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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. On 13 December 1996, the General Assembly adopted resolution 51/151, in which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (A/51/386) and of his efforts to strengthen that cooperation and to implement the relevant resolutions, and noted with appreciation the continued and increasing participation of OAU in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and its constructive contribution to that work. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon United Nations organs, in particular the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, to continue to involve OAU closely in all their activities concerning Africa and to cooperate with OAU in the pacific settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa, as provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations; requested the convening of a follow-up meeting in 1997, in Addis Ababa, to review and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations agreed upon at the 1995 meeting and to adopt new and effective joint action; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the resolution and on the development of cooperation between OAU and the organizations of the United Nations system.

II. Consultations and exchange of information

2. The Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OAU cooperate in a number of areas and consult regularly on key African questions with a view to coordinating initiatives and action. Since January 1997 in particular, they have discussed the need to build closer ties with a view to enhancing their mutual capacity for preventing and resolving conflicts in Africa and for coordinating their efforts in that regard. They took an important step in that connection when they appointed Mr. Mohammed Sahnoun as joint United Nations-OAU Special Representative for the Great Lakes region and subsequently agreed to expand his mandate to include the Congo. In January 1997, they agreed to meet twice a year, along with their senior advisers, to discuss priority areas of cooperation and to coordinate their efforts. Subsequently they reached an understanding that the meetings would take place immediately following the annual Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and early during the annual session of the General Assembly.

3. The first such meeting between the two Secretaries-General and their advisers was held at Harare on 3 June 1997 during the OAU summit. At the suggestion of the United Nations Secretary-General, the meeting was devoted to preventive action and peacemaking as well as peace-building, but also included, at the request of the OAU Secretary-General, cooperation in the democratization process in Africa, especially in election monitoring, as well as in strengthening the liaison between the two secretariats.

4. A follow-up meeting, chaired by the United Nations and OAU heads of political affairs, was held at Harare on 5 June to identify specific steps that could be taken to strengthen and broaden further cooperation between the two secretariats and to agree on the agenda, participation and venue of the meeting of the secretariats of the United Nations system and OAU during 1997. The meeting is to be convened at Addis Ababa in early December 1997.

III. Cooperation in the areas of peace and security

A. Department of Political Affairs

5. The United Nations Department of Political Affairs cooperates with OAU at various levels and in different ways. It organizes meetings with members of the Africa Group in New York to brief them on priority issues of common concern and to exchange ideas and information. It is making arrangements to ensure that such briefings and idea exchanges are undertaken regularly in order to address issues of concern expeditiously and to facilitate any follow-up that may be required.

6. There are also ongoing contacts and consultation between the Department of Political Affairs and the Office of the OAU Permanent Observer. Such coordination and exchange of information between secretariats is deemed vital to the effort to strengthen and rationalize United Nations-OAU cooperation. To that end, the Department of Political Affairs and the Office of the Permanent Observer have agreed to hold monthly meetings to exchange information and to facilitate the coordination of actions and initiatives.

7. The Department of Political Affairs has initiated a staff exchange programme with OAU to train and familiarize staff with each organization's procedures and practices and to improve cooperation and coordination. The focal point of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security was invited by the Department of Political Affairs to Headquarters in September

1997 on a familiarization visit. The Department has also invited the OAU Conflict Prevention Division to send staff members to New York for familiarization visits and has offered to reciprocate. Furthermore, it has extended a similar invitation to the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and will gradually extend this activity to other subregional organizations.

8. The Department has proposed the establishment of a liaison office at OAU in the context of its 1998-1999 programme budget in order to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and OAU. The office will, among other things, help to facilitate the exchange of information and the coordination of initiatives and efforts in the areas of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking as well as in the democratization and peace-building processes in Africa, and will coordinate the implementation of programmes of cooperation between the United Nations system and OAU that were agreed to at the annual meetings of their secretariats.

9. The Department provides OAU with information on electoral assistance and democratic transition activities and has offered to organize training programmes for its staff on those areas. OAU is a member of the Electoral Assistance Information Network, established in October 1992 and coordinated by the Department. A senior staff member of the Electoral Assistance Division visited OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa in July 1997 and discussed ways and means of strengthening cooperation in the democratization process in Africa and the support and assistance that the United Nations could provide to OAU in that area.

B. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

10. As proposed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report of 1 November 1995 on improving preparedness for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa (A/50/711), a United Nations technical mission visited Addis Ababa in August 1997 to discuss how the United Nations could best help the OAU secretariat to operationalize the situation room in its conflict management centre so as to enhance its capabilities in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts.

11. In that context, the Secretary-General also kept in close contact with the Secretary-General of OAU to exchange views on an initiative proposed by France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, aimed at strengthening, under the auspices of the United Nations and OAU, African capacity for peacekeeping on the continent and elsewhere. Following a round of initial consultations with African and donor States at Headquarters,

on the margins of the OAU summit at Harare and in several other capitals, the three countries held further discussions with the United Nations and OAU secretariats on steps that could be taken to move the project forward, in close consultation and coordination with the United Nations and OAU and with the participation of all African countries.

C. Centre for Human Rights

12. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights met the Secretary-General of OAU during the twentieth regular session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Mauritius, October 1996) to confirm that, in the framework of cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and OAU, a training course for directors of military academies in African countries would be jointly organized in Addis Ababa, and that joint training programmes might be set up on human rights, democracy and the rule of law for members of the armed forces for the five African subregions. The training programme, which is to be launched in 1997, will last for 12 months.

13. As part of its training programme for the armed forces, the Centre organized, in June 1996 at the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Turin, Italy, a training course for senior military instructors from the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa. Thirty-two instructors from five of those countries participated in the training course. On that occasion, a senior officer in the executive office of the Secretary-General of OAU submitted, at the Centre's request, a number of documents on questions relating to mechanisms for conflict resolution and human rights promotion and protection in Africa.

IV. Cooperation in the field of economic and social development

A. Economic Commission for Africa

14. An important framework used by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in its cooperation with OAU is the OAU/African Development Bank (ADB)/ECA joint secretariat created by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to enable the three African organizations to work together for the establishment of an African Economic Community (AEC). In June 1996 the joint secretariat met with the regional economic communities to prepare for the

7th consultative meeting of the heads of OAU, ECA and ADB with the regional economic communities, and the first session of the OAU/AEC/ Economic and Social Council meeting and the AEC summit. ECA, in July and August 1997, participated in a mission of the joint secretariat to the regional economic communities with a view to identifying areas in which they need to be strengthened.

15. Within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), ECA and OAU, along with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have undertaken activities to assist AMCEN in implementing its programme of work. In that regard, both organizations deployed collaborative efforts to consolidate the status of AMCEN and to promote the implementation of various conventions such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, an African Common Position for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994) was prepared jointly and forwarded to the Conference through AMCEN.

16. ECA cooperated closely with OAU in the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996) and during the Conference itself. Both organizations assisted African countries in preparing the Declaration on the African Common Position presented at the Conference. Consultative meetings on a number of issues were jointly organized for the African Group during the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5-13 September 1994); study tours were jointly undertaken to a selected number of countries to exchange views and experiences among African countries; and both organizations organized and serviced meetings of the African Population Commission and undertook follow-up activities.

17. ECA has collaborated with OAU in various meetings and seminars organized in the following areas: domestic mobilization of financial resources for the development of Africa; the role of African workers and trade unions in subregional and regional economic integration; the mobilization of resources and public awareness for refugees in Africa; trade policies and World Trade Organization negotiations; future relations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union; and globalization, development and international labour standards. ECA and OAU are also working jointly on the protocol on science and technology to be annexed to the Abuja Treaty establishing AEC.

B. United Nations Children's Fund

18. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has worked closely with OAU in efforts to create an enabling environment for the pursuit of an "anti-war agenda". It has provided technical assistance to OAU and its subregional organizations in planning conflict resolution activities and strengthening continent-wide efforts to ensure the survival, protection and development of children by helping to build, at regional levels, consensus for child-friendly human development.

