliorate the Mediterranean ecosystem and in that context welcomed the comprehensive guidelines for practical application of the ecosystem approach in day-to-day water management, adopted by the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in 1993.⁽³⁾ The Commission further called on Mediterranean countries to identify areas for cooperation as a follow-up to the 1993 CSCE Mediterranean seminar on environmental issues⁽⁴⁾ and requested the ECE Executive Secretary to pursue efforts for increasing interregional cooperation on matters

within the competence of ECE and of common interest to Mediterranean countries. It took note of the recommendations concerning the project on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (see above, under "Africa") and requested the Executive Secretaries of ECE and ECA to take an active part in the follow-up to the project.

During the year, ECE participated in the CSCE Special Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Officials to identify international projects of assistance to the region's States affected by the application of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (Vienna, 31 January-1 February), the second CSCE Economic Forum (Prague, Czech Republic, 15-17 March) and the CSCE Review Conference and Summit (Budapest, Hungary, 10 October-5 December), which changed the name of CSCE to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The ECE secretariat contributed to a seminar on promoting the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 23-25 February), held as a follow-up to the first CSCE Economic Forum.⁽⁴⁾ In December, the Executive Secretary organized a special meeting of ambassadors from Mediterranean countries to discuss the role of ECE in the strengthening of cooperation in that region.

In April, the Commission invited its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the follow-up of the second CSCE Economic Forum and requested them to take the provisions of the CSCE documents into account in their work.⁽⁵⁾ It requested the subsidiary bodies to implement its 1990 decisions on restructuring within ECE and urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to strengthen ECE by providing adequate human and financial resources. The Commission called on its principal subsidiary bodies to continue contributing to international cooperation in mitigating the consequences of the 1986 nuclear accident in Chernobyl (see PART THREE, Chapter III). It considered its activities and future work in the priority areas of the environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis and its efforts to assist the countries in transition to a market economy. The Commission also considered its contribution to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995 and decided to include proposed activities in its 1994-1998 work programme.⁽⁶⁾ By the same decision, it invited the Executive Secretary to initiate preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of ECE, to be commemorated in 1997.

The Commission approved its work programme for 1994-1995 and endorsed the programme for 1994-1998,⁽⁷⁾ subject to review at its 1995 session. The Commission requested the Executive Secre-

tary to revise the 1992-1997 medium-term plan in the light of the sharp increase in ECE membership since the last revision of the plan, as well as the increased workload under the programme of assistance to economies in transition. The proposed revisions were subsequently considered at an ad hoc informal meeting of ECE in June and by the Committee for Programme and Coordination,⁽⁷⁾ which recommended the revised programme of regional cooperation for development in Europe⁽⁸⁾ for approval by the General Assembly, subject to further consideration in the Assembly's Main Committees.

In response to a 1991 Commission request,⁽⁹⁾ its Chairman continued to convene ad hoc informal meetings of ECE to consult on policy matters, assist with preparations for the annual sessions, monitor progress in the work programmes and offer guidance to the Executive Secretary. The Chairman also arranged consultations between the Executive Secretary and ECE's subsidiary bodies, in accordance with a 1992 Commission decision on the provision of adequate resources.⁽¹⁰⁾

During the year, the Commission held two special sessions (see below, under "Activities in 1994") and its membership reached 55, with the admission of Tajikistan. It continued to provide a bridge between the United Nations and other regional economic institutions, including EU and the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Economic trends

In 1994, economic growth in both Western Europe and North America was much stronger than expected, according to a summary of the economic survey of Europe in 1994-1995.⁽¹¹⁾ Average output in Western Europe grew by 2.5 per cent, while GDP in the United States increased by 4 per cent, up from 3 per cent in 1993. The strong performance of the Western European economies was due to an 8.5 per cent growth in the volume of exports, stimulated by demand in the United States and developing countries, particularly in Asia.

Economic growth appeared to be close to its cyclical peak in North America and in the United Kingdom, as indicated by measures of capacity utilization. Some continental European economies such as France and Italy still appeared, however, to have plenty of spare capacity.

With the recovery in output, the rise in the unemployment rate came to an end in most of Western Europe. The level of unemployment declined in Germany and the United Kingdom. Unemployment also began to fall in some of the smaller countries.

The overall annual inflation rate in Western Europe was below 3 per cent, lower than it had been in decades. Inflation in North America also remained low. Pre-emptive tightening of monetary policy in several countries contributed to the low inflation rates.

In Western Europe there was a general improvement in the investment climate, characterized by rising demand and profits, increased business confidence and better capacity utilization. The average fixed investment increased by 1.5 per cent in 1994 and was accelerating to reach an estimated 6.5 per cent growth rate in 1995. The United States, however, registered a 12 per cent rise in fixed investment, especially concentrated in machinery and equipment and in new housing.

Economic performance also improved markedly in the transition economies of Eastern Europe in 1994, although this reflected not a cyclical upturn, as in Western Europe, but the start of recovery from a structural or transition slump in output on the scale of the slump experienced in the 1930s. The recovery begun in Poland in 1992 had, by 1994, spread to virtually all the economies of Eastern Europe. Output continued to fall only in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. (No data were available for Bosnia and Herzegovina.) Everywhere else it rose, marginally in Bulgaria and Croatia (0.2 to 0.8 per cent) but by as much as 5 per cent in Poland and Slovenia. Unofficial estimates suggested even larger increases in Albania and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), where output had fallen massively since 1990. Thus, for the first time since the transition process got under way, there was an increase in aggregate Eastern European output of just under 4 per cent.

Fixed investment recovered in a number of countries, growing on average by some 5 per cent and financed largely by the increased resources of enterprises themselves through productivity gains. In Poland, investment in machinery and equipment rose for the third consecutive year at an annual rate of between 15 and 17 per cent, while investment rates in Slovenia and the Czech Republic stood at between 11 and 12 per cent and about 17 per cent, respectively.

Success was achieved in 1994 in significantly slowing inflation in those countries of the group where prices had risen most rapidly over the previous year. In Croatia and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the stabilization programmes of late 1993 and early 1994 cut inflation rates dramatically. In other reforming countries, however, inflation rates were proving much more difficult to reduce.

The external position of the group also improved as exports rose by some 18 per cent in value, nearly double the rate of increase in im-

ports. As a result, the aggregate current-account deficit was reduced from \$8.3 billion to \$3.4 billion, except in Hungary where it continued to rise.

However, the recovery of output in Central and Eastern Europe was not strong enough to contain the decline in employment, as a rapid increase in private-sector employment, especially in services, could not absorb losses in State sectors. Unemployment rates remained high and ranged between about 10 and 18 per cent. The Czech Republic was a notable exception.

The three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) continued to make better progress in stabilizing and reforming their economies than other members of the former Soviet Union, but output continued to fall in Latvia and Lithuania in 1994, although much less than in 1993. Estonia appeared to have reached the bottom of its recession. Public deficits were largely brought under control and inflation fell sharply during the year in the Baltic States, although still high at rates between 30 and 50 per cent. At the same time, the current-account balances recorded a deficit due to a rapid expansion of imports, while unemployment rates, although low at between 2 and 6 per cent, continued to rise in the wake of declining industrial production and enterprise restructuring.

In contrast with other economies in transition, the economic decline in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) continued unabated. In the Russian Federation, GDP declined by 15 per cent in 1994, much more than expected. The decline was even steeper in most other CIS countries, especially in the Caucasian and Central Asian republics where armed conflict destroyed productive assets.

Accompanying the decline in output in many of the CIS countries was a sharp acceleration of inflation, attributable to ineffective monetary and fiscal policies. The success in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, following the implementation of tight monetary and fiscal policies in late 1993, was short-lived. After an initial rapid fall, inflation again accelerated in the autumn.

Unemployment rates remained low but showed an upward trend. Registered unemployment at the end of 1994 was between 0.3 per cent and 2.1 per cent of the labour force, except in Armenia which recorded a much higher rate. Nevertheless, low unemployment in CIS masked significant overemployment, or hidden unemployment, in large State-owned enterprises. The Russian Federation also experienced a sharp deterioration in its current account, which moved from a surplus in 1993 to a deficit of some \$3 billion in 1994, owing largely to an increased deficit in services, including a \$2.6 billion deficit for tourism, and net interest paid abroad.

The outlook for the Russian Federation was still extremely difficult to assess and depended crucially

on whether stabilization policies could be maintained consistently without being thrown off course by the demands of the agricultural and industrial lobbies. Additionally, policy makers had a credibility problem after three years of unsuccessful attempts to stabilize the economy. It remained to be seen whether a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement could tilt the balance in their favour.

Western economic assistance to Eastern Europe

Due to a decline in foreign direct investment (FDI), gross financial flows from western market economies and international financial institutions to the economies in transition decreased in 1994. Total FDI inflows in the five years of transition totalled only about \$45 billion. In 1994, they fell in Hungary, which had succeeded in attracting the largest share of FDI in Eastern Europe, and were weak in most other countries of the group. Among possible factors contributing to the decline were the lower market potential of remaining enterprises compared to those that had already received investments, as well as uncertainties of the legal, political and institutional environment and of privatization policies. Also, foreign investment tended to concentrate in sectors affording special privileges to investors, such as high customs tariffs in Poland.

Although project lending under ODA to the economies in transition showed a rapid increase in 1994, it could not offset the decline in FDI. Project-related disbursements focused mainly on the infrastructure and energy sectors.

Activities in 1994

The main emphasis of ECE activities in 1994 remained on the transition process in Central and Eastern European countries and their integration into the European and global economies.⁽¹²⁾ Since the inception of its programme to assist economies in transition in 1990, ECE had organized a total of 145 workshops on issues relating to human settlements, environment, industrial development, energy, transport and communications, tourism, statistics, trade and development finance, food and agriculture, forestry and timber, and development issues and policies. Efforts were made to secure an interdisciplinary approach and introduce new subjects as varied as the reconversion of coal-mining regions, gender and ageing. Most workshops had a strong training component to support national capacity-building. Their conclusions were incorporated into follow-up activities of the ECE subsidiary bodies under their programmes of assistance. The United Nations/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition helped those member States to defray the costs of their participation in ECE meetings and workshops, while par-

ticipation of experts was secured through the United Nations fellowship programme. Under the ECE regional advisory service programme, established in July 1994, 46 missions to 17 countries in transition were carried out, and a national programme of assistance to Georgia was developed. On 14 and 15 December, the secretariat organized a workshop for the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union on the role and functions of ECE.

On 26 April,⁽¹³⁾ the Commission requested its Executive Secretary to establish a list of experts and specialists who could provide advisory services in the problems of privatization and in the transition of different economic sectors to market conditions. He was also requested to provide information on available training courses to the business community of economies in transition and to assist those countries in transition in exchanging their experiences in moving to market-oriented economies. The Commission confirmed the importance of continuing the programme of workshops and seminars and invited member States and international organizations to finance it through the Trust Fund.

Other areas of activities included ECE's participation in CSCE/OSCE meetings,⁽¹⁴⁾ its continuing assistance to developing countries of other regions and its contribution to United Nations global programmes.⁽¹⁵⁾ On 26 April,⁽⁶⁾ the Commission approved a Declaration on the strengthening of the role and functions of ECE and on its contribution to the global programmes of the United Nations and to the development of other regions. The Declaration emphasized ECE's significant contribution to the global policy-making process in the economic area, and expressed the readiness of its member States to assist fully in implementing at the regional level General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and those of inter-governmental bodies related to development cooperation. It stressed the need for a more effective distribution of responsibilities between ECE and the United Nations Headquarters and global programmes, as well as the importance of providing the Commission with adequate resources for the implementation of its mandated programme of work.

ECE activities were also devoted to preparations for the global conferences organized by the United Nations. ECE participated in a consultative meeting of countries with economies in transition (Budapest, 19 and 20 July) on the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (see PART THREE, Chapter IX), and provided an input to the joint contribution of the five regional commissions to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (see PART THREE, Chapter XII). In response to a 1993 Commission decision,⁽¹⁶⁾

preparations were also carried out for a high-level regional preparatory meeting for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (see PART THREE, Chapter XIII). At its 1994 session,⁽¹⁷⁾ the Commission took note of activities in that regard⁽¹⁸⁾ and outlined further activities to be undertaken in preparation for the meeting.

The Commission held two special sessions in 1994; one on 22 June and the other on 29 September. At its June session,⁽¹⁹⁾ the Commission discussed cooperation between ECE and FAO and on ways of maintaining adequate servicing of ECE activities in agriculture and timber, in the light of the anticipated reduction in FAO resources. It also discussed the question of the filling of post vacancies. The Commission approved a list of NGOs without consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for accreditation to the preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women. At its September session,⁽²⁰⁾ the Commission approved an additional list of NGOs, with the exception of the Women's Organization of Macedonia, and deferred consideration of three NGOs from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) pending a legal opinion from Headquarters. The High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Vienna from 17 to 21 October.⁽²¹⁾ It was preceded by a workshop on capacity-building for the advancement of women (21 and 22 June), an expert group meeting (23 and 24 June), an intergovernmental meeting (26 and 27 September) and the Vienna NGO Forum 94, held from 12 to 15 October.⁽²²⁾ The Preparatory Meeting reviewed the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted in 1985 by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women;⁽²³⁾ considered issues relating to women and the economy and women in public life and governance; and adopted the Regional Platform for Action, entitled "Women in a Changing World—Call for Action from an ECE Perspective".⁽²⁴⁾

International trade

The ECE Committee on the Development of Trade met twice in Geneva in 1994, for its forty-second (1-3 March)⁽²⁵⁾ and forty-third sessions (6-8 December).⁽²⁶⁾ At its March session, the Committee discussed trade policy issues relating to the expansion of trade among economies in transition, the implications of privatization for those countries and their place in the world market and obstacles to the development of exports of goods from economies in transition. The Committee also held a round table on the impact of trade-facilitation techniques and procedures on intraregional trade.

The Committee reviewed activities relating to trade facilitation and international trade procedures and to international contract practices in industry. It adopted its revised programme of work for 1994-1997, focusing on trade facilitation, promotion and analysis, which was endorsed by the Commission. The Commission⁽²⁷⁾ urged its member States to examine the specific needs of the economies in transition for promoting the expansion of trade, including improved market access and market competitiveness. The Executive Secretary was requested to prepare a study on ways of promoting the expansion of trade of economies in transition.

At its December session, the Committee on the Development of Trade considered the impact of foreign direct investment on the trade of economies in transition and organized a round table on the impact of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade agreements. The Committee also reviewed recent and prospective trends in regional trade and activities of its Working Parties and adopted a revised programme of work for 1995-1998. It asked the secretariat to prepare a study on ways of financing trade and investment in the economies in transition.

During the year, the secretariat published four issues of East-West Investment News and prepared a study on the contribution of FDI to the expansion of East-West trade and its role in strengthening the export capacities of economies in transition. It held a seminar on the problems of real property transactions involving foreign and domestic investors in Central and Eastern Europe (Geneva, 5 September) to assist in drafting a guide on the adaptation of real property law of countries in transition, including questions of ownership, valuation, security and restitution, property management and brokerage. The guide was revised by the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (forty-third session, Geneva, 5-7 September), which decided to publish it in two parts and to finalize the first part for its April 1995 session.

The Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures held two sessions in Geneva in 1994 (thirty-ninth, 15-18 March; fortieth, 20-23 September). It reviewed activities relating to the development of messages for the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) as a standard for world trade and approved two draft UN/EDIFACT directories. The Working Party also approved the development of EDICORE, a public support database of trade facilitation documentation, and UN/EDIFACT, as well as activities undertaken by its ad hoc group to develop computerized models for international trade transactions. It also dealt with trade facili-

tation and UN/EDIFACT in economies in transition, trade facilitation aspects of the transport of dangerous goods and cooperation with UNCTAD in convening a United Nations Symposium on Trade Efficiency (Columbus, Ohio, United States, October).

