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

**THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
AND REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES**

*Technical cooperation activities*

**Summary**

This report covers technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) during 2004. It reviews the results of actions taken in response to requests by member countries for technical assistance, in addition to those activities initiated by the secretariat and with the collaboration of various partners. The report groups the relevant activities according to the six subprogrammes of ESCWA and the three primary sources of funding, namely: the regular programme of technical cooperation; the Development Account; and extrabudgetary sources, including the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities.

This report emphasizes the need for member countries to support ESCWA technical cooperation activities that contribute to the development objectives contained in the approved programme of work and that serve to advance regional cooperation and integration. Member countries are therefore encouraged to use the services available and to facilitate the flow of extrabudgetary resources to ESCWA through financial and in-kind contributions. Additionally, this report points to the need for the secretariat to actively undertake resource mobilization in order to enhance the operational activities of the Commission.

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## Introduction

1. Within the framework of the results-based management (RBM), which was approved by the Commission,<sup>1</sup> subprogramme objectives, strategy and outputs were developed with a clear focus on expected accomplishments and with specific indicators of achievement aimed at measuring results. The format of this report has consequently been altered to reflect this change in focus, thereby improving transparency and providing for results-oriented reporting. Moreover, pursuant to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 249 (XXII) of 17 April 2003, the secretariat has developed a technical cooperation (TC) strategy document aimed at strengthening consultancy services and technical cooperation activities to and among member countries.
2. This TC strategy was developed in line with the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account" (A/59/397), equally referred to as the Lindores Report, which calls for technical cooperation activities to follow the RBM approach and that the activities are an integral part of the ESCWA programme of work. Adoption of the strategy document by the Commission at its current session would facilitate early implementation by the secretariat.
3. The development of a TC strategy, in addition to the findings of the 2002-2003 evaluation on regional advisory services, resulted in a set of new procedures for managing the regular programme of technical cooperation. These efforts were undertaken to better respond to requests from member countries. In this respect, the secretariat now also recruits technical advisers on a short-term basis to provide expertise that is not readily available in-house.
4. This shift to short-term recruitment, and the more frequent use of ESCWA staff members to provide services on an ad hoc basis, allows for greater flexibility and timeliness in addressing many of the region's emerging issues and for completion of activities within the ESCWA-identified priority areas. Within that context, ESCWA pays special attention to the following: Yemen as a least developed country; the post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq and Palestine; the advancement of women; statistics; and the sharing of knowledge and experience in social and economic development for regional integration. In this regard, the secretariat draws the Commission's attention to the fact that technical cooperation is demand-driven and, therefore, relies on the number of requests received from member countries for the provision of such services.
5. The technical cooperation activities carried out by ESCWA complement the normative and analytical work of the Commission in furthering regional cooperation and integration through national capacity-building in the following priority areas identified by ESCWA: globalization, water and energy, social policies, and information and communication technology (ICT) for regional integration. These activities are implemented through the following six subprogrammes: (a) Integrated Policies for the Management of Regional Resources for Sustainable Development; (b) Integrated Social Policies; (c) Economic Analysis and Forecasting for Regional Development; (d) Regional Integration and Responding to Globalization; (e) Information and Communication Technology for Regional Integration; and (f) Comparable Statistics for Improved Planning and Decision-making. The results achieved by ESCWA in providing regional technical assistance in 2004 through its six subprogrammes are grouped to reflect the three primary funding sources, namely: the regular programme of technical cooperation, the Development Account, and extrabudgetary resources, including the ESCWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities. Of equal importance are the results achieved in cooperation with national, regional and international governmental and non-governmental entities.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission endorsed the programme of work for 2004-2005, which was developed on the results-based budgeting concept, during its twenty-second session (Beirut, 14-17 April 2003). See *Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2004-2005* (E/ESCWA/22/7).

### Overview of the technical cooperation activities

6. The regular programme of technical cooperation (sometimes referred to as RPTC) is funded by the United Nations regular budget under section 23 and provides technical assistance to ESCWA member countries upon their request. The regular programme undertakes its technical cooperation activities through the provision of regional advisory services and the monitoring and substantive support of technical assistance training workshops and projects, which the Commission undertakes in its capacity as an executing or associate agency.

7. During 2004, a total of 205 advisory missions were carried out under the regular programme. These missions provided Governments with technical assistance in the areas of water, energy, environment, social development, women's issues, national accounts, issues related to the World Trade Organization (WTO), science and technology and communications. Long-term and short-term regional advisers and ESCWA staff members provided these services. The Syrian Arab Republic benefited from the largest number of advisory missions, a total of 46, covering all subprogrammes. With respect to the number of sector requests, WTO issues registered the highest number for a total of 32 requests, followed by science and technology and communications, each registering a total of 29. Additional details on service requests received during the period are provided in annex IV.

8. Moreover, in following up recommendations from the twenty-first session to focus attention on Arab regional integration and the study of mechanisms that would activate such integration, the regular programme prepared a report, entitled "Integration of the region: a driver for development and economic expansion", which aimed at examining the current situation of the region from the human and the natural capital dimensions as well as the economic performance perspectives. Furthermore, this report identified the challenges to development, highlighted the development approaches and strategies, defined the developmental role of Governments and determined the types of development projects that needed to be fostered. The main findings of the report underscored the importance of integrating the social and environmental dimensions into economic development policies to ensure sustainability, improve synergy and curtail waste through diversification and vertical integration, crosscutting implementation of technology and the introduction of high-tech industries.