19. UNICEF worked with OAU counterparts to ensure a total ban on landmines in Africa. A joint report on the impact of landmines on the continent was developed and submitted to the OAU Council of Ministers and the summit meeting in Harare in June, which adopted a decision on the matter. The outcome of a UNICEF workshop on child-soldiering, which was attended by OAU, was submitted to the Summit of African First Ladies (Abuja, April 1997). As a result of joint action by OAU and UNICEF, the OAU summit adopted a declaration by the African First Ladies banning child-soldiering and called upon the international community to consider it a war crime.

20. A joint OAU/World Health Organization (WHO)/ILO/UNICEF seminar on the protection of the child and the elimination of child labour in Africa was held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in March and April 1997. The recommendations of the seminar were adopted at the twentieth session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission. The report of the Commission was endorsed at the OAU summit in June, as were the recommendations of the Arusha seminar, which are to be submitted as the African Common Position at the Conference on Child Labour to be held at Oslo in October 1997. The Commission has also proposed that 1998 be proclaimed the African Year of Child Protection and is expected to review the initiative at its twenty-first session.

21. In September 1996 in Kampala, UNICEF supported the organization of a conference on the education of women and girls in collaboration with the Government of Uganda. The conference, in which 35 countries participated, proposed a programme of action for improving girls' access to school and women's literacy. UNICEF collaborated in the organization of the pan-African conference on the participation of youth in peace and development, which took place in Addis Ababa and funded the participation of African youth in the conference. UNICEF developed and presented a paper on girls' contribution to peace and development at the conference. On 16 June 1997, in Addis Ababa, UNICEF, in

collaboration with OAU, organized the Day of the African Child. UNICEF is currently working with OAU on preparations for the launching of the African Decade for Education in September 1997 and on the Conference of African Ministers of Education in April 1998.

22. As a follow-up to the OAU International Conference on Assistance to African Children (Dakar, 25-27 November 1992) and the implementation of both of the Consensus of Dakar adopted at the Conference and the relevant resolution of the OAU Council of Ministers, OAU and UNICEF continue to work towards the control of deficiencies in micronutrients such as iodine, vitamin A and iron in Africa. In March 1997, OAU member States were requested to respond to a questionnaire that will furnish important information that OAU needs to promote intercountry collaboration and advocacy in this important programme area.

C. United Nations Development Programme

23. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided support to OAU under a programme entitled "Promotion of Africa's economic cooperation and integration through the establishment of the African Economic Community". The \$2,619,000 programme is aimed at supporting the efforts of OAU member States in promoting economic cooperation and integration to achieve self-sustaining economic development.

24. A \$3 million, three-year project, entitled "Capacity-building for the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution", was approved on 9 May 1997. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the operational capacity of the mechanism. The project has three main components: capacity-building in preventive diplomacy, capacity-building for resource mobilization and human resources capacity-building in the conflict management division.

25. UNDP assistance is also focused on establishing an effective early warning system within the OAU Conflict Management Division. This includes training sessions for the officers of the Division in appropriate information analysis methodologies and in the preparation of regular reports, briefings and background materials on impending conflict situations. UNDP will finance in-house training workshops for the staff of the Division in the areas of conflict analysis and resolution, military strategy and project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, training sessions for the electoral monitors of OAU will be conducted, and peace missions to areas of potential conflict will be undertaken.

26. UNDP will commission a study to develop strategies to mobilize resources and will finance training sessions for the staff of the OAU secretariat based on a new resource mobilization strategy. Fund-raising campaigns and donor conferences are also planned to increase the financial resources of the OAU Peace Fund.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

27. As a follow-up to the decisions of AMCEN at its sixth session, UNEP, ECA and OAU organized the ninth meeting of the Bureau of AMCEN in December 1996. The meeting provided a framework for consultations among African Governments as well as the review of issues that were considered at the nineteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council (Nairobi, 27 January-7 February 1997).

28. The meeting also recommended the organization in March 1997 of a pan-African conference on environment and development to review the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the follow-up in Africa on the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The pan-African conference was convened under the auspices of OAU and jointly organized by the interim secretariat of the Convention, UNEP and the UNDP Office to Combat Desertification and Drought. The report of the Conference was endorsed by the OAU Council of Ministers at its sixty-sixth ordinary session in May 1997.