A regional adviser for trade facilitation in economies in transition assessed the international trade infrastructure of a number of countries, identified their needs in trade facilitation and organized a seminar on the subject (Geneva, 19 September). The secretariat continued to publish the Connections newsletter and the ECE Journal on Trade Facilitation.

Industry

On 26 April,⁽⁵⁾ the Commission decided to hold a meeting of experts to consider the convening of a European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development and invited further proposals in that regard. The meeting of experts (Geneva, 4 November) recommended that the secretariat prepare an analytical document, taking stock of current activities and ECE contributions in the field of sustainable industrial development, and priority issues of common interest to all member States, so that a final decision on the convening of the Forum could be taken by ECE in 1995.

The Working Party on the Chemical Industry (fourth session, Geneva, 5-7 October)⁽²⁸⁾ reviewed the implementation of the programme on sustainable economic and ecological development of the chemical industry and adopted its programme of work for 1995-1999, including the priority ranking of programme elements. It endorsed the reports of its meetings of experts on the pilot project demonstrating the environmental clean-up of selected sites polluted by chemicals (first session, Geneva, 2 March) and on the periodic survey of the chemical industry (twentieth session, Geneva, 4 October), as well as of the first ad hoc meeting for the comparative study on chemical legislation in ECE member countries. The Working Party recommended that the next edition of the five-year survey on market trends for selected chemical products be prepared and agreed that the secretariat should publish The Chemical Industry in 1994—Annual Review and statistics on aromatic hydrocarbons and olefins. It welcomed the development of the Directory of Chemical Producers and Products and endorsed the preparation of a study on trends in structural and ownership changes in the chemical industries of the economies in transition, as well as preparations for a 1995 seminar on the complex utilization of raw materials using advanced low- and non-waste technologies. The Working Party supported the establishment of a Regional Environmental Management Centre for the Chemical Industry and invited the Chairman

and Executive Secretary of ECE to assist the economies in transition in securing funds for the Centre's operations. It endorsed the report of the workshop on waste treatment in industrial parks (Istanbul, Turkey, 23-25 March) and encouraged countries with economies in transition to participate in the workshop on the rational use of energy and raw materials in the petrochemical industry (Sinaia, Romania, 17-21 October).

The Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation (thirteenth session, Geneva, 31 October-2 November)⁽²⁹⁾ considered the medium- and long-term assessment of engineering industries within national, regional and global economies; reviewed developments and prospects in engineering industries and automation, including trade-related matters; and discussed the role of engineering industries in environmental protection and resources saving. It also discussed issues in engineering industries and automation of relevance to economies in transition, the question of rehabilitation engineering and statistics on engineering industries and automation. It adopted its programme of work for 1994/95-1998/99, including the priority ranking of programme elements. The Working Party endorsed a publication on performance and prospects of world engineering industries for 1992-1994 and commended the secretariat for the study on low-waste technologies in engineering industries. It took note of the success of a workshop on industrial robotics and automated handling equipment in present and future manufacturing systems (Budapest, 19 and 20 September). The Working Party established a group of experts on robotics and included an element on industrial robots in its work programme. The Working Party decided to finalize a publication on rehabilitation engineering and to include in its work programme a project on engineering materials and technologies. It took note of a seminar on PRODCOM—EU's system of product statistics (Geneva, 3 November).

The Working Party on Steel (fourth session, Geneva, 26-28 October)⁽³⁰⁾ considered a report of its meeting of experts on the steel market in 1993 and prospects for 1994, the status of annual bulletins of steel statistics and studies on iron and steel scrap, recent developments in the consumption and trade in steel in ECE member countries and restructuring and changing ownership in the steel industry. It also discussed harmonization of environmental regulations and supported the proposal to issue a bibliography of environmental publications in the steel sector and a directory of bodies concerned with the steel industry and the environment. The Working Party decided to organize seminars on strategic problem-solving for an environmentally friendly steel industry; processing, utilization and disposal of waste in the

steel industry; and privatization and structural changes in the steel industry in countries in transition. The Working Party adopted its programme of work for 1995-1999, including the priority ranking of programme elements, and emphasized the importance of a new regional programme on metallurgy and ecology, aimed at encouraging sustainable development in the steel industry.

During the year, the secretariat issued the first edition of the directory of chemical producers and products, dealing with chemical enterprises in the Mediterranean region, as well as the annual review of the chemical industry, including production and trade statistics for 1990-1992. It also issued publications on market trends for selected chemical products; conditions for economic recovery and sustainable development in the chemical industry; rehabilitation engineering; and the steel industry in Europe. The secretariat also published the annual bulletins of trade in chemical products and of statistics of world trade in steel. Other activities included the holding of the first expert group meeting on the steel industry and the environment (Geneva, 29 March) and a preparatory meeting for a seminar on the steel industry and recycling (Geneva, 30 March).

Transport

The Inland Transport Committee (fifty-sixth session, Geneva, 17-21 January)⁽³¹⁾ analysed the transport situation in member countries, reviewed preparations for the second Pan-European Transport Conference and the status of application of international transport United Nations/ECE agreements and conventions, and considered activities to assist economies in transition. It discussed, among other things, transport trends and policy and economics; road, rail and inland water transport; combined transport; customs questions; transport procedures and documentation; the transport of dangerous goods and perishable foodstuffs; measures to facilitate the movement of persons with reduced mobility; and transport statistics, including preparation of the 1995 census of road traffic.

The Committee supported the concept of a regional conference on transport and the environment as a follow-up to UNCED⁽³²⁾ and approved the establishment of an informal ad hoc group to assist in preparing recommendations for the convening of the conference (see below). It requested its Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics to consider under its programme of work the extension of transport corridors in Central and Eastern Europe and to review annual modifications made in international road, rail and combined transport networks. The Committee endorsed the Working Party's decision to consider the methodological bases for the definition of common criteria regarding bottlenecks, missing links

and the standard of service of infrastructure networks, as well as to carry out a follow-up to studies of traffic flows in north-eastern Europe and along east-west corridors. The Committee also decided to establish an inventory of main parameters of the existing international road network in Europe, endorsed the final document on the economic study of the Danube-Oder (Elbe) connection, approved the concepts on coastal shipping and welcomed the progress made in preparing a Convention on international customs transit procedures for the carriage of goods by rail. It adopted the programme and modalities for the second European Road Safety Week in spring 1995, which were endorsed by the Commission in April.

The Committee also approved the text of the Customs Container Pool Convention and decided to open it for signature from 15 April 1994 to 14 April 1995 and adopted the updated European Provisions concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways. It noted that the revision of provisions concerning inflammable liquids, toxic substances and corrosive substances under the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road had been completed. The Committee was informed of amendments to the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage, and requested Governments to adopt measures to facilitate border crossings and improve the conditions of traffic flow for the transport of foodstuffs covered by that Agreement. In April, the Commission endorsed that request. The Committee invited Governments to take a census of traffic on the main international arteries in Europe, considering 1995 as the reference year, as well as a census of traffic on other non-urban roads in their national territory.

It underlined the priority for further harmonization of international regulations for the transport of dangerous goods and urged that the harmonization of provisions concerning the carriage of dangerous goods by inland waterways with the regulations concerning the carriage of dangerous substances on the Rhine be completed, and that the revision of the 1958 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts be finalized. The Commission underlined the importance of early completion of joint road and rail infrastructure projects and stressed the need for continued efforts to harmonize transport statistics for the region. It requested member States to increase efforts to identify bottlenecks and missing links in international infrastructure networks and to propose solutions for solving those problems.

In April, the Commission decided to convene, in 1996, a Regional Conference on Transport and

Environment and set up a Preparatory Committee of experts to deal with the substantive and organizational aspects of the Conference.⁽³³⁾

The Preparatory Committee held two sessions in Geneva in 1994 (20 June and 21-24 November). It adopted a questionnaire for submission to member States, dealing with the transport areas of major environmental concern and priorities of ECE States, and measures adopted or contemplated to reduce the impact of transport on the environment. It discussed topics and measures to be addressed by the Conference and elaborated on a possible outcome of the Conference.

In 1994, two new ECE legal instruments in the field of transport were finalized, bringing the total number of ECE agreements and conventions to 50. During the year, 24 States became contracting parties to a total of 26 legal instruments. A revised edition of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, which was to enter into force on 1 January 1995, was published in 1994, and new draft amendments to the Agreement were prepared for entry into force in 1997. The restructuring of the Agreement's annexes, initiated in 1993, continued in 1994.

The number of Governments participating in the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railways (TER) projects continued to increase. The secretariat completed a study updating traffic forecasts on the TEM network, finalized a report on the methodological basis for the definition of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks and published a glossary of transport statistics. It published the annual bulletins of transport statistics for Europe and of statistics of road traffic accidents in Europe and produced a map of European inland waterways. It organized the first workshop on transport statistics (The Hague, Netherlands, 13-15 June) and continued to cooperate with UNEP, ILO, WHO and OECD in developing a globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of dangerous chemicals. In November, a regional adviser was appointed to assist economies in transition in the field of transport.

Energy

At its fourth session (Geneva, 8-10 November),⁽³⁴⁾ the Committee on Energy reviewed the energy situation and policies in the region, particularly in the economies in transition, and held a round table on energy pricing in countries in transition. It agreed on its programme of work for 1994-1998, covering the priority areas of energy reform in Central and Eastern Europe; rational use of energy, efficiency and conservation; energy trade, trade facilitation and infrastructure; interface between energy and the environment; energy

demand and supply issues for sustainable development; and energy policies, prospects, statistics and projections. The Committee also reviewed activities to enhance energy efficiency, the transition of the coal, gas and electric power industries in Central and Eastern Europe, and cooperation in the field of renewable sources of energy. It requested the secretariat to convene the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the "Global Energy Efficiency 21" project at the earliest opportunity and to consult with the secretariat of the European Energy Charter on possible modalities for cooperation. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of its working parties and invited them to devote more attention to energy policy. It approved a programme of work in the area of renewable sources of energy, aimed at promoting their development and utilization in the region, particularly in Central and Eastern European countries. The Committee recommended that the secretariat support the ECE implementation programme on accelerating clean coal technology.

The Working Parties on Coal, Gas and Electric Power held their fourth sessions in Geneva. The Working Party on Coal (12-14 October) considered general energy problems in the ECE region of relevance to coal; economic reforms and restructuring of the coal industry in Central and Eastern Europe; sustainable coal development and policies; environmental protection related to coal-mining and coal utilization; and mine safety. It approved the reports of its meetings of experts on research, management and transition in the coal industry (twenty-fourth session, Geneva, 10 and 11 October), on coal trade, statistics and transport (fourth session, Paris, 16-18 May) and on clean coal technologies (second session, Geneva, 11-13 April), and requested the World Coal Institute to cooperate with ECE in promoting public education and acceptance of coal use. The Working Party adopted recommendations concerning privatization of coal enterprises, investment and restructuring in the coal-mining industry, environmental legislation, and assistance in harmonizing national classification systems of the economies in transition. It adopted a new classification of dynamic phenomena in mines, developed at a symposium on rock bursts and sudden outbursts in mines (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 5-9 June), and recommended its use in the coal industry.

Activities during the year included workshops on reconversion of coal-mining sites (Paris, 22-24 March), market adaptation of coal industry structures in Central and Eastern Europe (Moscow, 14-17 June), occupational safety and environmental protection in the underground coal-mining industry (Upper Silesia, Poland, 3-7 October) and reassessment of coal and mineral deposits under market economy conditions (Berlin, 4-6 October).

The Working Party on Gas (24-26 January) considered implications of economic reforms and restructuring in Central and Eastern Europe for gas markets and the gas industry in the region and approved a technical cooperation programme for the promotion and development of a market-based gas industry in economies in transition within the framework of a proposed "Gas Centre". It requested the secretariat to operate the Centre and to include in its activities database building, training and networking components. The Working Party also asked the secretariat to explore the feasibility of organizing an international conference on the development of gas and condensate fields. The Working Party approved its programme of work for 1994-1997 and included in it a sub-element on harmonization of methods and techniques in assessing coal-bed methane reserves and resources.

During 1994, meetings of experts were held in Geneva on natural gas resources (seventeenth session, 16 and 17 June), the use and distribution of gas (twenty-fifth session, 5 September) and the transport and storage of gas (twenty-fifth session, 6 and 7 September), and a seminar was organized on gas rates fundamentals and practices (Castle of Szirak, Hungary, 19-21 September).

The Working Party on Electric Power (3-5 May) reviewed the electric power situation in the region and considered the interconnection of electric power transmission systems and problems of efficiency; the environment; and energy-related issues of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation organization and the Central Asian States. It took note of a symposium on coal-fired power generation, the environment and public acceptance (Ankara, Turkey, 22-24 November) and approved, in principle, the proposal to organize a symposium on the development of European electric power systems and interconnections with grids in Asia and Africa. The secretariat was requested to collect information on new national and cross-boundary transmission lines and new power plants. The meeting of experts on electric power generation and the environment held its fourth session (Geneva, 29 and 30 September).

The Steering Committee of the "Energy Efficiency 2000" project to reduce the gap between energy-intensive industries in Eastern Europe and the energy-saving technologies of the West (fifth session, Geneva, 9-11 May) approved the second phase of the project for 1994-1997 and a preparatory phase for the UNDP/ECE energy efficiency demonstration zones project. It requested the secretariat to study the conversion of former military bases and manufacturing to the production of energy-efficient technologies and development

of demonstration zones. The Committee noted the recommendations of an ad hoc meeting on the conversion of military facilities and manufacturing to the production of energy-efficient technology (Ceska Lipa, Czech Republic, 29-31 March) and a symposium on energy management and its widespread dissemination in Central and Eastern Europe (Kiev, Ukraine, 18-22 April). It held a follow-up workshop on military conversion in Minsk, Belarus, in October and convened a review meeting of project proposals within energy efficiency demonstration zones (Moscow, 6 and 7 June) and ad hoc expert group meetings on financial engineering (Budapest, September) and on energy efficiency demonstration zones (Geneva, 11-13 October). In November, the Committee on Energy urged contributions to the "Global Energy Efficiency 21" project trust fund.

Other activities during the year included a symposium on energy and a trade fair on energy efficiency in Wels, Austria (2 and 3 March and 4-6 March, respectively), a workshop on the energy future for Central and Eastern Europe to the year 2010 (Les Diablerets, Switzerland, 23-25 November) and an ad hoc meeting of experts on energy efficiency standards and labels (Milan, Italy, 1 and 2 December), as well as a workshop on renewable sources of energy (Almería, Spain, 3-6 May). A regional adviser on energy was appointed to assist the economies in transition in preparing projects in the energy field and securing investment finance for their implementation. The secretariat issued manuals on financial engineering and on business planning for energy efficiency projects, and continued to publish annual statistical bulletins for coal, electric energy and gas.

Science and technology

The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology (twenty-first session, Geneva, 21-23 September)⁽³⁵⁾ discussed the main issues of the national science and technology policy in the economies in transition and the role of international organizations in maintaining their research and development potential. They decided to include in their programme of work a new element on the role of science and technology in securing the sustainable development of the economies in transition and to hold, in 1996, a seminar on the reorganization of the science and technology management system under the new economic and political conditions. The Senior Advisers also reviewed changes in national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions and related international cooperation, and agreed to hold such a review every two years. The secretariat was requested to continue collecting statistical information on main science and technology indicators. The Senior Advisers requested

the secretariat to continue acting as a depository for national reports, regulations and legislation concerning biotechnology, and to issue summaries of national submissions on safety guidelines in that area. The Senior Advisers adopted their programme of work for 1994-1998, including the priority ranking of programme elements.

