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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

**PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993**

Technical cooperation activities



The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has continued to undertake technical cooperation activities in the region through the provision of short-term regional advisory services and the monitoring and substantive support of technical assistance projects which the Commission undertakes in its capacity as an executing or associate agency.

A. Regional advisory services (ESCWA)

Within the framework of the ESCWA regular programme of regional advisory services for the period 1992-1993, assistance to member States was rendered in the following main areas: data processing, energy, environment, human resource development, development planning and policy, promotion and industrial management, national accounts and economic statistics, science and technology, transport and communications, water resource development and social statistics.

The advisory services provided during the above-mentioned period are summarized in the following paragraphs.

1. In the area of data processing, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

- (a) Bahrain. Review of building data in the 1991 census, provision of advisory services on the use of the personal computer in deriving planning and population indicators, with special emphasis on the introduction of the building data system in the Department of Physical Planning, and presentation of proposals concerning its future development strategy so that it includes both appropriate equipment for the development plan and training in the operation and maintenance of the system;
- (b) Egypt. (i) Preparation of a project document on capacity-strengthening in the field of informatics jointly by ESCWA and the Institute of Statistical Studies and Research/Cairo University, the National Centre for Social and Criminological Research and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics; and (ii) preparation of a country household-survey project;
- (c) Jordan. Data processing for the Household Income and Expenditure Survey;
- (d) Oman. Preparation of a workshop on data processing and social household surveys through the establishment of the methodological framework for the workshop's activities and a suitable approach for dealing with its training component in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour;
- (e) Palestine. (i) Offering of opinions and suggestions on strengthening its statistical organization and providing social and economic data and indicators for the purposes of Palestinian national development in the self-rule areas and the occupied Palestinian territories; and (ii) advisory services on preparations for constructing integrated economic and social statistical data-processing frameworks by preparing for censuses on buildings, housing, installations and agricultural households in Palestinian camps in the Syrian Arab Republic;
- (f) Qatar. (i) Strengthening of statistical activity and computer and software technology at the University of Qatar and in its research centres; and (ii) establishment of an information centre in the secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning;
- (g) Saudi Arabia. (i) Preparation of a study on the processing of transport data and the assessment of their accuracy as well as the definition of the related specifications for computers and for existing software that might be used for storing and analysing the data of the Ministry of

Communications; (ii) development of statistical data processing; (iii) preparation of a number of studies on statistics; (iv) unification of production-unit standards for the various product coding systems; (v) assessment of the computer operations of the Industrial Affairs Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Electricity;

(h) United Arab Emirates. Support to and strengthening of statistical work in the Economic Department (Sharjah Emirate);

(i) Yemen. (i) Processing of data from the Family Budget Survey, offering of opinions on and publication of the results of the Labour Force Survey and expression of opinions on the question of whether data processing should or should not be central; and (ii) processing of data from the general census of population and housing to be conducted in 1994, for the Central Statistics Office.

Other activities included the following:

(a) Participation in the seventeenth international conference on statistics, computer science and computer applications in the scientific, social and demographic fields, organized in Cairo by Helwan University;

(b) Participation in the Regional Working Group for Users and Producers of Maternal and Child Health Information for Policy Formulation and Programming, organized in Cairo by the Pan Arab Project for Child Development;

(c) Assistance and participation in the organization of a Seminar on Household Surveys for Heads of Statistical Organizations and Senior Statisticians in the ESCWA Region, held in Cairo at the headquarters of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (Egypt);

(d) Participation in the meeting for the review of the Household Survey Project with the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND);

(e) Follow-up on activities connected with the Household Survey Project in the ESCWA region;

(f) Participation in the National Symposium for the Assessment of Developments in Arab Agricultural Statistics Organizations, organized by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development in Latakia, Syrian Arab Republic;

(g) Discussion of various aspects of cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in statistical fields and activities;

(h) Participation in the Fourth Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region, held at Amman.