E. United Nations Population Fund

29. The assistance provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to OAU started in 1984, focusing on assisting member States to adopt and implement population policies and programmes. That assistance was expanded in 1994 to include the implementation of the Dakar-Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development of the Third African Population Conference (Dakar, 11 and 12 December 1992), as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. With UNFPA assistance, greater collaboration was developed among OAU, ECA and ADB to create a joint secretariat for the African Population Commission, which was established by OAU to address issues related to socio-economic development in Africa.

30. Under the terms of the four-year programme agreement between UNFPA and OAU, the following major activities were carried out: the African conference on the empowerment of women through functional literacy and the education of the girl-child, convened jointly by OAU and the Government of Uganda (Kampala, September 1996); study tours of African Population Commission members to Cameroon, Egypt, Mauritius, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe, organized by OAU; a study on the consequences of rapid population growth and conflicts: a case study of Kenya, commissioned by OAU; and the second meeting of the follow-up committee for the implementation of the Dakar-Ngor Declaration and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, organized by OAU (Addis Ababa, June 1997).

F. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

31. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) assisted the OAU secretariat in drafting the Declaration and Plan of Action on Drug Abuse Control and Illicit Drug Trafficking in Africa, which was adopted by OAU at its summit in July 1996. UNDCP supported the OAU secretariat in the implementation of the Plan of Action through a technical cooperation project to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat to discharge its role as a catalyst in this respect.

32. UNDCP participated in the twentieth ordinary session of the OAU Labour and Social Commission (Addis Ababa, April 1997) and the thirty-third Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU (Harare, 2-4 June 1997). To promote implementation of the Plan of Action and support from the donor community, UNDCP made a presentation to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the current drug situation in Africa and the efforts being made by the Programme to promote joint action to counter the problem in Africa. The OAU Council of Ministers in May 1997 endorsed four recommendations directly related to drug control, calling for strengthening of cooperation between OAU and UNDCP.

G. World Food Programme

33. In 1996, the operational expenditures of the World Food Programme (WFP) in OAU member States amounted to \$553,322,000. The highest priority was given to sub-Saharan African countries, which received 52 per cent of total WFP assistance. Emergency relief continued to be the primary form

of WFP assistance to Africa, with 70 per cent of the Programme's total relief assistance going to sub-Saharan Africa. Relief assistance exceeded \$434,568,000 in 1996. More than half of that amount, \$256,564,000, was channelled towards helping the victims of man-made disasters, while \$20,200,000 was provided to areas stricken by drought and crop failure. Some \$178,004,000 was provided to protracted refugee and displaced person operations.

34. In addition, WFP continued to provide development assistance to the region in accordance with the priority sectors identified by OAU and in line with the mission statement of WFP. In 1996, 6 million chronically hungry people received food through 80 WFP-assisted development projects in 37 African countries. WFP assistance for human resources development totalled \$65 million, and included in-school feeding at the primary and secondary levels, technical and vocational training and institutional feeding centres. A total of \$25 million was spent on agricultural and rural development activities throughout Africa. Moreover, WFP purchased 385,000 metric tons of food commodities in sub-Saharan Africa in 1996 at a total cost of \$98.7 million.

35. The WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Project played an important role in directing the WFP disaster mitigation activities and targeting food assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure beneficiaries. There are VAM field units in Ethiopia, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania. Additional VAM units are being opened in Burkina Faso to service the Sahel, and in Uganda to service the Great Lakes region.

36. WFP is a major provider of skills and management training to local and counterpart staff in Africa. WFP trained more than 1,700 local counterpart staff in Africa last year and continued to emphasize training activities in areas such as project identification and implementation, monitoring and reporting and food storage and management. In its effort to increase the role of women, WFP has initiated gender activities for both development and relief projects in African countries.

H. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

37. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) continued to collaborate with OAU in the implementation of a joint project aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the OAU secretariat in the human settlements field as well as in areas of natural disaster

prevention, reduction and response. The project entered its last phase in February 1997 and will end in November 1997.

38. Cooperation between the Centre and OAU was strengthened during the sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, which represents the shelter and human settlements component of the United Nation System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. OAU has also sought to further its cooperation with the Centre by identifying programme support activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa. The proposed activities include convening in the year 2000 programme implementation review meetings of African experts and ministers responsible for human settlements, the organization of workshops on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and a proposal to establish a pan-African human settlements information system.