Agriculture

The Committee on Agriculture (forty-fifth session, Geneva, 16-19 May)⁽³⁶⁾ reviewed recent developments in agriculture and agricultural policies, particularly in the economies in transition, and considered the role of farmers and professional organizations as partners in developing and implementing national agricultural policies. It also discussed selected aspects of the grain market in Europe and invited countries to consider organizing an international meeting on the efficient use of grain. The Committee decided to include in its work programme an element on integrated sustainable resource management and adopted the programme of work for 1994-1998, focusing on economic analysis of the agri-food sector, agriculture and the environment, standardization of perishable produce and quality development, and food and agricultural statistics. The Committee appealed to the FAO Council to ensure that the review of programmes, structures and policies of FAO did not impede the capacity of the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division in Geneva to service the Committee on Agriculture, and requested the ECE Executive Secretary to consult with FAO on enhancing cooperation between the two organizations. The joint FAO/ECE Working Parties on the Economics of the Agri-food Sector and Farm Management and on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment held their third sessions in 1994 (Helsinki and Hämeenlinna, Finland, 12-16 September and Geneva, 4-7 October, respectively).

The Timber Committee (fifty-second session, Geneva, 10-13 October)⁽³⁷⁾ reviewed activities to assist the economies in transition, discussed market developments for forest products in 1994 and prospects for 1995, and considered the follow-up to UNCED⁽³²⁾ and to the 1993 Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.⁽³⁸⁾ The Committee took note of a workshop on the development of marketing of sawnwood products in countries in transition (Sopron, Hungary, November). It also noted preparations for the fifth study of European timber trends and prospects to the year 2000 and beyond (ETTS V), and agreed to set up a system for evaluating the ETTS V process. It approved the draft terms of reference of the team of specialists on the use of wood for energy, recognized the need to review the objectives and functioning of the Joint

FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, and welcomed the establishment by ECE, FAO, the European Commission and OECD of an inter-secretariat working group to harmonize procedures for collecting statistics in forest and forest products.

The Committee also decided to set up a team of specialists to review the certification of forest products and approved its terms of reference. It approved its programme of work for 1995-1999, focusing on policies for sustainable development of the forest and forest industries sector; data and information for sustainable development; promotion of sustainable forestry; protection of forests, including prevention and control of forest damage; assistance to countries in transition; and forest industries and markets for forest products.

The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training reviewed its mandate and functioning at its twentieth session (Thessaloniki, Greece, 7-10 November). Other activities during the year included an ad hoc meeting on ETTS V policy (Geneva, 13-15 June) and seminars on clothing and safety equipment in forestry (Kuopio, Finland, 27 June-1 July) and on harvesting and silviculture of degraded and coppice forests in the Mediterranean region (Thessaloniki, 1-5 November). Workshops for economies in transition dealt with the valuation of goods and services from the forest, the impact of climatic change, forest management in areas contaminated by radiation, and the marketing of sawnwood products. The secretariat issued publications on the livestock and meat market, agricultural trade, the grain market, prices of agricultural products and selected inputs in Europe and North America, seed potatoes, and forest resources of the temperate zones in selected newly independent States. It continued to publish the Timber Bulletin.

Economic analysis

The Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments (thirtieth session, Geneva, 6-10 June)⁽³⁹⁾ discussed issues relating to the restructuring of State-owned enterprises, investment and prospects for recovery in transition economies, and held a round table on the outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and its impact on economic relations in the ECE region. The Advisers also considered long-term projections and perspectives for the world economy, trends and policies in interregional and intraregional trade, sustainable economic development issues, and structural changes in the region and their impact on employment, labour productivity, working patterns and income distribution. They invited the secretariat to evaluate the impact of the post-Uruguay Round trading environment on the region's economies and to identify main long-term

structural factors of growth in each region. It was recommended that future work on structural economic issues should focus on macroeconomic development scenarios for the global and ECE economies and their implication for the countries in transition, the relation between industrial restructuring and international trade, and access of exports from transition economies to world markets. The Advisers adopted their programme of work for 1994-1998, including the priority ranking of programme elements, and decided to consider further the proposal by the Russian Federation to include in their programme a new element on assistance to the economies in transition.

During 1994, the secretariat's activities in the field of economic analysis and projections focused on population research dealing with international migration, the elderly, fertility and family surveys, and population-related policies, as well as a follow-up to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. It continued to publish the annual Economic Bulletin for Europe, and issued studies on economic integration in Europe and North America, social aspects and country reviews of population, and regional processes and responses relating to international migration. A workshop on public investment recovery in transition economies was held in Romania (Sinaia, 4-6 October).

Environment

The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, at their 1994 special session (Geneva, 12 January),⁽⁴⁰⁾ supported the decision of the 1993 Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (the Lucerne Conference)⁽³⁾ to extend the OECD country environmental performance review programme to non-OECD member States of Central and Eastern Europe, and approved a draft United Nations/ECE action plan to implement Agenda 21, adopted by UNCED in 1992.⁽³²⁾

In April, the Commission requested the secretariat to clarify the resource implications of the draft plan and called on member States to ratify or accede to the ECE environmental conventions and their protocols. It decided that a regional conference on transport and the environment should take place in 1996. The Commission endorsed the creation by the Senior Advisers in 1993⁽⁴¹⁾ of a Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials to serve as the central coordinating body for the follow-up to the Lucerne Conference "Environment for Europe", and invited ECE member States and EU to support preparations for the next Ministerial Conference, to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in October 1995.

The Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" held its first

three sessions in Geneva in 1994 (10 and 11 January, 1-3 June and 1-3 November). The Working Group agreed on an outline of the Environmental Programme for Europe and prepared draft guidelines on access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making.

The Commission endorsed the name change of the Senior Advisers to the "Committee on Environmental Policy" as well as the Committee's terms of reference, and invited the Committee to identify problems and bottlenecks in the field of environment and sustainable development and to submit recommendations for action to ECE in 1995.⁽⁴²⁾

The Committee on Environmental Policy held its first session in 1994 (Geneva, 30 and 31 May).⁽⁴³⁾ The Committee reviewed preparations for the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", implementation of the environmental Conventions pending their entry into force, follow-up to UNCED in the ECE region, integrated environmental management in economies in transition and progress in specific areas of cooperation. It supported the proposed establishment of a European environment and health committee for the implementation of the Environmental Health Action Plan for Europe and adopted recommendations on the prevention of water pollution from hazardous substances and on environmentally sound technology and products and environmental product profiles. The Committee approved the guidelines on integrated environmental management in countries in transition and decided to transmit them to the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe. The Committee adopted the recommendations to ECE Governments on the financing of environmental policies contained in the report of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics (fourth session, Geneva, 26 and 27 January). Those recommendations were subsequently approved by the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments (see above, under "Economic analysis"). It decided to undertake a pilot review of Estonia in the 1994-1996 biennium and invited member States to contribute to a new ECE trust fund for environmental performance reviews and the "Environment for Europe".

At its special session (Geneva, 31 October-1 November),⁽⁴⁴⁾ the Committee on Environmental Policy invited its Bureau to finalize its recommendations relating to problems and bottlenecks in ECE activities in the field of environment and sustainable development. The Committee took note of the establishment of a European Environment and Health Committee at the second European Conference on Environment and Health (Helsinki, June) and of the outcome of a pre-

mission to Estonia (27 and 28 October) concerning the pilot environmental performance review project. It reaffirmed the need to strengthen the secretariat's capacity for environmental performance reviews and invited it to set up a cross-sectoral task force for review purposes.

The Executive Body for the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution held a special session in 1994 (Oslo, Norway, 13 and 14 June), and amended and adopted the Protocol on Further Reductions of Sulphur Emissions, which was opened for signature as of 14 June 1994. It also adopted procedures for its review of compliance and a decision on the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee. The Executive Body adopted the Oslo Ministerial Declaration, by which it expressed its determination to implement the Protocol and to take further measures to reduce transboundary air pollution.

At its twelfth session (28 November-1 December), the Executive Body adopted the revised technical annex to the 1988 Sofia protocol for the control of nitrogen oxide emissions from mobile sources and the 1994 major review of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement, which was approved for publication, and established ad hoc preparatory working groups on persistent organic pollutants and on heavy metals. In a decision on the status of implementation of the substantive protocols, the Executive Body expressed concern over shortcomings in compliance with various obligations under the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and urged further efforts to comply with those obligations. It also urged Governments to ratify or accede to the 1991 Geneva Protocol concerning the control of emissions of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes.

The Executive Body reviewed activities of the Working Group on Strategies at its twelfth, thirteenth and special sessions (Geneva, 28 February-4 March, 22-24 August and 28 November, respectively) and endorsed its conclusions on the development of a strategy to reduce nitrogen compounds. It also reviewed activities of the Working Groups on Effects (thirteenth session, Geneva, 29 June-1 July) and on Technology (third session, Geneva, 28 and 29 June) and approved for publication reports on forest condition in Europe, on the possible impact of acid deposition on the quality of groundwater in the ECE region and on options for further reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions from heavy-duty vehicles. It considered the work of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) (eighteenth session, Geneva, 31 August-2 September) and approved the programme for the sixth phase of EMEP.

By the end of 1994, there were 39 parties to the Convention. There were 25 parties to its protocol on the control of nitrogen oxide emissions and 11 parties to its protocol on the control of emissions of volatile organic compounds, while the new protocol for the further reduction of sulphur emissions was adopted and signed by 26 parties in Oslo on 14 June. The 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes had been ratified or acceded to by eight member countries. The 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, whose status and implementation were reviewed in 1994 at the third meeting of its signatories (Geneva, 21-24 February), had been ratified or acceded to by seven countries, and the 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents had been ratified or acceded to by six member countries. Its status and implementation were also reviewed in 1994 by its signatories (third meeting, Budapest, 23-25 March), who approved the establishment of two ECE Regional Coordinating Centres to deal with the prevention of industrial accidents (Budapest) and with industrial accident training and exercises (Warsaw), and set up a Steering Group for Regional Accident Centres.

The Working Party on Water Problems held its seventh session in 1994 (Geneva, 7-10 February), while an EMEP workshop was organized on European monitoring, modelling and assessment of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (Beekbergen, Netherlands, 3-5 May). A regional adviser on environmental protection was appointed to assist the economies in transition with environmental questions as well as with the ratification of or accession to the environmental conventions. The secretariat issued publications dealing with effects and control of long-range transboundary air pollution and an assessment of the environmental situation in Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary and Ukraine.

Human settlements

At its 1994 session, the Commission underlined the importance of activities in the field of human settlements designed to assist the economies in transition with issues such as privatization, land management and real property registration, housing financing and promotion of sustainable human settlements development. It endorsed the work programme of its Committee on Human Settlements and convened⁽⁴⁵⁾ in September 1994 a regional preparatory meeting for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in 1996 (see PART THREE, Chapter IX).

The ECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settle-

ments (Habitat II) (Geneva, 12 September) reviewed human settlements development in the region since the first (1976) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.⁽⁴⁶⁾ The Meeting concluded that developments in the human settlements situation required new thinking and new action, not only in the areas of housing, building and planning but also in related fields such as the environment, energy, transport, demography, the economy and rural development.

It considered a document entitled "Towards sustainable human settlements development in the ECE region" as a starting-point for the regional contribution to Habitat II and recommended that the secretariat review it.

The Committee on Human Settlements (fifty-fifth session, Geneva, 13 and 14 September)⁽⁴⁷⁾ established a task force on the preparations for Habitat II to implement the Meeting's recommendation and included preparations for Habitat II in its programme of work. It took note of the Declaration on Human Settlements, adopted at the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Human Settlements in European Countries in Transition (Moscow, June), and agreed to carry out a project on country profiles of the housing sector in ECE countries, with special reference to economies in transition, to assist those States in formulating sound housing policies. The Committee reviewed the human settlements situation and trends and activities relating to the promotion of sustainable human settlements policies; practical transition problems; modernization policies for built-up areas; management of land, housing and building; human settlements statistics; and human settlements problems in southern Europe. It agreed to continue work on an ECE compendium of model provisions for building regulations.

In 1994, the Working Parties on Housing Development, Modernization and Management and on Sustainable Human Settlements Planning held their second sessions in Geneva (2-4 May and 25-27 May, respectively). They considered human settlements planning and housing problems in the transition process; implementation of policies for the renewal and modernization of human settlements; management of real property and land information systems; promotion of sustainable human settlements policies; and human settlements statistics. In September, the Committee on Human Settlements endorsed their reports.

Activities during the year included the holding of a training workshop on cadastre and land registration in Romania (Vatra-Dornei, 16-20 May); the convening of the eighteenth meeting of experts on human settlements problems in southern Europe (Nicosia, Cyprus, 6-8 June), which focused on sustainable tourism development in the Mediterranean region; a seminar on policy im-

plementation strategies for renewal and modernization of human settlements (Vienna, 13-17 June); and a study tour in Ireland and the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) (15-22 September).

Standardization

In April, the Commission expressed support for the activities of the Working Party on Standardization Policies, aimed at establishing international standards and harmonized conformity assessment procedures to reduce technical barriers to trade. It also endorsed the Working Party's programme of work. It recommended⁽⁴⁸⁾ that its member States support the development and implementation of fully harmonized standards, guides and technical regulations promoting methods and means of metrological assurance of testing; establish criteria to ensure a high level of confidence in testing; adopt national standards requirements for specific metrological activities; ensure compliance of testing laboratories with national or international measurement standards, as well as proper accreditation of testing laboratories and the right of manufacturers, suppliers or customers to verify their capability and technical competence.

The Working Party on Standardization Policies (fourth meeting, Geneva, 9-11 May)⁽⁴⁹⁾ reviewed developments in the field of standardization, including coordination, harmonization, conformity assessment and metrology in testing, with particular emphasis on assistance to economies in transition in adapting existing structures to market conditions and building adequate new institutions. It agreed to organize a training programme in metrology and adopted its programme of work for 1994-1998.

Workshops on conformity assessment were held in December in Hungary (Budapest) and Belarus (Minsk), and an agreement was reached at a meeting of office-bearers, coordinators and rapporteurs (Paris, September) to hold a training seminar on industrial and legal metrology for countries in transition in March 1995.

Statistics

The Conference of European Statisticians (forty-second session, Paris, 13-17 June)⁽⁵⁰⁾ considered an integrated presentation of the statistical programmes of ECE, OECD, Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Communities) and other major international organizations active in Europe, such as the World Bank and IMF. It approved the expansion of the integrated presentation to include other international agencies and the work of the Statistical Committee of CIS. The Conference reviewed activities in its programme areas, including the organization and operation of statistical services, technical infrastructure, economic statistics, social and demographic statistics,

natural resources and environment statistics, and support for secretariat activities, as well as issues relating to ECE statistical publications, planning and priority-setting. It discussed a minimum programme of basic statistics, designed to assist newly independent States in building a statistical infrastructure for a market economy, and agreed that each country had to decide its own priorities in that field. The Conference endorsed a draft Declaration which constituted its contribution to the World Summit for Social Development, and agreed to assist in the publication of a statistical yearbook for the ECE region. It further noted that the fundamental principles of official statistics, adopted by ECE in 1992,⁽⁵¹⁾ were approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994 (see PART THREE, Chapter XVII), and asked member States to disseminate the principles and to report on their application.

The Joint ECE/OECD Meeting on National Accounts (Geneva, 27-29 April) reviewed the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) (see PART THREE, Chapter XVII) and related issues, such as environmental accounting. The fifth ECE/WHO joint meeting on health statistics (Geneva, 24-26 May) considered data collection on "health-for-all" indicators through health surveys and the implementation of the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases, adopted by WHO, as well as integration of social and economic statistics in the health field.