2. In the area of energy, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

(a) Egypt. (i) Preparation of a project document on biogas units and the treatment of waste from animal farms; (ii) diffusion of technology on the conversion of environmentally sound algal biomass for sustainable development in Wadi Gedid Governorate; (iii) definition of modalities of

technical cooperation among the agencies in charge of the execution of the project for the introduction of biogas technology in the village of Al-Shohada in the Noubaria area;

(b) Jordan. (i) Advisory services on biogas production units, within the framework of the project executed jointly by the Jordanian Electricity Authority and the University of Jordan; and (ii) preparation for the training symposium on the design and installation of biogas production units in Jordan;

(c) Oman. Evaluation of the prospects for introducing renewable energy technologies in rural and remote areas of Oman and preparation of preliminary economic-evaluation studies for the establishment of a project to exploit wind energy in the Thamrit region of southern Oman and an estimative study the use of photovoltaic cells as an alternative to power lines for bringing electricity to remote areas of the Sultanate;

(d) Palestine. Preparation of a project document on the provision of initial assistance for the introduction of biogas technology in the occupied Palestinian territories;

(e) Qatar. Advisory services to the University of Qatar on research programmes and educational curricula in the field of energy;

(f) Syrian Arab Republic. (i) Preparation of proposals concerning biogas for the regional project on Development of Renewable Energy and drafting specifications to be applied by the consultant in charge of supervising the execution of the part pertaining to biogas; and (ii) technical support to the Interregional Symposium on Natural Gas Development Prospects until the Year 2000, held in France;

(g) Yemen. (i) Preparation of proposals concerning the competence and functions of the Renewable Energy Administration and its organizational structure, and of an outline of its plan of action to the year 1994; and (ii) an initial assessment of geothermal energy sources in various areas of the country.

Other activities included the following:

(a) Participation in the Seminar on Domestic Energy Policies and Management in the Arab Countries;

(b) Participation in the Third Cairo International Conference on Renewable Energy Sources, organized by the National Research Centre (Egypt);

(c) Participation in the Interregional Symposium on Gas Development and Market Prospects by the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(d) Participation in the Interregional Workshop on the Role of Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, held at Beijing;

(e) Participation in the training programme on environmental development perspectives for energy projects in the Arab Region organized by the Arab Institute for Planning in Kuwait;

(f) Preparation of a regional biomass project;

- (g) Attendance at the Regional Symposium on Water Use and Conservation;
- (h) Attendance at the Fourth Arab International Solar Energy Conference;
- (i) Attendance at the Expert Group Meeting on the Substitution of Ozone-Depleting Substances in the ESCWA Region;
- (j) Participation, together with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jordan), in the holding of a regional training course on the installation and operation of biogas units;
- (k) Participation in the working group to prepare a draft project document for the establishment of the Arab Centre for Strategic Studies.

3. In the area of environment, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries, as specified in each case:

- (a) Bahrain. A study on the establishment of clean industrial facilities to protect the environment;
- (b) Egypt. A study of water quality in connection with the environmental database in Egypt;
- (c) Jordan. Participation, in cooperation with the Directorate of Environment of the Ministry of Urban, Rural and Environmental Affairs, in the preparation of a study on environmental awareness programmes;
- (d) Kuwait. Evaluation of the environmental impact of the Gulf war;
- (e) Oman. (i) Preparation of the Solid Waste Project; and (ii) participation in the National Strategy Seminar on the Protection of the Omani Environment and participation in the preparation of necessary recommendations to be included in the strategy;
- (f) Saudi Arabia. (i) Assessment of the environmental impact of industrial pollution; (ii) utilization of industrial waste in Saudi Arabia; (iii) assessment of the impact of industrial pollution on the environment; (iv) industrial waste recycling; and (v) visits to a number of plants to assess the environmental impact of industrial pollution, for the Ministry of Industry and Electricity;
- (g) United Arab Emirates. Evaluation of environmental management in industry at the General Industry Corporation in Abu Dhabi;
- (h) Yemen. (i) Formulation of a proposal for incorporating environmental considerations and the related costs into development plans, and evaluation of the national plan of work for the environment; (ii) participation in the national symposium on the inclusion of environmental dimensions in the decision-making process; and (iii) participation in the national symposium on the role of the media in environmental consciousness-raising.