39. The Centre continued to work closely with OAU in formulating and implementing policies and projects related to human settlements and sustainable development through its community-based environment information system, its sustainable cities and capacity-building programmes and other programmes. In furtherance of this spirit of cooperation, the Centre was represented at and actively participated in the joint OAU/African Network for Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect Conference on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (Addis Ababa, July 1997).

I. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

40. As a follow-up to the recommendations of last year's OAU seminar on the establishment of an early warning system, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) conducted a two-day training programme in October 1996 on the UNHCR database, REFWORLD. Participants were staff of the OAU Division for Refugees, Displaced Persons and Humanitarian Affairs and Conflict Management. UNHCR also provided essential computer equipment to the Refugee Division.

41. UNHCR participates regularly in the meetings of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees. As a follow-up to a recommendation of the Commission, a seminar was jointly organized by UNHCR and OAU on mobilizing resources and public awareness for refugees in Africa. As current chair of the OAU Coordinating Committee on Assistance to Refugees, UNHCR is leading the Committee in the ongoing review process to make it a more effective body in assisting refugees in Africa.

42. UNHCR also extended assistance and support to the missions of the OAU Commission of Twenty to visit refugee sites in eastern Africa and the Great Lakes region in December 1996 and May 1997 respectively. As a result of the mission to Ethiopia, OAU granted \$50,000 to UNHCR to assist Somali refugees in the eastern camps.

43. UNHCR made presentations at meetings organized by OAU in collaboration with other international organizations, such as the International Peace Academy/OAU seminar on peacemaking, as well as participating in other joint meetings, including the OAU/non-governmental organization conference on strengthening cooperation between civil society, OAU and Governments. UNHCR also participated in OAU technical meetings, including those of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group, which has been formed to prepare an OAU report on the effects of conflict on human development.

J. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

44. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided assistance in December 1996 to the OAU Scientific, Technical and Research Commission for the revival of the Inter-African Bureau of Soils Library based in Lagos. FAO and OAU also jointly organized and conducted training sessions for young scientists and managers on trypanosomiasis. Close cooperation continued with regard to the rinderpest control programme under the Emergency Prevention System.

45. FAO has also cooperated intensively with OAU in the field of plant protection, integrated pest management, the Emergency Prevention System and related activities, particularly those concerning pesticides. With financial assistance from the Netherlands, FAO has developed a series of guidelines, which have been published in four major languages and distributed to all OAU member countries. Seminars are conducted regionally and in various individual countries in Africa.

46. FAO is assisting countries that participate in the Special Programme for Food Security with data collection and dissemination and with water resources and irrigation technology transfer. Assistance is also provided to regional networks such as the Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage in Central and Western Africa and the Technical Cooperation Network for Wetland Development and Management.

47. Since the fourth session of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission's Inter-African Committee on Oceanography, Sea and Inland Fisheries (Pointe Noire, Congo, April 1996), OAU and FAO have agreed to coordinate the scheduling of their meetings in the future. Furthermore, the two organizations, together with UNEP, have agreed to collaborate in the implementation of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission Pan-African Ocean Environment and Management Programme.

48. FAO continued to assist African countries in assessing the impact on domestic agricultural policies of the Uruguay Round agreement on agriculture. A round table for SADC countries was convened in early 1997, and the proceedings of the meeting will be shared with OAU as a contribution to its activities on trade and regional integration.

K. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

49. During the period under review, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and OAU held their fifth consultation meeting (Addis Ababa, January 1997), which focused on the importance of regional integration in Africa, the culture of peace and the follow-up to the recommendations of the UNESCO "Audience Africa" meeting (Paris, 6-10 February 1995). At the sectoral level, the two organizations decided to stress existing cooperation in the field of education. The regional consultation meeting, held at Dakar in March and April 1997, in preparation for the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education (Paris, 28 September-2 October 1998), was one of the contributions made by UNESCO to the Decade.