Other activities during the year included a meeting on statistics of household income (Geneva, 14 and 15 March), a seminar on integrated statistical information systems and related matters (Bratislava, Slovakia, 16-20 May) and a work session on statistical data editing (Cork, Ireland, 17-20 October). A regional adviser in macro-economic statistics and national accounts was appointed in May to assist the economies in transition. The secretariat continued to publish the Statistical Journal and issued publications on current housing and building statistics in the region, methods and techniques of statistical data editing, and the results of the European Comparison Programme (a comparative analysis of national accounts).

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Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its twenty-fifth session in Cartagena, Colombia, from 20 to 27 April.⁽¹⁾ The Commission focused its deliberations on the requirements of individual countries in the region for dynamic interaction with the rest of the region and the world, emphasizing the potential for reciprocal reinforcement between the new imperatives of integration and international linkages. The Commission considered two basic documents, entitled *Latin America and the Caribbean: Policies to Improve Linkages with the Global Economy and Open Regionalism in Latin America and the Caribbean—Economic Integration as a Contribution to Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity*.

In a resolution on international linkages,⁽²⁾ the Commission endorsed the ECLAC secretariat's conclusion that changes in production patterns with social equity had to improve the linkages of national economies with dynamic international flows of trade in goods and services, investment, technology and financing. It urged the secretariat to analyse experiences in the areas of skills improvement and supervisory training, the performance of pioneering firms, the impact of international linkage on employment and distribution, the spread of technology and the introduction of systems to enhance quality and increase productivity. The secretariat was requested to accord priority to the promotion of competitiveness; production and trade linkages in export chains and improved national participation in worldwide marketing and transport chains; improved regional access to international capital markets and the smooth operation of national capital markets; promotion of production and exports; fiscal, monetary and exchange-rate policy instruments to enhance the contribution of capital flows to macroeconomic stability; and capital formation.

By another resolution,⁽³⁾ the Commission stressed the usefulness of the concept of "open regionalism" as a means of combining the interdependence created by preferential integration agreements with that stemming from global liberalization and deregulation. It requested the secretariat to analyse investment flows among the economies of the region and to give further attention to the links between open regionalism and

trade rules, processes of shared production, policies on competition, intellectual property laws, intraregional investment, technological development mechanisms, coordination of macroeconomic policies and environmental standards. It also asked the secretariat to study the effects of the participation of all the countries of the region in wider trade arrangements, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

In a resolution⁽⁴⁾ on implications for ECLAC of the efforts to restructure and revitalize the United Nations in the economic and social fields (see PART THREE, Chapter XVIII), the Commission recommended that the General Assembly consider whether the regional commissions could act as United Nations focal points for the discussion of economic and social development trends in their respective regions; direct and be responsible for coordination and cooperation activities at the regional level; contribute to the global policy-making process of United Nations bodies and participate in the implementation of their policies and programmes; participate in intersectoral projects; and strengthen and promote regional and inter-regional cooperation.

The Commission requested its member States to recommend that the General Assembly grant observer status to associate members of the regional commissions at future United Nations world conferences, and seek the incorporation of such provisions into the relevant rules of procedure.⁽⁵⁾ In another action,⁽⁶⁾ it welcomed the holding in Managua, Nicaragua, of the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in July 1994 and urged active participation and high-level representation at the Conference.

The Commission also adopted resolutions dealing with support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)⁽⁷⁾ and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE),⁽⁸⁾ as well as with ECLAC activities under specific subprogrammes and programme and organizational questions. (For more information, see below, under relevant subject headings.)

In his statement to the Commission, the Executive Secretary acknowledged that, despite the many obstacles that remained, an array of potentially favourable factors was evident and new and better tools were available for promoting development and international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Considerable progress had been made in clarifying ideas about macroeconomic management, the potentially adverse impact of adjustment programmes, the importance of micro-economic policy, and the links between development and environment, innovation

and the production process, economic growth and social equity policies. The definite improvements in macroeconomic balances, inflows of foreign capital and export growth and diversification were reflected in a modest recovery in economic activity and a more vigorous economic climate in the region.

The key issue now was how the countries of the region were to function in the global economy and how they might support each other in that effort. It had been shown that regional integration could be combined with international linkages in a way that was conducive to development.

Economic trends

In 1994, economic recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean gained momentum as the region recorded a growth rate of 4.5 per cent, compared to 3.2 per cent in 1993, according to a summary of the 1994 economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean.⁽⁵⁾ The majority of the region's economies grew at rates that were close to the regional average, but Argentina, Guyana and Peru, whose economies grew by more than 7 per cent, enjoyed the biggest gains. At the same time, average inflation, excluding Brazil, fell to 16 per cent, the lowest level in decades. Growth in 1994 was due primarily to the expansion of external demand and the dynamism of investment, which was once again bolstered by a large inflow of financial resources from abroad.

Several countries registered significant growth rates: Peru (13 per cent); Guyana (8.5 per cent); Argentina (7.1 per cent); El Salvador (6 per cent); and Brazil and Colombia (5.7 per cent). Meanwhile, in 12 other countries—Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay—GDP grew between 3 and 5 per cent. In contrast, disappointing results were recorded by Jamaica, whose GDP grew by a modest 1 per cent, while Haiti registered a negative growth of 5 per cent due to the prolonged recession and the deepening political crisis. GDP in Honduras shrank by 1.4 per cent and Venezuela's economy declined by 3.3 per cent after three years of rapid expansion. Growth in the oil-exporting countries as a whole was 3 per cent compared to 1.4 per cent in 1993 and 5.7 per cent in non-oil-exporting countries as against 4.6 per cent the previous year. At the subregional level, the economies of the South American countries grew by 5.9 per cent, compared to 4.7 per cent in 1993, while Central America and the Caribbean maintained a growth rate of 3.2 per cent.

Despite relatively high population growth rates, per capita output grew by 2.7 per cent for the region as a whole, compared to 1.3 per cent in 1993.

It rose by 3 per cent in nine countries—Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guyana, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. In another seven—Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Panama—moderate increases of between 1 per cent and just under 3 per cent were registered. In contrast, per capita output stagnated or declined in the remaining countries. The employment situation deteriorated in a number of countries, as reflected by higher unemployment rates and stagnant or falling formal employment indicators. The unemployment rate rose significantly in Argentina and Chile, and the situation also worsened in Bolivia, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay. However, the situation improved in Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama and Peru.

The region's average annual inflation rate, excluding Brazil, declined from 19 per cent in 1993 to 16 per cent in 1994. Six countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago) had single-digit inflation, while Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru had moderate rates of between 10 and 30 per cent. Jamaica registered an annual rate of 33 per cent and Brazil, Haiti, Uruguay and Venezuela recorded rates of over 40 per cent. Brazil was, however, able to reduce its monthly inflation rate from nearly 50 per cent to about 3 per cent.

The terms of trade of Latin America and the Caribbean rose by 2.8 per cent in 1994, due to the 5.6 per cent increase in the unit value of exports, which surpassed the 2.7 per cent rise in unit value of imports. Export volume increased by 9 per cent, resulting in an increase in the value of the region's merchandise exports by 15 per cent to \$154.3 billion. The value of exports increased considerably in Argentina (17.8 per cent), Bolivia (20 per cent), Chile (13.6 per cent), Ecuador (18.8 per cent), Nicaragua (13.9 per cent) and Uruguay (14.7 per cent) and by between 3 and 10 per cent in Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Mexico. Only Haiti saw a significant decline in the value of its exports, which plunged by more than 40 per cent. The expansion of Latin American exports in 1994 was driven by commodities and manufacturers of non-traditional products, though the pattern varied from country to country.

The value of imports expanded, reaching \$174 billion, a 17 per cent increase over 1993. The volume of imports rose by 13.6 per cent and their unit value increased by nearly 3 per cent. The largest increases were observed in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, with gains of 18 per cent or more in relation to 1993, while Haiti and Venezuela drastically reduced their imports. About

90 per cent of the expansion was accounted for by Mexico (\$10 billion), Brazil (\$7.5 billion) and Argentina (\$4.4 billion). Imports of capital goods made the biggest gains, driven by a surge in investment in several countries.

Latin America's balance-of-payments deficit increased in 1994 to \$48.4 billion, compared to \$46 billion in 1993, although the rate of increase was less than in the previous year. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru accounted for most of the increase. This was offset by Chile's lower deficit and a surplus of \$4.1 billion in Venezuela. Huge reductions were also recorded by the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, while there was a rise in the deficits of Haiti and Panama.

The region continued to receive an abundant inflow of capital for the fourth consecutive year, close to \$49 billion, or 4 per cent of GDP. However, that amount represented a decline of \$16 billion relative to 1993, due to a sharp drop in bond issues and the capital flight experienced by Mexico and Venezuela. In 1994, the countries of the region continued to apply fiscal austerity and prudent monetary policies and further liberalized trade through the elimination of tariff barriers. Progress in fiscal reform, more realistic prices in public enterprises, perseverance in efforts to control tax evasion and resources for privatizations continued to increase real revenues.

External debt

In 1994, the external debt of Latin America and the Caribbean grew by almost \$30 billion to reach \$534 billion, an increase of 5.8 per cent, a somewhat lower rate than that of 1993. The debt increased mostly because of bond issues for an estimated \$17 billion, mainly by Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. Eurocommercial and medium-term paper, syndicated loans and supplier credit added to the debt, as did exchange-rate variations resulting from the depreciation of the dollar, especially in relation to the deutsche mark and the yen. In the smaller economies of the region, loans from multilateral bodies and bilateral sources increased their overseas liabilities. On the other hand, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador diminished their indebtedness through debt-reduction operations.

The region's external debt burden continued its declining trend in 1994. The coefficient of interest payments, as a percentage of exports of goods and services, remained the same as in the previous biennium, around 20 per cent. In 1994, only Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Paraguay had coefficients lower than or close to 10 per cent. Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru recorded coefficients above or equal to 20 per cent. Owing to moderate expansion of external debt and the

strong growth of exports, Latin America improved its debt/exports ratio to 280 per cent, which was close to the figure before the debt crisis but still higher than the 1980 figure of 250 per cent.

Activities in 1994

Development policy and regional economic cooperation

In 1994, the work of the ECLAC secretariat in the area of economic development included studies by the Economic Development Division and information and documentation activities carried out by the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES). The Economic Development Division continued its analysis of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean and preparation of the annual Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic Panorama of Latin America and Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Division examined the distributive aspects of economic development, with special emphasis on the changes in income distribution in relation to structural adjustment processes; and economic policy directed towards changing production patterns with social equity. Work continued in the area of fiscal policy and fiscal decentralization, and on basic guidelines for joint United Nations Children's Fund/ECLAC action over the medium term. A new project was undertaken on privatization in Bolivia and Nicaragua.

In 1994, a sixth regional seminar on fiscal policy, stabilization and adjustment (Santiago, Chile, 24-27 January) examined the relationships between fiscal policy and other macroeconomic factors. A technical seminar on fiscal decentralization and municipal finances was held in Managua, Nicaragua (28-30 June), and an international seminar on fiscal decentralization in Latin America took place in Quito, Ecuador (17-20 October). A number of technical cooperation programmes were carried out with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela in the areas of taxation, transfer prices, macroeconomic policy coordination, measuring real productivity in industry, estimating stock capital in national accounts, evaluation of social public expenditures, stabilization and adjustment programmes and tax reforms, fiscal policy, the planning and execution of a national economic census, and public economic policy and its impact on the private sector.

CLADES focused its activities on strengthening the management of information and documentation for economic and social development in the region. It held two regional meetings on information management (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 6-10 June; Lima, Peru, 24-28 October), continued to produce the periodicals PLANINDEX and Informativo Ter-

minológico, and published *Políticas Sociales*. CLADES assisted Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay in organizing seminars on information management.

Prior to the ninth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 20-22 July) and the tenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning (see below), ILPES organized an international seminar on State reform and modernization (Mexico City, 18-20 May). In addition, it organized the first Meeting of Treasury Officials of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 5-7 December), at which an agreement was signed for the establishment of a system of cooperation among treasuries in the region, operating within the Inter-American Public Budget Association and supported by ILPES. Seminars were held on modernization of public services (Santiago, 12 January), municipalization of social services (Santiago, 29 April), municipal management and training (Santiago, 27 and 28 September) and modernization of the State and systems of planning and control (Santiago, 27 October). Advisory services were provided to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. ILPES also organized a number of courses, including two on the Integrated Laboratory on the Design of Regional Strategies (Santiago, 12 August-16 September; Manizales, Colombia, 2 May-3 June). Other seminars dealt with the preparation and management of local development projects (Santiago, 8 July-12 August), economic reforms and strategic public management (Santiago, 23 September-28 October) and decentralization and municipal management (Santiago, 3 November-7 December).

The Regional Council for Planning, at its tenth meeting (Mexico City, 21 and 22 July), requested ILPES to promote an exchange of experiences in State modernization, with emphasis on privatization and support systems for decision-making and presidential management; management of integration processes; use of computers and telecommunications in the management of the State; mechanisms for the integration of planning and budget; relations between strategic management, structural reforms and public policies; and the establishment of a documentation and information bank.

industrial, scientific and technological development

In April, the Commission requested⁽¹⁰⁾ its secretariat to identify existing experiments and propose effective institutional arrangements for convening forums on promoting and consolidating technological development, increased productivity and competitiveness in the countries of the region.

The Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industrial and Technological Development Unit assigned special im-

portance in 1994 to industrial restructuring to achieve competitiveness. Its efforts were channelled through the ECLAC/UNDP project on design of policies to strengthen the capacity for technological innovation and enhance international competitiveness in the Latin American entrepreneurial environment and the ECLAC/International Development Research Centre (IDRC) project on productive restructuring, industrial organization and international competitiveness in Latin America and the Caribbean. Technical advisory services in industrial restructuring, international competitiveness, pharmaceuticals, small and medium-sized companies, technological innovation and human resources development were provided to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. National workshop courses were organized on the competitiveness of nations in Bogotá, Colombia (22 and 23 February) and on strengthening business associations in Latin America in Santo Domingo (27 and 28 May), and a seminar on policies and competitiveness for small and medium-sized businesses took place in La Paz, Bolivia (10 November). A seminar was also held on industrial organization, innovation systems and international competitiveness (Termas del Corazón, Chile, 6-8 June), and meetings were organized in Santiago on challenges of technological innovation (9 August), technological innovation and industrial property (20 and 21 September), production linkages (24 and 25 August) and quality as a tool for the improvement of companies (28 September).

As part of joint technical cooperation activities with IDRC, an expert meeting was held (Termas del Corazón, 6-8 June), also on industrial organization, innovation systems and international competitiveness in Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting considered issues relating to the pulp and paper, automotive, engineering and petrochemicals industries. ECLAC completed a project with the Latin American Association of Capital Goods Manufacturers to strengthen and promote the capital goods industry in the region and published an overview of Latin American external trade in capital goods for 1985-1991, a review of the regional economic situation from the perspective of the capital goods industry and four issues of the *Desarrollo Productivo* series. Other publications dealt with the prospects for restructuring and development in the 1990s and with Latin American and Caribbean policies to improve investment.

International trade and development finance

In 1994, the activities of the ECLAC International Trade and Development Division were focused on designing policies and mechanisms to permit the continued expansion and improvement of the

region's commercial linkages in the changing world economy. A number of documents were prepared on aspects of trade and economic relations. A seminar was held on investment and trade between the countries of Latin America and the Russian Federation (Santiago, 22 and 23 September), while another seminar (Santiago, 17 and 18 November) addressed the prospects for and impact on the region of the agreements reached in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (see PART THREE, Chapter IV).