Other activities included the following:

- (a) Preparation of a study on environmental legislation in Arab countries, which was presented at the Symposium on Environmental Legislation organized by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution;
- (b) Participation in the symposium entitled "Environment and Development: Integration, not Conflict", organized in Riyadh by the Gulf Cooperation Council, and presentation of a paper on environmental legislation in the Arab countries and its role in supporting sustainable development;
- (c) Participation in a workshop on the environmental impact of the Gulf war, organized by United Arab Emirates University;
- (d) Participation in an Expert Group Meeting on the Socio-economic Impact of Environmental Damage due to the Gulf war;
- (e) Preparation of and participation in the Regional Seminar on Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level, co-organized by ESCWA, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and the Industry and Environment Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- (f) Representation of ESCWA at the meeting of the expert committee on capacity-building in the area of sustainable development, held at Geneva and organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED);
- (g) Representation of ESCWA at the Ministerial Meeting and Second Senior-Level Seminar on Cleaner Production, organized by the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (h) Participation in the international conference on water, held in Sweden, by special invitation of the secretariat of the conference, and presentation of a working paper on water quality management in developing countries;
- (i) Participation in the Mediterranean Conference on Environmental Geotechnology and presentation of a paper on the impact of small-scale industry on the urban environment in developing countries;
- (j) Publication of a technical article on cleaner technology applications in the port of Alexandria, Egypt;
- (k) Presentation of a paper on urban settlements and the environment of poverty in the developing countries at the United Nations Seminar on Population, Environment and Development, held in New York;
- (l) Presentation of a study on environmental legislation and its relationship to air pollution in Arab countries, at the request of the League of Arab States, Tunis;
- (m) Representation of ESCWA at the Arab conference on occupational health in the Arab States, organized at Cairo by the Arab Labour Organization;
- (n) Representation of ESCWA at the meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment, at Cairo;

(o) Review of a working paper on hazardous industrial waste management in the Arab countries, presented by ESCWA at the League of Arab States' symposium on industrial pollution;

(p) Review of a report on the environmental perspective to the year 2000 and beyond in the ESCWA region;

(q) Participation in the Fourth International Symposium on Industry and Environment in the Developing World, held at Alexandria;

(r) Participation in the working group to prepare a draft project document for the establishment of the Arab Centre for Strategic Studies.

4. In the area of human resource development, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

(a) Jordan. (i) Preparation of a study on the products of the educational system and the needs of the labour market in Jordan; and (ii) participation in a training course on the preparation of project documents, organized by the Jordanian Cooperative Organization;

(b) Oman. (i) Preparation of a study on the creation of a labour-force planning unit and offering of opinions on the national training plan being prepared by the Ministry of Civil Service; (ii) preparation of a study on labour-force development in the Omani National Transport Company with a view to replacing immigrant staff with Omani staff; (iii) fieldwork for and preparation of a study on training requirements for members of the general directorate for local community development; and (iv) preparation of a training course for department chiefs and heads of centres in the field of local community development in Oman;

(c) Yemen. Study of the feasibility of founding two new universities, one in Ta'izz and the other in Hadramaut.

Other activities included the following:

(a) Participation in the twentieth session of the Arab Labour Conference;

(b) Participation in the Regional and National Conference for Business and Professional Woman in Jordan;

(c) Participation in the Meeting of Experts on Unemployment in ESCWA Countries;

(d) Participation in the round table on education for all, organized in Damascus by the Regional Office for Education in the Arab States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

(e) Representation of ESCWA at the opening of the Nahr al-Azim (Great River) in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

(f) Attendance at the Expert Group Meeting on Human Development in the Arab World;

(g) Attendance at the National Workshop on Enhancing Environmental Planning and Management Capabilities in Jordan.

5. In the area of development planning and policy, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

(a) Palestine. Preparation of a study on economic and social conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories;

(b) Oman. Participation in the preparation and evaluation of a plan for the development of the central region;

(c) United Arab Emirates. (i) Review of the organizational structure of the Economic Department; (ii) preparation of a short- and medium-term plan of work for the Economic Department; and (iii) advisory services on the transfer of work coming within the competence of the Economic Department but performed by other agencies.