50. On 30 January 1997, UNESCO held a meeting at Addis Ababa to enable the ambassadors accredited to OAU and AEC to gain a better understanding, among other things, of the role of UNESCO in the programmes of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, for which it is a lead agency. UNESCO acted as facilitator in the preparation of the programme of support to educational rehabilitation in Africa, to be implemented by OAU, UNESCO and the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help, an Afro-American organization.

51. The UNESCO office in Addis Ababa has been strengthened, and three programme experts in education, science and technology and the culture of peace have been assigned to it. In addition, UNESCO continued to provide technical assistance to the Pan-African News Agency. This contribution has been complemented by several financial

donations, to which UNESCO has decided to add an exceptional amount of \$720,000 in January 1998.

L. World Health Organization

52. WHO collaboration with OAU during the period under review has covered human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), nutrition, social development, humanitarian action, malaria control and environmental health. Considerable work is being accomplished by national authorities for AIDS prevention and control in OAU member States. WHO gives technical and financial support to such national AIDS programmes following the recommendations of the Fifth Conference of African Ministers of Health, held in Cairo, and sponsored the Ninth International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa.

53. Regarding food and nutrition in the context of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (1993-2003), an inter-country workshop of the African Micronutrient Task Force for the Eastern and Southern African Regions subgroup was organized by OAU and co-sponsored by WHO in Addis Ababa. WHO, in collaboration with OAU, organized a seminar in Arusha on the Abolition and Elimination of Child Labour, from 31 March to 3 April 1997, and presented a technical paper entitled "Child labour in Africa and its impact on socio-sanitary development".

54. At their summit in June 1997, the Heads of State and Government of OAU adopted the Harare Declaration on Malaria Prevention and Control in the Context of African Economic Recovery and Development and a Plan of Action. WHO assisted in the preparation of the document at the request of the Government of Zimbabwe.

M. World Bank

55. Over the past year, the World Bank has intensified its efforts to build collaboration with OAU in pursuit of its shared goal of African development. One area of focus that has already been identified is trade and investment in Africa. The Bank is facilitating the exploration of OAU participation, possibly in tandem with ADB and ECA, in the Investment Promotion Network of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, to promote investments in Africa.

N. International Monetary Fund

56. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provided financial assistance to African countries in support of their structural adjustment programmes through the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF), the Extended Fund Facility and stand-by arrangements. As of end-June, there were 25 arrangements (including 21 ESAF arrangements) in place with OAU member countries, for a total commitment of 3.6 billion special drawing rights (SDR); the undrawn balance totalled SDR 1.4 billion. Through its catalytic role, IMF also assisted African countries in mobilizing additional resources through participation in multilateral aid coordination conferences (e.g., consultative group meetings and UNDP-sponsored round-table discussions, as well as in the context of the World Bank's Special Programme of Assistance for Africa), and through debt rescheduling in the framework of the Paris Club. Moreover, together with the World Bank, the Fund has created a framework for action to resolve the external debt problems of the heavily indebted low-income countries, including their large multilateral debt. Three African countries are among the first four cases to be considered for eligibility under that Initiative.

57. The Fund has maintained and intensified its dialogue with OAU, through direct contacts with the OAU secretariat, in the form of high-level meetings, the accreditation of a Fund representative to the OAU secretariat in Ethiopia, through participation in conferences and various forums on economic issues and as regular observers in meetings of the OAU Economic and Social Committee and at the annual meetings. The Fund is continuing to help African countries to establish the macroeconomic frameworks needed to underpin the implementation of the social and sectoral programmes carried out by other members of the United Nations system, as part of the Special Initiative on Africa, which is based on the priorities set out by the OAU Council of Ministers at its seventeenth extraordinary session (Cairo, March 1995).

O. International Fund for Agricultural Development

58. By the end of 1996, the assistance of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to sub-Saharan Africa amounted to SDR 1,579.22 million (\$2,018.14 million) in loans and grants for 207 projects in 47 countries. Of the total project cost of \$5,016.60 million, IFAD contributed 40 per cent.

59. In addition, under its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, IFAD, by the end of 1995, had provided SDR 284.75 million (\$377.21 million) for 47 projects in 26

countries, including grants for projects of SDR 1.30 million (\$9.13 million). In 1996, sub-Saharan Africa received SDR 118.65 million (\$171.73 million) in assistance from IFAD for 15 projects in as many countries. Of the total project cost of \$393.65 million, IFAD contributed 44 per cent.