Activities in the area of development finance included a publication on financing small and medium-sized enterprises in Latin America and studies on the securities market, the indicators and determinants of savings in the region, capital movements, foreign capital inflows and macroeconomic policies and international competitiveness and capital account opening. In cooperation with the Latin American Economic System (SELA), ECLAC published a document on the regional experience during the period of structural adjustment in the 1980s and its consequences. A project was launched on income distribution and poverty in recent stabilization and adjustment policies in the region. Other projects dealt with reform of the financing of regional health systems and an analysis of inflation in Chile. Technical advisory services were provided to Brazil in pension system reform, and teaching materials were prepared for a postgraduate course in population and development under the Global Programme of Training in Population and Development of UNFPA, held in Santiago in July.

Natural resources and energy

ECLAC's support in the area of natural resources and energy was directed towards institutional management, the design and implementation of policies for integrated management and improving the international management capacities of countries in the region. Activities included an expert group meeting on the effects of Agenda 21, adopted by UNCED in 1992,⁽¹⁾ on integrated water resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 16-18 March), courses in integrated watershed management (Cajamarca, Peru, 5-7 May and Merida, Venezuela, 10 October-4 November) and in water resources legislation (Mendoza, Argentina, 26-30 September). Technical advisory services in sustainable development, pollution control laws, water resource legislation, watershed development and irrigation systems were provided to Argentina, Chile, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Peru. A project on energy policy formulation was carried out in cooperation with the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), covering such issues as energy and equity, energy and planning,

energy and the environment, privatization and regulation.

The secretariat's activities in marine resources centred on the follow-up to UNCED relating to biodiversity and the transport of hazardous materials and wastes by sea. Advisory assistance was provided to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in formulating a coastal management strategy and to the Chilean small-scale fishing industry in fishing management and development.

ECLAC assisted in a study of the mineral trade in the Latin American Integration Association, and continued to provide advisory services and support to the Latin American Mining Organization in its work on policies for increasing the competitiveness of the region's mining industry. It also continued to support Governments in the formulation of policies related to small and medium-sized mining operations. A seminar was held on modernizing mining legislation in the region (Havana, Cuba, 14-16 November), and technical cooperation activities on the subject were undertaken in Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. Other technical cooperation activities undertaken in Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela dealt with the regulation, restructuring and privatization of the energy sector.

Transport

ECLAC's transport programme continued to focus on technical cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries in railways, port management, road maintenance and urban public transport. It published seven issues (Nos. 109-115) of its *Boletín FAL* on the facilitation of trade and transport in the region, and prepared studies on the development of urban public transport in Latin America and the world, solutions to the problem of urban traffic congestion and financial and institutional aspects of the management and maintenance of roads and highways.

Studies were conducted on the problems of passenger transport in cities, toll roads as a solution to urban traffic congestion, and the financial and institutional aspects of use management and maintenance of roads and highways. Work continued on labour problems in ports and a study was initiated on the role of transport support services in the integration process. Technical cooperation was provided under a project on road maintenance, and a programme on the design and implementation of an information system for ship inspection by port authorities was developed for the Operational Network of Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities in South America, Mexico and Panama (ROGRAM). Institutional support was provided to the Conference of South American Ministers of Transport, Communications and Public Works; the Meeting of Ministers

of Transport and Communication of the Countries of the Andean Group; and various other regional organizations. Assistance was also provided to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Panama and Peru in port development and management, management and road maintenance, multimodal transport and deregulation of passenger transport.

Social development

At its 1994 session, the Commission considered a study on health and changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean, prepared in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). It welcomed the study as a valuable contribution to health promotion policies and requested the secretariat to submit it to the ad hoc meeting of Ministers of Economic Affairs and Ministers of Health, organized by ECLAC and PAHO and held during the twenty-fourth Pan American Sanitary Conference (Washington, D.C., September).⁽¹³⁾

The Commission took note⁽¹³⁾ of the guidelines for a Latin American and Caribbean consensus on the 1995 World Summit for Social Development⁽¹⁴⁾ (see PART THREE, Chapter XII), adopted by ECLAC members, and requested the Executive Secretary to submit them to the World Summit. It requested the ECLAC secretariat to carry out the follow-up to the Summit with a view to drawing up a regional programme of action.

The guidelines called for an integrated approach to development and proposed action in the areas of social integration, alleviation and reduction of poverty and expansion of productive employment. They also included suggestions to the World Summit concerning international cooperation, international trade, international migrations, social spending, protection of children, the situation of women and Agenda 21⁽¹⁵⁾ and outlined commitments for adoption at the Summit.

During 1994, ECLAC's Social Development Division continued to serve as the regional focal point for youth and social policy activities. In the area of social policy, meetings and workshops were held on integrated social policies (Cartagena, 26 April); anti-poverty programmes (Santiago, 20-22 June); economic, social and cultural rights (Santiago, 16 and 17 August); and social indicators (Santiago, 12-15 December). Five issues of a new series on social policies, *Políticas sociales*, were published and advisory services were provided to Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Uruguay in such fields as the eradication of poverty, sustainable development, social security systems, rural development, modernization of the social sector, improvement of information systems and social projects evaluation. A project on elaboration of social indicators for formulating social policies to enhance the

situation of the most disadvantaged groups was completed. Training courses offered by ECLAC in 1994 dealt with the formulation and evaluation of social projects, as well as with issues relating to population and development and poverty indicators.

Activities in the field of youth included a study on migration of young Uruguayans, based on the data from the 1989/90 National Youth Survey, as well as publications on rural youth, development of youth in Latin America, culture and life of peasant youth, challenges for the 1990s, rural ethnic youth, agrarian organizations and youth, youth participation in rural development, young migrant workers, and the marginalization of youth. In addition, meetings were held on youth in the region (Montevideo, Uruguay, 19 April), secondary education (Santiago, 28 September) and adolescent health (Santiago, 6 and 7 December).

Integration of women

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean held its sixth session in 1994 (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 25-29 September) as part of regional preparations for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (see PART THREE, Chapter XIII). It was preceded by the eighteenth (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 30 June and 1 July), nineteenth (Mar del Plata, 24 September) and twentieth (Santiago, 16-18 November) meetings of its Presiding Officers as well as by subregional preparatory meetings for the Caribbean (Curaçao, 28 and 29 June) and for Mexico and Central America (Mexico City, 4-6 June).

The Conference adopted the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was subsequently finalized at the twentieth meeting of its Presiding Officers and served as regional input to the World Conference. The Programme of Action focused on eight strategic areas, including gender equity; economic and social development with a gender perspective; women's equitable share in the decisions, responsibilities and benefits of development; elimination of poverty; women's equitable participation in decision-making and in the exercise of power in public and private life; human rights, peace and violence; shared family responsibilities and recognition of cultural plurality in the region; and international support and cooperation.

During the year, studies were prepared by the Women and Development Unit on the situation of women regarding work, education, health, political participation, violence and human resources development. A workshop on the participation of women in the manufacturing industry was held in Santiago (2 and 3 August).

Environment

In April, the Commission recommended⁽¹⁵⁾ that ECLAC intensify activities relating to sustainable development in the areas of international trade policies, natural resources management, development of endogenous technologies and the use and adaptation of technologies for development, environmentally sound management of wastes and prevention of illegal traffic and regulation of intraregional traffic in toxic and hazardous products and wastes, information techniques for natural resources diagnostic studies, creation of urban environmental indicators, training in economic and environmental information management and economic and environmental monitoring and management, and protection of the region's biodiversity.

In 1994, the Joint ECLAC/UNEP Development and Environment Unit focused its work on international trade and the environment and on a methodology for annual reporting on environmentally sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Unit prepared guidelines and provided consultancy services on controlled environmentally sound waste management in urban areas. It also assisted municipalities in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador as well as the Governments of Chile and Costa Rica in formulating integrated waste management policies. A seminar was held to discuss an environmental perspective on NAFTA and other free trade agreements (Santiago, 29 and 30 March). The Unit initiated a programme for the development of indicators on environmental sustainability in the region in collaboration with the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. Activities under the ECLAC/UNEP project on application of economic policy instruments for environmental management and sustainable development were carried out in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Consultations were also held to identify the socio-economic forces in each country that affected soil erosion, deforestation, declining biodiversity and deterioration of inland waters.

Natural disasters

In April, the Commission considered that the possibility existed for reducing the estimated \$1.5 billion in annual losses due to natural disasters in the region to significantly lower levels. It said that the region needed to adopt investment policies for disaster prevention and mitigation.

In a resolution on economics and natural disasters,⁽¹⁶⁾ the Commission recommended that the ECLAC secretariat undertake the systematic and quantitative research and analysis for determining the overall economic effects of disasters on all the countries of the region, and disaster-reduction

possibilities through prevention and mitigation, and submit specific proposals for including disaster prevention and mitigation policies in national development plans, as part of activities under the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (see PART THREE, Chapter III).

Human settlements

In its April resolution on housing and urban development,⁽¹⁷⁾ the Commission recognized that, to meet the region's requirements in the area of human settlements, policies needed to be implemented to establish the necessary financing mechanisms. It called on member States to increase their support for the construction sector so as to provide urban goods and services in a context of greater social equity, and proposed using ECLAC's operational capacity to coordinate national initiatives in the areas of integration, strengthening and modernization of the human settlements sector. The Commission instructed the secretariat to seek technical, financial and institutional resources to support regional initiatives for housing and urban development.

During the year, the Joint ECLAC/UNCHS Unit on Human Settlements completed a project on urban management in selected medium-sized cities of Latin America, focusing on the refinement of urban management tools, environmental questions and citizen participation in the cities of Cordoba (Argentina), Ibagué (Colombia), and San Pedro Sula (Honduras). Activities began under another project, dealing with proposals for changing production patterns in the housing sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. Seminars were held in Lima (9-11 November) and Belo Horizonte, Brazil (5-7 December), and technical assistance was provided to Brazil, Chile and Peru. The third Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, 16-18 November) reviewed high-priority human settlements issues and policies and redirected studies on those subjects. Regional preparations began for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Turkey in 1996 (see PART THREE, Chapter IX).

Population

In April, the Commission adopted⁽¹⁸⁾ the draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development,⁽¹⁹⁾ which had been prepared by the secretariat and approved by the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN) (Santiago, 1-4 March),⁽²⁰⁾ as the regional contribution to the 1994 International

Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (see PART THREE, Chapter IX). The Commission established an ECLAC Sessional Committee on Population and Development with final responsibility for the follow-up and review of the draft and, subsequently, of the Plan of Action. It requested CEGAN to formulate guidelines for incorporating into the draft Plan of Action the results of ICPD and to implement the Plan of Action. The Commission called on the international community and member countries to increase their funding of activities under the Regional Plan of Action.

The draft Plan of Action set out objectives, goals and recommendations for action pertaining to population, development and the environment; gender equity; reproductive health, reproductive rights, family planning and family well-being; territorial distribution of population and international migration; international migration and development; the institutionalization of population policies and programmes; and training, information and research. Specific goals for the year 2000, to be revised in line with the results of ICPD, were also set. They included a life expectancy of 70 years or at least eight years above the 1990 level, reduction of the 1990 under-one and under-five mortality rates by a third, or to 50 and 70 deaths per 1,000 live births, and reduction of the 1990 maternal mortality rates by at least 50 per cent. Other goals related to the unsatisfied demand for contraceptive methods, the differences between infant mortality rates, maternal mortality rates and the unsatisfied demand for family planning services. The draft Plan also included proposals for regional activities and their financing as well as for coordination, follow-up and review.

During the year, CELADE focused its activities on applied research, technical cooperation, training and dissemination of socio-demographic data. The Centre carried out some 30 missions and provided advisory services in the areas of census processing, demographic analysis, the elderly, maternal and infant mortality, computerized birth and other data, population projections, the demographic dynamics of poverty, and population policies.

The Centre's training and teaching activities included a fourth postgraduate course on population and development under the UNFPA Global Programme of Training in Population and Development (Santiago, 15 March-15 December), the seventeenth intensive regional course on demographic analysis for development (Santiago, 17 August-17 December), and five workshops on the application of a population database programme (Lima, 20 June-2 July; Santiago, 1-5 August; Asuncion, Paraguay, 23-26 August; San Salvador, 4-13 October; Bogotá, 16-30 October).

CELADE organized four seminars in connection with the draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (see above) on population, social equity and changing production patterns in the region (Washington, D.C., 31 March; Ottawa, Canada, 18 July; Asuncion, 20-22 July; Paris, 1 September); a follow-up meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Group on the Regional Plan of Action (Cairo, Egypt, 6-13 September); and seminars on population challenges in the twenty-first century (Santiago, 8 November) and on migration and regional integration (Cordoba, 12-19 November). The Centre published research studies on population and produced several issues of DOCPAL: Latin American Population Abstracts, *Notas de Población* and the *Demographic Bulletin*.

In April,⁽⁸⁾ the Commission requested member States and international agencies to increase their contributions to the financing of the activities of the Latin American Regional Population Programme of CELADE.

It reaffirmed that the ongoing implementation of the Commission's population activities would require an increase in the number of regular budget Professional and General Service posts of ECLAC.

Food and agriculture

During 1994, ECLAC's activities in food and agriculture concerned two ongoing projects. Under the first, studies were prepared on the transformation of agricultural production and on the economic and social integration capacity of agro-industry. Other activities included analysing country and other project studies and extracting conclusions and policy guidelines for discussions at seminars held in Guatemala City (28 and 29 June), Santiago (3-5 August), San Jose, Costa Rica (30 August-1 September) and Santo Domingo (16 November). The second project aimed at promoting the economic and social integration of small- and medium-scale farmers into agro-industry. The project developed a framework for the contracting of small producers by agribusinesses and analysed case-studies taken from South-East Asia, EU and the United States on the agricultural realities and policies outside the region.

The secretariat compiled and analysed the latest research in biotechnology, its applications in terms of marketable products and its use in agriculture in the region. It prepared a document on the long-term trends of agricultural employment⁹ and the impact of the economic crisis of the 1980s and the structural adjustment, free market and trade liberalization policies that followed.

Technical cooperation was provided to the countries of Central America to promote non-

traditional exports and to export farm products to Mexico, to Costa Rica for evaluating the prospects of the agricultural and livestock sector and to El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua on agricultural cooperation and food security.

Statistics and economic projections

The ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division continued to analyse the region's position in the global economy, to carry out activities to expand the regional network of statistical information and cooperation on statistics and to undertake medium- and long-term studies on Latin American and Caribbean development. The regional framework of statistical information was enlarged and strengthened by the start-up and expansion of the short-term indicators database, the final incorporation into the external trade databank of the latest international statistical classifications based on the harmonized commodity description and coding system, the creation of an external debt database for the region and the incorporation of new surveys into the household survey databank. The English edition of the manual for the 1993 System of National Accounts was issued, as was the fifth edition of the balance-of-payments manual. ECLAC and IMF co-sponsored a seminar on balance-of-payments statistics (Santiago, 7-25 November). Improvements were made in the methods for estimating income distribution, measuring poverty and calculating new external trade unit value indexes, and computer systems were developed to enable users to access ECLAC statistical databases directly.

In the area of regional cooperation, technical cooperation projects were carried out in the areas of the formation of statistical databases, household surveys, improvement of national accounts, production of basic statistics, and social policies and programmes. A joint Organization of American States (OAS)/ECLAC meeting on statistical matters (Santiago, 11-14 October) dealt with the adaptation and production of basic statistics under a regional strategy for implementing the 1993 System of National Accounts, environmental and poverty statistics and indicators, and dissemination of statistical information.