Other activities included the following:

(a) Preparation of a study on the economic and social conditions of the Syrian people under Israeli occupation in the occupied Syrian Golan;

(b) Participation in the symposium on assistance to the Palestinian People, held in Paris;

(c) Discussion of cooperation between ESCWA and the Islamic Development Bank on the joint programme for the Palestinian People in the occupied territories;

(d) Attendance at meetings of the second scientific conference of the Arab Association for Economic Research on "Human resources in the Arab world: present and future", held in Beirut;

(e) Participation in the discussion group on the future of Arab development, organized by the Arab Institute for Planning in Kuwait in cooperation with the Arab Association for Economic Research and held at Cairo;

(f) Representation of ESCWA at meetings of joint financial organizations, organized by the financing institutions and Arab joint funds and held in Tunis;

(g) Representation of ESCWA at expert group meetings on the development prospects of the Palestinian Economy in the occupied Palestinian territories, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at Geneva;

(h) Participation in the Symposium on the Economic Impact of a Peaceful Settlement of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, organized by the Cultural Academy in Abu Dhabi;

(i) Participation in the Scientific Conference on the Economics of Peace in the Middle East, organized in Jordan by Yarmouk University in cooperation with the Canadian Fund for Dialogue and Development.

6. In the area of promotion and industrial management, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

(a) Jordan. (i) Preparation of a study for the Ministry of Industry and Trade on the establishment of advanced methods of determining value added and the share of local manufacturing in industrial production; (ii) preparation of a report on investment incentives in the industrial sector in Jordan and participation in joint meetings of the Higher Council on Science and Technology; and (iii) participation in the preparation of a training course on the preparation of project documents, organized by the Jordanian Cooperative Organization jointly with ESCWA;

(b) Lebanon. (i) A diagnostic study of two cement plants in Shakkra; (ii) advisory services to a number of existing industries; and (iii) assistance with a survey of industrial and productive establishments belonging to the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

(c) Oman. Preparation of a report on the most significant features of the Omani economy and the role of the agricultural sector in it, and supplying of particulars on the major components of the agricultural sector, animal resources and the role and functions of the Department of Agricultural and Animal Industries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries;

(d) United Arab Emirates. (i) Preparation for the organization of a training course for the employees of the Emirates Industrial Bank and the Industrial Bank of Dubai on feasibility studies for industrial projects; and (ii) an efficiency study of the use of raw materials by the factories of the General Industry Corporation in Abu Dhabi and a study of wasted energy in the Al-Ain cement plant and the possibilities for its use;

(e) Syrian Arab Republic. Preparation for the provision of advisory services to a number of existing industries;

(f) Yemen. Supervision of the preparation of a study for the Seminar on Industrial Development and Investment Promotion in the Republic of Yemen and presentation of the report at the symposium.

Other activities included the following:

(a) Participation in the symposium on the tractor and agricultural-machinery industry in the Arab States, organized in the Syrian Arab Republic by the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO);

(b) Participation in the fifth Arab conference on soaps, detergents and cosmetics, organized in Jordan by the Arab Federation for Food Industries;

(c) Follow-up on the Regional Survey of Production and Consumption of Substances Harmful to the Ozone Layer in the ESCWA Region, a joint project of ESCWA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(d) Follow-up on the programme for the Arab States, a joint programme of ESCWA, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), AIDMO and the League of Arab States that comprises a number of projects being carried out on a basis of cooperation among those organizations;

(e) Follow-up on the project on engineering infrastructures in the Arab States, a joint project of ESCWA, UNDP, AIDMO, the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development;

(f) Participation in the working group to prepare a draft project document for the establishment of the Arab Centre for Strategic Studies;

(g) Participation in the Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Automation and Microprocessor Controls;

(h) Participation in the Expert Group Meeting on the Prospects for the Substitution of Ozone-Depleting Substances in the ESCWA Region;

(i) Participation in the National Workshop on Enhancing Environmental Planning and Management Capabilities in Jordan.