60. Through its technical assistance grant programme supporting agricultural research and training in Africa, IFAD continued to focus on improving the technical basis of its investment portfolio. IFAD projects are increasingly located in resource-poor areas with marginal ecologies in which few sustainable agricultural technologies are available. IFAD has focused strongly on food crops and livestock that the rural poor have traditionally produced and consumed as well as on the development of conservation-based technologies (mainly innovative agroforestry-oriented technologies) to promote sustainable agriculture.

P. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

61. A mid-term evaluation of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002) was conducted jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), OAU and ECA during the first quarter of 1997. The evaluation mission assessed the achievements of the Decade, identified and assessed critical factors that could have facilitated or impeded the achievements of the objectives and expected outputs of the programme, examined the relationship between the Decade and the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization and made recommendations regarding the design, implementation and monitoring of the programme.

62. UNIDO, OAU and ECA jointly organized the thirteenth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (Accra, May 1997). Conference participants adopted the Plan of Action on the Alliance of Africa's Industrialization, which aims at transforming African countries into newly industrialized countries, enhancing institutional capacity-building including human resource development and the integration of women in industry and mobilizing investment and technical assistance resources for the implementation of priority programmes. The Plan of Action was endorsed by the OAU Heads of State and Government at their summit in June 1997.

V. Cooperation in other areas

A. International Civil Aviation Organization

63. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continued to support the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and provided information to ECA following the adoption of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. In addition, ICAO continued to play a very active role in the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000) by contributing to the work of the Resources Mobilization Committee, which has prepared a list of projects for the Decade.

64. A close and continuous working relationship was maintained between ICAO and the African Civil Aviation Commission. ICAO provided the Commission with expert advice and secretariat assistance upon request. Documents and studies of interest to the African region were provided to OAU on a regular basis to allow it to maintain basic documentation on civil aviation matters.

B. Universal Postal Union

65. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) took concrete measures to help OAU member countries to reform their postal services into efficient and business-oriented entities. Those measures have intensified since the ministerial meeting organized by UPU in Abidjan in July 1996 to review the postal sector in African countries in the context of the new initiatives launched by the United Nations system in favour of Africa. UPU also provided assistance to certain OAU member countries faced with a post-conflict situation where vast reconstruction measures are required to be taken. UPU also proposed to OAU, for incorporation in the treaty instituting ACC, some sectoral objectives covering the development and modernization of postal services in Africa.

66. Finally, the Union, on 25 April 1997, concluded an agreement with the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) on the development and modernization of postal services in Africa for the period from 1997 to 1999. The agreement targets the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa and the implementation, in full cooperation with PAPU, of the objectives of the Maseru and Abidjan plans of action adopted by the ministers in charge of the postal sector in Africa in 1996. Under the agreement, the Union will contribute over 1 million Swiss francs, while the PAPU share will be about 153,000 Swiss francs.

C. World Meteorological Organization

67. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established a subregional office for West Africa in Lagos in early 1997. The office will assist countries in West Africa in the identification of needs, the formulation of national and subregional projects and the mobilization of resources for their implementation. WMO has continued to participate in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa.

68. As part of its contribution to the humanitarian efforts in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, WMO has collaborated with the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development in the Niger and the Drought Monitoring Centre in Nairobi in providing information on both short- and medium-term weather forecasts and seasonal outlooks to the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

D. International Maritime Organization

69. In the context of its integrated technical cooperation programme, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has assisted national maritime training institutions in member States of both IMO and OAU and has supplemented their capacity-building efforts with projects at the regional and subregional levels.

E. United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

70. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs has regularly cooperated with OAU, particularly in promoting international cooperation in space activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. This process is being accomplished through regional and international meetings, training courses and workshops. A summary of these activities is contained in the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/AC.105/625).

71. The continuing cooperation between the Office and OAU has been in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. On an annual basis, member States of OAU have nominated candidates for participation in the United Nations/European Space Agency long-term fellowship programme and in United Nations international training courses and meetings of experts.