Transnational corporations

In 1994, the ECLAC/UNCTAD Joint Unit on TNCs continued to research the contribution by and impact of TNCs on the region's development. In the field of information, further progress was made in broadening the spectrum of information available and increasing the homogeneity and regional comparability of the corresponding statistical series. A publication on managing foreign investment to Latin America and the Caribbean was issued to update the 1993 regional direc-

tory of FDI. Work also continued on developing an electronic database for handling available information on foreign investment.

The Unit conducted case-studies in several countries of the region under the project on the role of TNCs with respect to industrial restructuring and international competitiveness. It designed a new project on large-scale investments in productive activities in Latin America in the 1990s aimed at analysing the characteristics of new investments in the region and their contribution to the enhancement of international competitiveness and the improvement of linkages with the new international industrial order. The Unit collaborated with public and private institutions in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Mexico to determine the competitiveness of the region's economies, using the computer programme for competitive analysis of nations.

Technical cooperation and assistance

During 1994, the ECLAC Programme Planning and Operations Division completed nine regional, one subregional and five country projects financed from extrabudgetary funds. Regional projects focused on technological innovation and international competitiveness, fiscal reforms, demographic analysis and training in the use of demographic data. Country projects dealt with strengthening of institutional capacity and better-quality education with greater social equity in Chile, welfare and social assistance in Brazil, indicators for social policy formulation, transformation of agricultural production, human resources training in development planning, utilization of differentiated agricultural policies in Mexico, improvement of national accounts in Paraguay, and technical cooperation in statistics and projections. A subregional project aided the development of computer-based communication in the Caribbean. An international programme on training in population and development was also completed, while six other projects were at various stages of implementation. These included assistance to Venezuela in elaborating a programme on local social investment and to Central American countries in improving their supply of petroleum. Assistance was also provided in the area of controlled and environmentally sound waste management, and in the restructuring of production and industrial organizations in member countries.

Technical cooperation among developing countries

At its 1994 session, the Commission reviewed ECLAC activities to promote and support technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC),⁽²¹⁾ carried out within the framework of the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation

among Developing Countries,⁽²²⁾ and considered some strategic criteria for intraregional technical cooperation in the 1990s.⁽²³⁾ The criteria identified new areas for TCDC, including reformulation of the functions of the State in the development process; strengthening of provincial and local governments as part of political and administrative decentralization of national systems; establishment of priorities for social development action; and involvement of the private sector in economic and social modernization. The Commission reaffirmed⁽²⁴⁾ the importance of technical cooperation among the countries of the region, and requested the Executive Secretary to intensify TCDC activities.

During 1994, the Programme Planning and Operations Division continued to focus on the incorporation of TCDC elements in projects to strengthen national institutions, to establish cooperation networks and improve information systems to expedite the flow of technical cooperation and to consolidate national TCDC focal points. The Division conducted seminars and technical meetings to exchange experiences, and continued to cooperate with SELA and UNDP in organizing meetings of national directors for international technical cooperation and meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for Regional Bodies and Forums Engaged in TCDC Activities. It published the quarterly bulletin *Cooperation and Development*, which described the TCDC initiatives of ECLAC.

Subregional activities

In April, the Commission considered proposals for joint activities to further cooperation and integration between the Central American and Caribbean subregions.⁽²⁵⁾ It urged⁽²⁶⁾ Latin American and Caribbean countries, with the assistance of the ECLAC subregional headquarters, to compile and exchange information on trade and foreign investment, and requested the ECLAC secretariat to promote joint research on systems of economic development and social equity aimed at formulating relevant national and subregional policies. It called on the secretariat to identify joint activities, especially in relation to investment laws and legislation on intellectual property rights and their relationship to multilateral agreements in those areas. It requested the integration secretariats in the subregions to submit proposals for furthering integration and economic cooperation between them, including the conclusion of free trade agreements and the promotion of joint ventures in industry, agriculture and services. The secretariat was also requested to support recent efforts for the establishment of an Association of Caribbean States.

Caribbean

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, at Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,

continued to analyse socio-economic development in the subregion and to support activities of the subregional bodies, including the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). During the year its activities were devoted to providing advisory services and technical assistance to Governments and institutions in their preparations for a number of global conferences, including the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 20 April-6 May) (see PART THREE, Chapter I). Studies were produced on the economic performance of CDCC member States as well as on issues relating to economic and social development, sustainable development, public-sector reform, structural adjustment, and privatization policies in the subregion. Technical support was provided to member States and regional and subregional institutions for research projects relating to environmentally sustainable development programmes. The subregional headquarters continued to issue the quarterly bulletin *External Sector Briefing Notes* and the *Focus* newsletter, which provided information on finance, trade and development strategies, and prepared a study on the implications of NAFTA for the Caribbean subregion.

As part of preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, meetings were held in Cuba (24-29 January) and Curaçao (28 and 29 June); and an ECLAC/CDCC teleconference was organized (Trinidad and Tobago, 1 November) to review the regional programme of action for women.

A major aspect of the population programme during the year was the preparation of the Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, summarizing the Caribbean perspective on those issues. Technical assistance continued to be provided to member States in preparing national population reports, formulating national population policies and analysing census data and population projections. An ECLAC/UNFPA Caribbean subregional meeting of country delegates preparatory to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (see PART THREE, Chapter IX) was held in Jamaica (3-6 August), and a training seminar on population policy was organized for the Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao, 20-27 April).

The results of the Caribbean computer-based communications development programme and the ECLAC/AMBIONET Electronic Information Exchange System were evaluated (Port of Spain, 21-24 June) and, in collaboration with UNESCO, a training workshop on AMBIONET was conducted in Belize. A high-level workshop on renewable

energy sources was held (Saint Lucia, 5-9 December) to consider the need to reduce dependence of Caribbean countries on fossil fuels as a source of energy, to improve dialogue on and awareness of problems faced by suppliers of renewable energy technologies, policy makers and planners and to bring them up to date on new and improved techniques for renewable energy production. The meeting produced a model energy policy and adopted a resolution on renewable energy.

ECLAC activities in the Caribbean were reviewed by CDCC at its fifteenth session (Santo Domingo, 25-29 July).

Mexico and Central America

The activities of ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico City were devoted mainly to analysing the economic changes experienced during 1993 by Central American countries, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico. It participated in various meetings and seminars on economic development, which considered new imperatives for integration within the concept of open regionalism developed by ECLAC. A paper on the adaptation of open regionalism to specific regional conditions and a study analysing the effects of NAFTA on the Central American and Caribbean economies were prepared for discussion at a meeting of experts, hosted by Guatemala in November, in preparation for the 1995 special meeting of the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee.

As part of its continued collaboration with Central American integration organizations, ECLAC provided support to the Central American Bank for Economic Integration in the areas of housing, ports, energy and non-traditional agricultural exports. Studies were initiated on the identification of mechanisms to facilitate investment in Central America. Technical assistance programmes were carried out with Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras in the areas of macroeconomic analysis, short- and medium-term economic policy, analysis of statistics and census data, fiscal and public administration reform, and taxation, peace negotiations and national accounts.

In the area of social development, the sub-regional headquarters completed a study on social security and equity and prepared a document on displaced women and poverty in Central America. The role of women in development was considered at a workshop on the urban informal sector from the gender perspective, conducted in Mexico City (28 and 29 November).

Other activities during the year included a project on the reorganization of electrical utilities and regulatory frameworks in Central America, initiated with the Government of Canada, and a pro-

ject on energy and economic development, undertaken in collaboration with the Latin American Energy Organization. An in-depth study on the imperatives of standardizing specifications for a number of petroleum products was presented to the Central American Governments.

Programme and organizational questions

In April, the Commission approved⁽²⁷⁾ the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, including ILPES and CELADE, for 1996-1997.⁽²⁸⁾ Activities were proposed under 14 subprogrammes and under the Joint ECLAC/UNCTAD Unit on TNCs. The Commission also approved⁽²⁹⁾ the calendar of ECLAC conferences for 1994-1996.

Venue of the twenty-sixth session of ECLAC

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council, acting on ECLAC's recommendation,⁽³⁰⁾ decided that the Commission's twenty-sixth session should be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in 1996 (**decision 1994/287**).

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System

In response to a 1993 General Assembly request,⁽³¹⁾ the Secretary-General submitted a September 1994 report⁽³²⁾ on cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). Collaboration between the two organizations intensified since the establishment of SELA in 1975 and became more diversified in terms of both the activities and the participation of United Nations bodies.

An essential part of this cooperation was carried out through ECLAC, which participated in SELA meetings and continued to provide support to various SELA projects and activities, particularly in the fields of integrated social policies, demographics, training in information management, industrial policy, international trade and the process of hemispheric trade liberalization. ECLAC participated in an international seminar on SELA perspectives regarding the development of Latin America and the Caribbean in the twenty-first century, held in conjunction with the twentieth ordinary meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA (Mexico City, 30 May-3 June).

UNDP continued to collaborate with SELA in conducting major regional studies on privatization, business restructuring and modernization of production systems, technological development, the fostering of small and medium-sized enterprises and their competitiveness, and methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of social expenditure. It also provided funding for various

regional meetings of experts on technical cooperation among developing countries, convened by SELA.

WMO implemented a project for a new satellite telecommunication network, aimed at providing the countries of Central America and the Caribbean with an infrastructure capability for data and information on meteorological and weather-sensitive activities, including severe weather and hurricane prevention and preparedness. In addition, it conducted a feasibility study in the English-speaking Caribbean countries for the replacement of six severe weather surveillance radars.

UNESCO allocated financial assistance for a SELA/UNESCO communications project to promote economic and social integration in Latin America and, for the 1994-1995 biennium, approved the implementation of programmes on integrated social policy and world changes and provided support for SELA's integrated information services.

The World Intellectual Property Organization made presentations on recent trends and changes in the protection of industrial property rights, and on the latest developments regarding industrial property information systems based on CD-ROM technology at the fourth meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies, hosted by SELA from 27 to 29 April.

UNCTAD and SELA collaborated in evaluating the results of the Uruguay Round. That evaluation was the subject of a workshop held in Caracas in March. The two organizations continued their collaboration in the execution of the LATINTRADE project for strengthening capacities to participate more effectively in trade agreements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 October, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 49/6** without vote.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/22 of 22 November 1993 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 14 September 1994 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System,

Bearing in mind the Agreement between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, in which the parties agree to strengthen and expand their cooperation in matters which are of common concern in the field of their respective competence pursuant to their constitutional instruments,

Considering that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has developed ties of cooperation with the Latin American Economic System which have grown stronger in recent years,

Bearing in mind also that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System has carried out several programmes with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in areas that are considered of priority for the economic development of the region,

Considering also that the Latin American Economic System is developing joint activities with the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the International Telecommunication Union,

Welcoming the continued monitoring of changes in the treatment of topics relating to the United Nations system, in close contact with the delegations of the Member States participating in such deliberations,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Urges the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue broadening and deepening its coordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System;
3. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen and expand its support to the programmes that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System is carrying out, aimed at complementing the technical assistance activities conducted by the Latin American Economic System;
4. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their support for, and cooperation in the activities of, the Latin American Economic system;
5. Requests both the Secretary-General and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System to assess, at the appropriate time, the implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 49/6

21 October 1994 Meeting 41 Adopted without vote

28-nation draft (A/49/L.7); agenda item 29.

Sponsors: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

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(4)Ibid. (res. 541(XXV)). (⁵)Ibid. (res. 543(XXV)). (⁶)Ibid. (res.

550(XXV)). ⁽⁷⁾Ibid. (res. 542(XXV)). ⁽⁸⁾Ibid. (res. 540(XXV)). ⁽⁹⁾E/1995/44. ⁽¹⁰⁾E/1994/38 (res. 549(XXV)). ⁽¹¹⁾YUN 1992, p. 670. ⁽¹²⁾E/1994/38 (res. 548(XXV)). ⁽¹³⁾Ibid. (res. 535(XXV)). ⁽¹⁴⁾LC/G.1802(SES.25/5). ⁽¹⁵⁾E/1994/38 (res. 544(XXV)). ⁽¹⁶⁾Ibid. (res. 539(XXV)). ⁽¹⁷⁾Ibid. (res. 545(XXV)). ⁽¹⁸⁾Ibid. (res. 536(XXV)). ⁽¹⁹⁾LC/G.1812(SES.25/17). ⁽²⁰⁾LC/G.1826(CEG.19/7). ⁽²¹⁾LC/G.1809(SES.25/16). ⁽²²⁾YUN 1978, p. 467. ⁽²³⁾LC/G.1815. ⁽²⁴⁾E/1994/38 (res. 547(XXV)). ⁽²⁵⁾LC/G.1825(SES.25/21). ⁽²⁶⁾E/1994/38 (res. 546(XXV)). ⁽²⁷⁾E/1994/38 (res. 538(XXV)). ⁽²⁸⁾LC/G.1804(SES.25/7). ⁽²⁹⁾E/1994/38 (res. 537(XXV)). ⁽³⁰⁾Ibid. (res. 551(XXV)). ⁽³¹⁾YUN 1993, p. 643, GA res. 48/22, 22 Nov. 1993. ⁽³²⁾A/49/382.

Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia held its seventeenth session in Amman, Jordan, from 29 to 31 May 1994.⁽¹⁾ The Commission assessed progress in implementing the programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 and reviewed follow-up action on resolutions adopted at its sixteenth session (1992). It also took note of what had been accomplished with regard to follow-up action at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings and with regard to cooperation among developing countries and regional organizations. It examined the strengthening of mechanisms and techniques for activating intraregional trade and adopted the final report of the Technical Committee on its eighth (1992) session. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that ESCWA's permanent headquarters be relocated to Beirut, Lebanon.⁽²⁾ That proposal was endorsed by the Council in resolution 1994/43 (see below). The Commission also decided that its meetings should be held in odd years, starting in 1995, and that the Technical Committee meetings would be linked to the Commission sessions⁽³⁾ (see below). The Commission, conscious of the importance of coordinating social development activities and related issues in the area of human development, population, human settlements, the family and the advancement of women in Western Asia, also established a committee on social development.⁽⁴⁾

Economic trends

Overall economic performance in the region declined sharply in 1994, according to a summary of the survey of economic and social development in the ESCWA region, 1994.⁽⁵⁾ Regional GDP, with the exception of Iraq, registered a negative growth rate of 0.4 per cent in 1994, down from a positive growth of 3.7 per cent in 1993. This performance

was the result of several factors, including the decline in oil revenues in most of the 10 oil-exporting ESCWA member countries as a result of falling oil prices, the continued depressed state of regional cooperation, trade barriers affecting the industrial exports of the region, particularly petrochemicals, the continuation of United Nations sanctions against Iraq and the armed conflict in Yemen.

Measures to contain fiscal imbalances and intensified efforts to implement economic reforms, including a more prominent role for the private sector, continued in 1994. The emphasis placed on streamlining fiscal policies, cutting government expenditure and thus reducing public investment contributed further to the contraction in economic activities, particularly in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) group of countries. Only the more diversified economies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic demonstrated a better overall performance due to improvements in agriculture, tourism and construction, and increases in workers' remittances and in the inflow of private capital.

In the GCC countries, the recessionary trends of 1993 became stronger in 1994. The Group registered a combined negative GDP growth rate of 1.7 per cent, compared to a positive growth of 3.8 per cent the previous year. During the same period, GDP growth rates fell from a positive 4.6 per cent to negative 1.8 per cent in Bahrain, from 4 per cent to negative 1 per cent in Oman, 1.6 per cent to negative 2.7 per cent in Saudi Arabia and from 1 per cent to a negative 2.5 per cent growth rate in the United Arab Emirates. The economy of Qatar continued to perform poorly in 1994, registering a negative growth rate of 2 per cent. Kuwait's economy slowed down considerably, achieving a growth rate of only 4 per cent, down from 22.6 per cent in 1993. Economic activity in the GCC countries was also affected by the continued repercussions of the Persian Gulf war, which led to fiscal imbalances in most countries of that group.