7. In the area of national accounts and economic statistics, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

(a) Bahrain. Conducting of the first industrial survey of the State of Bahrain, including the designing of the survey form, preparation of the definitions, concepts and instructions for filling in the form, establishment of procedures for reviewing and checking both in the field and in the office and preparation of training, preliminary tests and distribution tables;

(b) Palestine. (i) Preparation of an analytical study of national accounts data in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; and (ii) analysis of data and statistics on the industrial sector and data on foreign trade in the West Bank and Gaza Strip;

(c) Jordan. Advisory services on the Household Income and Expenditure Survey in Jordan;

(d) Kuwait. (i) A study on developing the financial bulletin for statistics on banking, insurance and joint-stock companies; (ii) establishment of the conceptual framework for charts of financial flows; (iii) examination of the questionnaires used for collecting data from the various sectors and the final accounts of the Government sector and certain units of the business sector; and (iv) preparation for a training course on national accounts;

(e) Lebanon. Consumer price indexes and national accounts;

(f) Oman. (i) Preparation of an integrated plan for developing national statistics; (ii) preparation of a formula for measuring inflation, determining appropriate means for limiting price increases and evaluating the results of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey; and (iii) advisory services on foreign trade;

(g) Qatar. (i) Planning data required for development planning; (ii) planning tools for the Supreme Council for Planning; and (iii) strengthening of statistical work and computer and software technology at the University of Qatar and in its research centres;

(h) United Arab Emirates. (i) Support to and strengthening of statistical work in the Economic Department in Sharjah Emirate; (ii) development of the financial system and implementation of the necessary related changes in the administrative system of the Department of Statistics;

(iii) development of financial resources; (iv) advisory services on consumer price indexes; and (v) review of certain points relating to proposed modifications of the United Nations System of National Accounts, with the inclusion of national accounts estimates; and (vi) definition of a programme of cooperation with the municipality of Dubai relating to technical forms, statistical training, printed materials and technical cooperation.

Other activities included the following:

(a) Participation in the Symposium on the revised United Nations System of National Accounts, held in Mexico;

(b) Participation in the Preparatory Steering Committee for the Second Arab Conference on National Accounts, organized at Cairo by the League of Arab States;

(c) Attendance at the meetings of the committee to monitor the application of the United Nations System of National Accounts, at the headquarters of the League of Arab States;

(d) Attendance at a seminar in New York on preparing and compiling national accounts.

8. In the area of science and technology, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

(a) Jordan. Utilization of scrap metal, analysis of the data from the field survey and sorting of local scrap metal with a view to its utilization in local industry;

(b) Lebanon. (i) A diagnostic study of two cement plants in Shakka for the Council for Development and Reconstruction; (ii) assistance to a number of existing industries; and (iii) assistance on a survey of industrial and productive establishments belonging to the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

(c) Oman. (i) Evaluation of research activity; (ii) creation of avenues of study of the exploitation of the date palm and the date; and (iii) establishment of the scientific and technological foundations for the textile agricultural laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries;

(d) Syrian Arab Republic. Preparation of a study on a number of the country's existing industries;

(e) United Arab Emirates. (i) An efficiency study of the use of raw materials by the factories of the General Industry Corporation in Abu Dhabi and study of wasted energy in the Al-Ain cement plant and of its possible uses; and (ii) advisory services on a number of existing industries;

(f) Yemen. (i) Scientific research strategy in Yemen; (ii) expansion of the curricula of higher studies; (iii) establishment of a research centre on the island of Suqatra; (iv) feasibility study on putting the vegetable oil factory back into operation; (v) follow-up on the progress made in the creation of a science and technology centre; (vi) evaluation of work in the field of standards and quality control; (vii) development of the salt industry; (viii) study of certain problems in the area of production of strategic commodities and procurement of local raw materials to be substituted for imported materials; and (ix) a proposal regarding the establishment of a chemical engineering department at the University of Aden.