However, in the more diversified economies, the expansion experienced in 1993 continued. The GDP of that group, excluding Iraq, grew by 3.7 per cent, compared with 3.4 per cent in 1993. Only Egypt's economy grew at a faster rate (3.8 per cent in 1994, compared to 1.8 per cent in 1993), boosted by growth in agriculture, tourism and the services sector. Jordan's GDP grew by an estimated 5.7 per cent in 1994, due to an increase in tourism and tourism-related construction following the signing of the peace treaty with Israel, an increase in remittances (\$1.3 billion, up from \$1 billion in 1993) and a reduction of its debt-servicing burden owing to external debt cancellation and/or debt rescheduling. The Lebanese economy continued its robust growth despite a slight

slow-down, with GDP growing by an estimated 6 per cent in 1994, compared with 7 per cent in 1993. The construction boom to rebuild the country and to restore vital services and industries attracted foreign capital, while the tourism sector continued to recover. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the 3.5 per cent economic growth (3.9 per cent in 1993) was supported by the tourism, agriculture and oil sectors. Only Yemen, in this group of countries, registered a negative growth of 1.5 per cent, down from a positive 2.1 per cent in 1994. This was due to the armed conflict in that country and a drop in public investment precipitated by high inflation and unemployment rates, which plunged the country into a deep recession. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the economy plunged into a recession due to reduced tourism revenue, the repeated closure of the territories by the Israeli authorities, a drop in aggregate demand owing to high unemployment rates and a lower-than-anticipated level of economic aid.

ESCWA member States, particularly the GCC countries, faced enormous budget deficits, which accelerated the implementation of economic reforms to correct fiscal imbalances. However, many countries pursued the reform policies with caution to minimize their adverse social impact.

During 1994, lower economic growth and reduction in fiscal deficits helped most ESCWA countries to curb inflation. In the GCC countries, with traditionally low inflation, annual rates dropped in 1994, with the exception of the United Arab Emirates. Inflation rates in the group ranged from 0.6 per cent in Saudi Arabia and 1 per cent in Kuwait to 4.5 per cent in the United Arab Emirates. Among the more diversified economies, Egypt and Jordan were able to continue their progress in reducing their inflation rates. In Egypt, inflation reached 7.5 per cent (from 20 per cent in 1991), while Jordan registered a 4.2 per cent inflation rate, compared to 5.4 per cent in the previous year. In Lebanon, after a sharp drop from about 100 per cent in 1992 to 9 per cent in 1993, the inflation rate rose to 12 per cent in 1994. At the same time, inflation surged to more than 70 per cent in Yemen, up from 55 per cent in 1993, while Iraq suffered from runaway inflation.

Unemployment remained a major problem facing the region, particularly in the more diversified economies. In Yemen and the West Bank and Gaza Strip, unemployment rates were estimated at 30 per cent in 1994. Preliminary estimates in Jordan and Egypt pointed to rates over 12 per cent and over 15 per cent, respectively, while in the Syrian Arab Republic it was estimated at 5 per cent. In addition, the problem of underemployment was prevalent in many ESCWA countries, particularly those with dominant public sectors.

Fiscal developments in the GCC countries, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, were still af-

fected in 1994 by the ramifications of the Gulf crisis, as well as by the drop in oil revenues, which further burdened their budgets. To reduce the budget deficit, a number of countries introduced measures to increase revenues and reduce expenditure through improvement of tax-collection methods and/or by cutting subsidies or deferring debt-service payments.

The difficult conditions of the banking sector in the region resulted in most banks recording lower profits and slower balance sheet growth in 1994 than in 1993. Most of those conditions resulted from a liquidity squeeze caused by increased government borrowing. A number of countries restructured the banking sector (Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait and Lebanon) or strengthened their central banks' supervisory capacity and monitoring control of banking activities (Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates). Following the more stringent application of the rules and regulations of the single European market by EU member countries, banks in the region continued to retreat from the international markets to their home markets.

In 1994, stock markets were rejuvenated in several countries. The Egyptian stock market performed extremely well, with a growth of 140 per cent in United States dollars, while both Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic were evaluating plans to establish stock markets. In the light of the globalization and privatization trends, the need for a developed and integrated regional stock market was rapidly becoming more apparent.

The external debt of the region dropped from about \$186 billion in 1993 to about \$182 billion in 1994. However, the debt-to-GDP ratio remained high at 66.6 per cent, while the debt/exports ratio was estimated at 214 per cent. Egypt, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen reached agreements for significant parts of their debt to be forgiven or rescheduled.

Sectoral developments

Oil

Oil production in the ESCWA region increased by 2.8 per cent in 1994, mainly as a result of the 51 per cent growth in oil production in Yemen, 24.6 per cent in Iraq, 10.7 per cent in Kuwait, 2.6 per cent in Egypt and 3.9 per cent in Oman, and, despite a slight fall in production levels, by 1.15 per cent and 0.6 per cent in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, respectively. However, the international markets remained relatively stable, with oil demand growing by a meagre 1.5 per cent over its 1993 level, and on the supply side, production from non-OPEC sources, particularly from the North Sea region, increased by almost 1.5 per cent

in 1994. Moreover, oil prices continued their downward trend, falling by 4.3 per cent to an average of \$15.6 per barrel, reaching their lowest level since 1988. As a result, oil revenues in the ESCWA region were estimated to have declined in 1994 by 1.4 per cent to \$74.3 billion, down from their 1993 level of \$75.4 billion. Of the 10 oil-exporting countries in the region, only Kuwait and Yemen managed to increase their oil revenues by increasing production sufficiently to compensate for the fall in oil prices.

Proven oil reserves in Western Asia fell by 0.7 per cent to 569.4 billion barrels, down from their 1993 level of 573.4 billion barrels, owing mainly to the 2.6 per cent drop in the proven oil reserves of Kuwait and the 0.7 per cent drop in Qatar's proven reserves. In Oman and the Syrian Arab Republic, proven oil reserves rose by 2.7 per cent and 47 per cent respectively, while they remained unchanged for the rest of the region. Proven oil reserves in the ESCWA region represented 74 per cent of OPEC proven oil reserves and almost 57 per cent of the world total.

Agriculture

The ESCWA region remained a large importer of agricultural products. The main importers of agricultural products were Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic were the main exporters of some agricultural products, such as cotton, horticultural products and cereals.

Cereals production varied among countries in the region. The Syrian Arab Republic, with wheat production at 3.64 million tons, reached self-sufficiency, while Iraq's wheat and barley output in 1994 (2.7 million tons) increased by 138 per cent over the 1989 level. Jordan's production of cereals was virtually unchanged, but wheat production fell by an estimated 8 per cent in Egypt and by 38.8 per cent in Saudi Arabia. In Lebanon, wheat production was estimated at 40,000 tons, less than 10 per cent of total requirements. In Yemen, the armed conflict aggravated the already precarious food-supply situation. Imports of cereals in 1994, mainly wheat, were estimated at 1.7 million tons, an increase of about 10 per cent over 1993.

Most ESCWA member countries introduced some privatization measures in the marketing and trade of agricultural products as part of their market liberalization policy; however, wheat-price support policies were maintained in most countries.

Industrial development

In general, the manufacturing sector in the ESCWA region performed poorly in 1994, with manufacturing income contracting by about 1 per cent, down from 1.5 per cent in 1993. That was

mainly due to the deterioration in economic and manufacturing conditions in Iraq, owing to the United Nations economic sanctions. Elsewhere in the region, manufacturing activities slowed down as a result of weak oil markets, the slow pace in the implementation of economic reforms, and slow progress in the Middle East peace process. Growth in manufacturing income, excluding Iraq and the West Bank and Gaza Strip, averaged around 1.5 per cent in 1994, down from 3.5 per cent in 1993. In Iraq, manufacturing activity was estimated to have contracted by 24 per cent. In the GCC countries, it averaged around 2 per cent, compared with 2.5 per cent in 1993, while in the more diversified economies, apart from Iraq and the West Bank and Gaza Strip, overall growth in the manufacturing sector slowed down to about 1 per cent in 1994, compared with the 4 per cent recorded in 1993. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the slowdown in overall economic activity in 1994 had negative effects on manufacturing investment and demand for domestic manufactured goods.

The modest expansion in manufacturing activities experienced by some countries, excluding Iraq and the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was due mainly to the growth achieved by the private sector; additional efforts in the GCC countries to promote non-oil private-sector activities in manufacturing; and the progress achieved in reconstruction works in the manufacturing sectors of Kuwait and Lebanon. Expansion in manufacturing was stimulated in other countries by increased activity in other commodity-producing sectors in response to increased domestic demand for consumer goods.

However, growth of the manufacturing sector in the ESCWA region continued to be restrained by the lack of adequate investment and the inability to penetrate new export markets.

Trade

The total value of exports from the region reached \$97.6 billion in 1993, 1.3 per cent less than in 1992. The exports of the GCC countries decreased by less than 1 per cent over the previous year's total, with individual countries recording decreases ranging from 7.9 per cent in Saudi Arabia to 1.6 per cent in the United Arab Emirates. However, Kuwait (56.8 per cent) and Bahrain (6.5 per cent) increased their exports. The decline in exports of the more diversified economies as a whole was much greater (13.7 per cent), largely influenced by a decline in Egypt's exports (27 per cent). Slight increases were, nevertheless, recorded by Jordan (2 per cent) and the Syrian Arab Republic (1.7 per cent). Lebanon did much better, with an increase of 12.5 per cent. Although the developed market economies remained the

region's main trading partners, their share of its total exports fell to 47.7 per cent during the first seven months of 1994, while the share of all other regions increased slightly. Intraregional exports remained relatively constant at 10.2 per cent.

Imports to the region totalled \$90.3 billion in 1993, a 3.4 per cent increase over 1992. The GCC countries accounted for most of the \$2.1 billion (3 per cent) increase. Saudi Arabia, which accounted for the bulk of the subregion's imports, showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. The United Arab Emirates showed an increase of 12.1 per cent; Oman, 9.2 per cent; and Qatar, 6.2 per cent. The imports of the more diversified economies decreased by \$1.6 billion or 7.5 per cent. Declines in imports by Egypt (2.2 per cent) were offset by increases in the Syrian Arab Republic (18.6 per cent), Jordan (8.7 per cent) and Lebanon (4.7 per cent). The share of the developed market economies in the regional total declined from 68 per cent in 1993 to 61 per cent during the first seven months of 1994. This was made up for by slight increases in the share of all other regions. Intraregional imports for the same period were 6.8 per cent, considerably less than the 1989-1990 level of over 10 per cent.

The region's total current account balance (excluding Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen) showed a deficit of \$7.7 billion in 1993, representing a significant improvement over the 1992 deficit, which was over \$19.6 billion. The most significant change in the region was the increase in Kuwait's surplus by \$7.2 billion, owing to increased oil revenues and the completion of financial commitments related to the Persian Gulf war. Saudi Arabia's deficit declined by \$5.2 billion (26 per cent). Of the GCC countries, only Kuwait recorded a surplus in its current account balance for 1993. Among the more diversified economies, Jordan's deficit improved by 39 per cent, while the current accounts of Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic deteriorated in relation to 1992.

The region's international reserves rose in 1993 by \$4.4 billion (11.5 per cent) to \$42.3 billion (excluding Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen). The GCC countries' reserves totalled \$21.3 billion, representing a very slight increase over 1992 levels, while the more diversified economies showed a significant increase of \$4.2 billion, bringing their total reserves to \$21 billion. Data for the first 10 months of 1994 indicated that the region's total reserves continued to rise, though at a slower rate. The reserve/import ratio for the region increased to 5.6 months in 1993.

Social trends

The population of the ESCWA region was estimated in 1994 at 145.4 million, representing 57.4 per cent of the population of the Arab world and 2.6 per cent of the world total. During the period

1990-1994, the population of the region was estimated to have grown by an average annual rate of 2.7 per cent. The fastest growth rate was achieved by Jordan (4.9 per cent) and Yemen (5 per cent).

The crude birth rate for the region's population decreased to 34 births per 1,000, while the crude death rate declined to 7.4 deaths per 1,000.

Life expectancy at birth was 65.6 years, higher than the world average (64.7 years). The highest life-expectancy rate was achieved by the GCC countries. In Kuwait, it reached 74.5 years, followed by Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (70.4 and 69.9 years, respectively). In Yemen, it was still 50 years.

The infant-mortality rate for the region was 56 deaths per 1,000 live births. However, it was 106 per 1,000 in Yemen and 57 per 1,000 in Egypt. Bahrain had the lowest infant-mortality rate of 12 per 1,000, followed by Kuwait at 14 per 1,000.

All countries of the region had begun to realize the effects of rapid population growth, its linkages to socio-economic development and the high dependency ratios that resulted from the young age structure because of high fertility levels.

Several ESCWA countries that had applied structural adjustment programmes to correct macro-economic imbalances and transform their economies into market-oriented ones had to implement those programmes with caution to minimize their negative impact, particularly on unemployment. Measures were taken to reduce the social impact of the economic reform policies, particularly in Egypt and Jordan. In Egypt, contractionary fiscal and monetary policies and public-sector reform resulted in the reduction of the number of public-sector employees. At the same time, the decrease in government subsidies on basic food commodities, medical services, water and electricity, education and transport resulted in significantly higher costs and lowered the real income of the poor. The Social Development Fund, established in 1991 to contribute to social well-being and protect vulnerable and low-income groups, had, by mid-1994, contracted 165 projects in the areas of public works, community development, enterprise development, employment and retraining, institutional development and public transport. Jordan also took steps to minimize the adverse social impact of its economic reform programme and protect vulnerable groups but was still faced with increasing unemployment, especially among the poor.

Activities in 1994

Development planning, development finance and international trade

Activities under ESCWA's subprogramme on development issues and policies during 1994 included the annual survey of economic and social developments in the region.⁽⁶⁾ The survey considered, inter

alia, the impact of economic reform and structural adjustment policies in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon and the role of privatization in the region.

An addendum to the Commission's report⁽⁷⁾ on the follow-up action to its 1993 resolution on the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Decade for Western Asia, 1994-2003, examined the issue of establishing a fund for reconstruction and development in the ESCWA region. It was proposed that instead of setting up a new fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development could undertake the task of reconstruction. This would require a re-examination of its capital structure to make it consistent with the kind of financing envisaged, enabling it to provide the financial resources needed for the reconstruction and development. In May, the Commission took note of the report. It also considered follow-up action on a 1992 resolution⁽⁸⁾ on the reconstruction of Lebanon, which covered a survey of the Bekaa Valley and efforts to eradicate undesirable agricultural production.⁽⁹⁾

In the area of international trade and development finance, the Secretariat issued an analytical review of developments and issues in the external trade and payments situation of Western Asian countries. The review included an analysis of the results and impact in the region of the Uruguay Round. Another review dealt with developments and trends in the monetary and financial sectors in the ESCWA region and covered the banking sector, the stock markets, external debt and privatization as well as recent monetary and fiscal developments in Lebanon, the deposit protection scheme in Bahrain and the counter-trade offset programme in Kuwait. The secretariat also prepared a study on methods of strengthening mechanisms and techniques for activating intraregional trade among ESCWA States.

Food and agriculture

Activities under ESCWA's food and agriculture subprogramme focused on land and water policies, the impact of international regional trade, rural development, wildlife conservation and policy analysis. ESCWA continued to issue its annual publication *Agriculture and Development in Western Asia* and prepared a national farm handbook for the Syrian Arab Republic. Studies were conducted on land and water policies in the Arab region, with specific case-studies on Egypt and Jordan; the impact of population growth and urbanization on food and consumption patterns in Egypt; the marketing of agricultural products in Lebanon; evaluation of agricultural policies in the Syrian Arab Republic; the impact of structural adjustment programmes on food production, supply and consumption in Jordan; and a proposed action programme for the restructuring of Pales-

tinian agricultural public institutions. A joint ESCWA/FAO/League of Arab States project proposal was issued on the rehabilitation of the fishery sector in the Gaza Strip.

The integrated development of drylands in Arab countries was the subject of an ad hoc expert group meeting (Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic, 10-13 October). Other ad hoc expert group meetings addressed sustainable agriculture and rural development (Cairo, Egypt, 25-29 September); the impact of the international and regional trade environment on agricultural trade in the Near East (Cyprus, 5-7 December); and agricultural risk management in the Near East (Amman, 31 October-2 November). Regional training workshops were held on monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects (Amman, 2-6 October), food and agricultural policy analysis (Cairo, 6-17 November) and project planning and environmental considerations (Amman, 4-15 September). In addition, a national training workshop was held on agricultural policy analysis and farm management in the Syrian Arab Republic (Damascus, 2-21 October).

Industrial development and technology

In 1994, ESCWA continued its regional advisory services on assistance in improving the performance and competitiveness of industries in Western Asian countries. Various training-of-trainers workshops on how to start a business in war-torn areas were held in the occupied territories (Bethlehem, Gaza, Nablus) and in Beirut. In addition, a pilot workshop on upgrading entrepreneurial skills of managers of small and medium-sized enterprises under changing conditions was held in Amman from 14 to 20 September. Under its industrial development subprogramme, ESCWA issued a publication on participation of women in manufacturing in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women. In May, the Commission considered a report on the ESCWA programme of assistance to existing industries aimed at helping States in the region to achieve higher levels of industrial productivity. Support for the programme of assistance was also discussed at the ministerial meeting of the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (Rabat, Morocco, 20-24 June).

Activities under the Commission's science and technology subprogramme included the publication of a report on activities in the ESCWA region related to the protection of the ozone layer and the report of a workshop on the implications of new and advanced materials technologies for the economies of the region. The secretariat presented a report on cooperation among ESCWA countries in setting up a centre for space science and technology education.

Natural resources, energy and environment

Under this subprogramme, the secretariat continued to issue its annual Energy Bulletin. It also issued a publication on energy information in Western Asia. From 12 to 14 September, an ad hoc expert group met in Amman to review the programmes of regional organizations active in the field of water resources. In May, the Commission discussed a report on cooperation in the field of shared water resources. It also considered progress achieved in implementing the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

Under the environment subprogramme, a report on the progress made in the ESCWA plan to implement Agenda 21 was submitted to the Commission's seventeenth session before presentation to the Commission on Sustainable Development. The secretariat also issued a report on activities related to the protection of the ozone layer. The Executive Secretary reported on follow-up action relating to regional cooperation and coordination in the field of environment and sustainable development. In May, the Commission took note of that report.

The Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab region, established in 1993, held its third meeting (Cairo, April 1994). It elaborated networking initiatives to build an environmental information system for policy makers in the region and agreed on further steps to promote the system.

Transport and communications

Under its transport subprogramme, ESCWA continued to publish its Transport Bulletin. It also issued a report on the follow-up action pertaining to the implementation of the ESCWA Transport and Communications Decade (1985-1994), which reviewed activities undertaken by the secretariat in the implementation of the Decade and provided details of the follow-up action pertaining to the second phase of the Decade (1992-1996). The report stated that the secretariat intended to concentrate on redefining the region's Decade approach. It urged the establishment of national committees and focal points to promote and coordinate the Decade's programme of action at the national level. Another study published in 1994 related to the development of free zones in Western Asia.

The secretariat also issued a report on the status, development trends and future prospects of the telecommunications sector in the region. It held an ad hoc expert group meeting in Amman and Aqaba, Jordan, from 8 to 12 May 1994, on maritime hydrographic surveying and nautical charting.

Social development, population and human settlements

Under this subprogramme, ESCWA worked towards developing a unified human development

policy. The secretariat, in collaboration with UNDP, organized a brainstorming meeting on a strategy for sustainable human development in the Arab world (Tangier, Morocco, 7-10 July). It also organized an ad hoc expert group meeting (Amman, 19-22 September 1994) in preparation for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, at which the draft Arab Declaration for Social Development was prepared for presentation to the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs. The secretariat also issued a detailed study on the impact of crisis on the social situation in the region. The study focused on conflict-related movements; the Gulf crisis; the impact of the mass return of migrant workers and the impact of crises on quality of life and living standards and on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. It pointed to the need for the design and implementation of macroeconomic policies conducive to poverty eradication and micro-economic policies to target vulnerable and marginalized populations, particularly children, youth, and female heads of households lacking financial support. The secretariat organized the Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ninth World Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Amman, 20-24 March), which made recommendations on measures concerning regional and international collaboration against crime.

In June, the secretariat completed the second phase of the thematic competition entitled "The autonomous village, alternative human settlements planning and design techniques". As the first operational project model to promote sustainable human development in the region, rural development projects were carried out in Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic. The projects were designed to promote the social integration of marginalized groups in rural communities, promote income-generating activities and assist in poverty eradication. ESCWA continued to publish its annual Population Bulletin and co-sponsored two Arab regional preparatory meetings for Habitat II (Amman, 21-23 March and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, October). In May,⁽¹⁰⁾ the Commission urged member States to participate actively in the preparations for the Conference and asked the Executive Secretary to coordinate and facilitate the regional activities for Habitat II.

As part of the activities related to the International Year of the Family, an expert group met to consider "The Arab family in changing societies: new concept for partnership" (Abu Dhabi, 10-14 December), and a seminar on the role of the family in integrating disabled women was held at Amman from 16 to 18 October.

On 31 May, the Commission decided to establish a committee on social development within ESCWA, and recommended a resolution⁽¹⁾ for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 1994/27** without vote.

Establishment of a committee on social development within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Referring to resolutions 182(XVI) on the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Decade for Western Asia (1994-2003), 186(XVI) on preparations for the International Year of the Family, 1994, 187(XVI) on the World Summit for Social Development, 188(XVI) on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace and 189(XVI) on the Arab Population Conference, 1993, which were adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on 2 September 1992,

Cognizant of the importance of coordinating social development activities at the regional level and related issues in the areas of human development, population, human settlements and local communities, the family and the advancement of women in Western Asia, in accordance with the conditions, cultural realities and social structure of the States of the region and their economic and social development needs,

Conscious of the importance of increasing the participation of the competent authorities of the States members of the Commission in the planning and development of the programmes of the secretariat of the Commission in the social field and the definition of priorities for social plans and programmes,

Inspired by the steps taken by other regional commissions for the establishment of specialized committees on social development to assume responsibility for coordinating action in their regions,

Cognizant of the need to strengthen coordination and integration between the Commission and Arab regional organizations with regard to the social development policies, programmes and activities of organizations within the region with a view to satisfying the needs of the member States and promoting the comprehensive development of the States of the region,

1. Decides to establish a Committee on Social Development within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, composed of representatives of the States members of the Commission, which will carry out the following tasks:

(a) Participation in the establishment and formulation of priorities for the programme of work and medium-term plan in social development fields;

(b) Monitoring of the progress achieved in the social programmes and activities of the States members of the Commission and preparation of the necessary recommendations for strengthening the social development process in those States;

(c) Active participation in preparations for international and regional conferences, coordination of the participation of member States therein and coordination of regional efforts to implement the resolutions and recommendations of such conferences;

(d) Definition of focal points to coordinate various social activities together with the secretariat of the Commission and to monitor their execution;

2. Also decides that, starting in 1995, the Committee on Social Development will hold its meetings every two years;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the Commission at its eighteenth session.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/27

26 July 1994 Meeting 45 Adopted without vote

Draft by ESCWA (E/1994/50); agenda item 7.

Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 45.

Role of women

In the area of women and development, the secretariat held an intergovernmental regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Amman, 6-10 November) on the theme: Peace for the advancement of Arab women. The draft Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2005 was drawn up at that meeting. In preparation for the regional meeting, nine national workshops were held in selected ESCWA countries to review the national plans of action in the light of reports on the situation of women prepared for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Other preparatory activities included an expert group meeting (Amman, 6-8 November), the Amman Forum for Non-Governmental Organizations (3-5 November), and the consultative meeting of youth in the ESCWA region (Amman, 3-7 November). The secretariat issued publications on women and poverty in the ESCWA region; the review and assessment of the regional implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women; and a study on adapting working conditions to family needs. A publication was also issued on the participation of women in the pharmaceutical and electronics industries in Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, a seminar on the role of the family in integrating disabled women into society was organized (Amman, 16-18 October).

In May,⁽¹⁾ the Commission stressed the need to strengthen national and regional institutional mechanisms and NGOs for the advancement of women. It urged Governments to establish national joint committees and to designate focal points for the preparation of the Conference. The Commission appealed to regional and international donors to support the ESCWA secretariat in the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting and of the Fourth World Conference on Women with regard to their integration into the development process.

Statistics

In 1994, ESCWA continued the development and maintenance of statistical databases on social indicators, labour force, industry, energy and the environment. It also provided advisory services in

the areas of national accounts, economic statistics, data processing and household surveys.

The secretariat published its annual Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region and its biennial External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region, and issued publications on strategies for accelerating the development of civil registration and vital statistics systems, and on the situation of women in ESCWA member States. Workshops were held on industrial statistics (Damascus, 26 November-6 December) and on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (Amman, 12-19 December).

Programme and organizational questions

At its 1994 session, the Commission approved its revised programme of work and priorities for 1994-1995⁽¹²⁾ and the proposed outline of its work programme for 1996-1997.⁽¹³⁾ The Commission also approved amendments under the second revision of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997.⁽¹⁴⁾ The Committee for Programme and Coordination⁽¹⁵⁾ recommended the proposed revision for approval by the General Assembly.

Frequency of sessions

In May 1994, the Commission considered a 1993 recommendation of its Technical Committee⁽¹⁷⁾ to link the Committee's meetings with sessions of the Commission, in accordance with the practice that had existed before ESCWA's 1992 decision,⁽¹⁸⁾ endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in 1993,⁽¹⁹⁾ to hold meetings of the Committee in years when no Commission session was held. The Commission recommended a resolution⁽³⁾ for adoption by the Council.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 1994/26** without vote.

Frequency of the sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Technical Committee

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 158(XIV) of 5 April 1987 of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in which the Commission decided to hold its sessions on a biennial basis,

Recalling also resolution 178(XVI) of 2 September 1992 of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in which the Commission decided that the Technical Committee would meet during the years when no Commission session was held,

Convinced of the benefit of maintaining continuity in the sessions of the Commission and the meetings of the Technical Committee and of their being held consecutively in the same year, and convinced of the need to hold sessions of the Commission in odd years to coincide with the consideration of the programme budget

by the General Assembly and with the monitoring of progress achieved in the work programmes of the Secretariat,

Taking into consideration the terms of reference of the Technical Committee, as set out in Council resolution 1982/64 of 30 July 1982 on the establishment of a Standing Committee for the Programme of the Commission and in its resolution 1984/80 of 27 July 1984 on the general policy-making structure of the Commission,

1. Decides that the meetings of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will henceforth be linked with the sessions of the Commission, in accordance with earlier practice, and that the Technical Committee will hold its meeting shortly before each session of the Commission;

2. Also decides that the Commission will hold its sessions in odd years, starting in 1995, to coincide with the consideration of the programme budget by the General Assembly and with the monitoring of progress achieved in the work programmes of the Secretariat;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to submit a detailed report on the activities, plans and programmes of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council in those years when the Commission does not hold a session.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/26

26 July 1994 Meeting 45 Adopted without vote

Draft by ESCWA (E/1994/50); agenda item 7.
Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 45

Permanent headquarters

During the Persian Gulf hostilities, ESCWA's headquarters were temporarily relocated from Baghdad, Iraq, to Amman. At its 1994 session, the Commission considered a secretariat report⁽²⁰⁾ examining the offers of its member States to host permanent headquarters, in response to a 1993 Economic and Social Council decision.⁽²¹⁾ The Commission discussed offers from the Governments of Jordan, Lebanon and Qatar, and heard a statement of Iraq that no cogent reasons existed for transferring the permanent headquarters from Baghdad. On 31 May, the Commission voted to relocate its headquarters to Beirut, and recommended a resolution⁽²⁾ for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. Iraq requested that its reservation regarding that decision be recorded.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 1994/43** without vote.

Permanent headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1993/3 of 2 February 1993 and resolution 192(XVI) of 2 September 1992 of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking into account the report of the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia submitted to the Commission at its seventeenth session pursuant to Commission resolution 192(XVI),

as well as the debate conducted and procedures followed in the closed meeting of the heads of delegations for the selection of a host country for the permanent headquarters of the Commission,

1. Expresses deep appreciation to the Government of Iraq for serving as the host country for the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in past years;

2. Also expresses deep appreciation to the Government of Jordan for its support and cooperation in providing facilities and assistance for the temporary headquarters of the Commission;

3. Expresses deep appreciation to the Government of Jordan and the Government of Qatar for their offers to serve as host country for the permanent headquarters of the Commission;

4. Decides, having considered and subsequently accepted the offer of the Government of Lebanon, to recommend that the permanent headquarters of the Commission be relocated to Beirut;

5. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To approach the Government of Lebanon, as soon as the appropriate legal action has been taken by the United Nations with regard to paragraph 4 above, in order to arrive at a common understanding on all issues and commitments relating to the relocation of the permanent headquarters of the Commission, to conclude an agreement concerning the headquarters and to agree upon a suitable timetable and the necessary arrangements for the relocation of the permanent headquar-

ters to Beirut in such a way as to ensure that the requirements for the proper functioning of the Commission are met;

(b) To take all steps necessary to effect the transfer of the permanent headquarters of the Commission in accordance with the present resolution;

(c) To ensure that the transfer is financed within existing resources and primarily from extrabudgetary contributions and without prejudice to planned cost savings;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the Commission at its eighteenth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/43

29 July 1994 Meeting 48 Adopted without vote

Draft by ESCWA (E/1994/50), orally revised following informal consultations; agenda item 7.

Financial implications. S-G, E/1994/50/Add.2.

Meeting numbers. ESC 44, 45, 47, 48.

REFERENCES

- (¹)E/1994/39. (²)Ibid. (res. 197(XVII)). (³)Ibid. (res. 196(XVII)). (⁴)Ibid. (res. 198(XVII)). (⁵)E/1995/45. (⁶)E/ESCWA/SED/1994/3. (⁷)E/ESCWA/17/5/Add.4. (⁸)YUN 1992, p. 516. (⁹)E/ESCWA/17/5/Add.5. (¹⁰)E/1994/39 (res. 202(XVII)). (¹¹)Ibid. (res. 203(XVII)). (¹²)Ibid. (res. 200(XVII)). (¹³)Ibid. (res. 201(XVII)). (¹⁴)Ibid. (res. 199(XVII)). (¹⁵)A/49/16 (Part II). (¹⁶)YUN 1993, p. 644. (¹⁷)YUN 1992, p. 522. (¹⁸)YUN 1993, p. 644, ESC res. 1993/1, 2 Feb. 1993. (¹⁹)E/ESCWA/17/19. (²⁰)YUN 1993, p. 652, ESC res. 1993/3, 2 Feb. 1993.