Other activities included the following:

- (a) Participation in the symposium on the tractor and agricultural-machinery industry in the Arab States, organized by AIDMO in Latakia, Syrian Arab Republic;
- (b) Participation in the Regional Conference on Petrochemical Industries in the Arab Countries, organized in Austria by UNIDO;
- (c) Participation in the High-Level Workshop on the Implications of New and Advanced Materials Technologies for the Economies of ESCWA Countries, organized in Damascus by ESCWA in cooperation with AIDMO;
- (d) Attendance at the meetings of the fifteenth regular session of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, held at Amman;
- (e) Attendance at the Fourth World Symposium on Fertilizers at Amman;
- (f) Attendance at the Expert Group Meeting on the Prospects for the Substitution of Ozone-Depleting Substances in the ESCWA Region.

9. In the area of transport and communications, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

- (a) Bahrain. (i) Assessment of the public transport system; (ii) common objectives of public transport and physical planning; and (iii) recommendations on transport and communications policy;
- (b) Egypt. (i) Preparation of a study for the State Ministry of Administrative Development on the impact of an increase in fuel prices on public transport fares and the related impact on transport users in Greater Cairo; (ii) assistance in preparing the study being carried out jointly by the Organization of Transport Enterprises in the Ministry of Public Transport and Communications and the Technological Centre for Planning and Development, Cairo University, on public transport fare policies in the Greater Cairo area;
- (c) Jordan. Participation, within a working group, in the preparation of a study for the Ministry of Transport on the possibility of making the port of Aqaba a free zone;
- (d) Kuwait. (i) Preparation of a study on the future bases of transport; (ii) preparation of a maritime transport plan for Kuwait covering the period to the year 2000; (iii) evaluation of the damage caused to the transport sector as a result of the Gulf war; (iv) preparation of a database for the transport sector; (v) establishment of an information centre for the refrigerator transport sector; (vi) establishment of offices for the General Transport Administration at border centres; and (vii) development of truck stops;
- (e) Lebanon. (i) Preparation of proposals regarding the organizational structure of the Ministry of Transport; (ii) establishment of free zones in Lebanon;
- (f) Oman. (i) Study of the anticipated costs and benefits of the operation of public bus services as compared with limited-capacity private cars, taking into account the hidden costs of installations and facilities pertaining to streets and stops, traffic congestion and the implications of irregular public-transport patterns; (ii) study of the five-year plan established by the Oman National

Transport Company for the purchase of 180 buses to renew the fleet and the building of a garage and state-of-the-art workshop for bus repair; and (iii) preparation of the terms of reference of a study on public transport in Oman;

(g) United Arab Emirates. (i) Preparation of a study on public transport in Abu Dhabi and Al-Ain and study of the feasibility of establishing one or two public transport companies in the Emirate; (ii) designing of samples and field studies for determining and updating field data; (iii) study of the traffic and operation system of local lines within the city of Abu Dhabi; (iv) identification of the shortages and deficiencies revealed by fieldwork and related studies in the area of traffic and operation and formulation of the necessary recommendations for the development of public transport services; and (v) designing of a new line-network system and raising of service performance levels and standards;

(h) Yemen. (i) Review and recasting of a draft maritime transport act; (ii) review of the proposed organizational structure of the Ministry of Transport and preparation of proposals regarding modifications needed to make it possible to define the spheres of competence of the various departments of the Ministry; (iii) study of overlapping between the traffic act and the proposed draft maritime transport act; and (iv) study of the relationship between the ministries and the institutions and agencies placed under them in the light of the laws being promulgated in that area.

Other activities included the following:

(a) Participation in the workshop on traffic and environment organized by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution in cooperation with the Friedrich Nauman Foundation, held in Irbid, Jordan;

(b) Attendance at the Expert Group Meeting on Training Requirements in the Transport Sector, held in Amman;

(c) Attendance at the Workshop on Multimodal Transport, in Amman;

(d) Participation in meetings of the League of Arab States on the adoption of a unified Arab *carnet de passage* (triptic);

(e) Preparation of two studies for the Expert Group Meeting on Transport Information Systems.

10. In the area of water resource development, assistance and/or advisory services were provided to the following countries in the areas specified:

(a) Bahrain. (i) Water resource management for sustainable agricultural development in Bahrain; and (ii) preparation by a group of experts of a report on the role of water resource management in controlling desertification in Bahrain;

(b) Jordan. (i) Preparation of a study on the building of small, low-cost dams in the Walah and Mujib Basins; and (ii) formulation of a drinking-water strategy to the year 2005;

(c) Oman. (i) Participation, within the framework of an expert group, in the preparation of a National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sultanate of Oman and study of the role

of effective, integrated water resource management in controlling desertification; and (ii) formulation of a programme for the operation and maintenance of drinking-water well fields for the city of Masqat;

(d) Syrian Arab Republic. (i) Preparation of a study on the prospects for developing and regulating the flow of groundwater in the Barada River source basin and using it for drinking water for the city of Damascus; (ii) preparation, for the Ministry of Irrigation, of a project document for the establishment of the Water Research Centre; and (iii) establishment of an outline for the preparation of the National Water Plan;

(e) United Arab Emirates. (i) Participation, within the framework of an expert group, in the preparation of a report on the role of water resource management in controlling desertification; (ii) advisory services on dams and aquifer recharge; (iii) advisory services on designing a dam to recharge the aquifer; and (iv) evaluation of technical reports on dams prepared by a consulting firm.

Other activities included the following:

(a) Participation in a workshop on the maintenance and development of grasslands in the Arab countries and their role in controlling desertification;

(b) Participation in a joint Egyptian-Syrian symposium on the exploitation and maintenance of irrigation and drainage projects;

(c) Participation in a working group on methods of water use in soil conservation, organized at Cairo by the League of Arab States;

(d) Participation in a workshop on the water crisis in the Arab countries, organized in Bahrain by the Arab Institute for Planning;

(e) Holding of a lecture, at the Jordanian Engineers' Association, on the topic "Water resource management: concepts, problems and solutions and their application to the situation in Jordan";

(f) Participation in the preparation of a paper on water and peace in the Middle East;

(g) Participation in a project on remote sensing and its applications in the evaluation of water resources in the ESCWA region;

(h) Participation in work on the problem of sea-water flooding and encroachment on groundwater in coastal regions;

(i) Participation in a symposium on water in the Arab World, organized in the United States of America by Harvard University and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development;

(j) Participation in, and presentation of a working paper at, the Regional Symposium on Water Use and Conservation;

(k) Participation in the expert group meeting on water harvesting and the possibility of its inclusion in agricultural projects with a view to increasing agricultural productivity, organized at Cairo by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

(l) Participation in the working group to prepare a draft project document for the establishment of the Arab Centre for Strategic Studies.

11. In the area of social statistics, advisory services were provided to Jordan in connection with the preparation of a training curriculum leading to a degree in higher studies in population and applied statistics.

Other activities included:

- (a) Attendance at the Meeting of Experts on Unemployment in ESCWA Countries;
- (b) Participation in the working group to prepare a draft project document for the establishment of the Arab Centre for Strategic Studies;
- (c) Participation in a working group to prepare a report on the role of ESCWA in the Palestinian self-rule areas;
- (d) Attendance at the Fourth Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region;
- (e) Attendance at the Regional Symposium on Water Use and Conservation;
- (f) Attendance at the Expert Group Meeting on the Prospects for the Substitution of Ozone-Depleting Substances in the ESCWA Region.

B. Projects executed by ESCWA, 1992-1993

Encouragement for undertaking industrial ventures in the ESCWA countries

Project No. RAB/89/039/E

Project objectives: To accelerate the development of a spirit of enterprise with regard to industrial projects and small industries in the ESCWA Region.

Establishment of engineering-infrastructure projects in the ESCWA region

Project No. RAB/87/013/F

- Project objectives:
- To carry out comprehensive field surveys of the capacities and capabilities of facilities producing intermediate products and products for engineering industries
 - To identify opportunities for investment in medium-sized industries and engineering industries
 - To prepare a number of project studies and feasibility studies

Western Asia household surveys

Project No. RAB/90/009/R

- Project objectives:
- To provide assistance to the countries concerned in the region for building permanent facilities for achieving efficient, well-coordinated social and economic results;
 - In the area of development, to assist participating Governments in establishing an integrated, ongoing household-survey system to provide them with the basic information needed for their national plans, policies and programmes.

Regional symposium on gas development, held in Damascus in 1992

Project No. RAB/90/29/E