9. The Development Account (sometimes referred to as DA) constitutes a second funding component for ESCWA technical cooperation activities.<sup>2</sup> The Development Account was first introduced in the 1998-1999 United Nations programme budget submission and provides funding for projects that can achieve the following: (a) demonstrate benefits accruing in building capacities; (b) utilize the technical, human and other resources available in developing countries; (c) have multiplier effects and promote capacity-building in developing countries; (d) promote regional and interregional economic and technical cooperation among developing countries; (e) lead to some durable, self-sustaining process and have synergies with other development interventions; and (f) be executed within two bienniums.<sup>3</sup>

10. The Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) functions as Programme Manager of the Development Account and overall guidance on its use is provided by the General Assembly. Projects submitted for funding must therefore adhere to criteria established by the General Assembly and to the subsequent policy guidance provided by DESA as indicated above. In addition, proposals must be in conformity with a theme proposed for the specific tranche. For the fifth tranche, which covers the 2006-2007 biennium, the proposed theme is "Supporting progress towards the internationally agreed development goals through knowledge-management, networking and partnerships".

11. Initial participation of ESCWA in the Development Account occurred in the second tranche (2000-2001 biennium) when it partnered with DESA, as the lead agency, and with the other regional commissions in a project to build capacity in the areas of water management and water sector investments. Since its initial involvement, ESCWA has steadily increased its participation in projects funded from the Account.

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<sup>2</sup> Detailed information on the Development Account is available at: [www.un.org/esa/devaccount/i\\_guidelines](http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/i_guidelines).

<sup>3</sup> In other words, projects approved in the 2004-2005 budget must be completed by December 2007 at the latest.

12. During the third tranche (2002-2003), ESCWA was named project coordinator/lead agency for two interregional projects, namely: Networking of Expertise in Foreign Direct Investment in the Member Countries of ESCWA, in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and Capacity-Building in Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum sea Linkages, with the other four regional commissions. The third tranche also witnessed ESCWA's participation in a number of other projects on the following topics: trade facilitation and electronic business, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); and strengthening statistical capacity, in partnership with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). Moreover, ESCWA played a supporting role in the following projects: environmental management, undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and increasing gender awareness, undertaken by DESA and ECA.
13. ESCWA continued its involvement in Development Account activities during the fourth tranche (2004-2005) and was named project coordinator for the interregional project on capacity-building in internationally shared groundwater while, at the same time, participating in two other interregional projects, namely, trade and environment, and promoting trade as an engine of growth through knowledge-management and information and communication technology (ICT). In addition, ESCWA sought and received approval for a core project to promote new technologies for employment and poverty alleviation in the ESCWA member countries; the project is currently being implemented. ESCWA is also participating in two other capacity-building projects on trade and transport facilitation, and on policy-making on ICT. Additional details on Development Account projects are provided in annex I.
14. Participants in the Development Account have recently completed the project preparation and submission phase of the fifth tranche (2006-2007). Pending the outcome of recommendations by DESA and final approval by the General Assembly, ESCWA envisages involvement in seven projects that would support knowledge management, networking and partnership in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
15. Extrabudgetary resources constitute the third funding component for technical cooperation activities undertaken by ESCWA. This component takes into consideration resources provided from the ESCWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities, in addition to all other contributions and/or donations outside the regular budget. These extrabudgetary resources are provided in annexes II and III and are divided according to technical cooperation activities and support of programmed activities.<sup>4</sup>
16. The Trust Fund for the ESCWA Regional Activities supports operational activities that further the normative and analytical work of the Commission. Since the relocation of its headquarters to Beirut in 1997, ESCWA received into the Trust Fund donations totalling \$1.6 million.
17. In 1999 a Trust Fund Committee, comprising ESCWA staff members, was established to manage the Fund. The Committee uses a number of criteria when considering proposals for funding, including the following: (a) to contribute towards achieving the MDGs, and follow up on the recommendations of the United Nations global conferences and summits, and the objectives of the Commission as set out in the Medium-Term Plan/Strategic Framework; (b) to complement the regular programme of work (sections 22, 23, and 35); (c) to strengthen interdivisional and/or inter-agency cooperation and coordination that promote synergies; and (d) to be of regional scope or, if of national scope, to be replicable in other countries.
18. During 2004, the Trust Fund continued to support a number of activities that aimed at the following: (a) encouraging consultation and participatory dialogue through information dissemination, knowledge exchange and networking; (b) capacity-building in the form of vocational training sessions and training workshops; and (c) promoting public-private partnerships. Special emphasis was placed on the role of women, youth, poverty reduction and job creation.

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<sup>4</sup> See the report by the secretariat on the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on regular budget activities during 2004 (E/ESCWA/23/5(Part I)/Add.1).

19. Within the context of cooperation in kind and partnership, the technical cooperation programme of ESCWA also garners support from national, regional and international organizations, thereby reflecting a broad spectrum of partners that include other United Nations agencies and programmes, Arab and non-Arab intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. In introducing its TC strategy, the secretariat seeks to strengthen efforts aimed at identifying and implementing project ideas consistent with the ESCWA work programme.

20. In parallel, and with a view to developing partnerships and increasing synergies of international, regional and national efforts in the field of economic and social development, ESCWA concluded a number of agreements with governmental and non-governmental entities, academic and research institutions active in the region, and other United Nations organizations.

21. Within the system of United Nations organizations, ESCWA convenes the Regional Coordination Group (RCG), which comprises representatives from United Nations agencies present in the Arab region. The ninth meeting of the RCG was held in Beirut, 23 June 2004 and centred on the promotion of increased collaboration in support of MDGs, and on matters of peace building and recovery at the regional level.

22. The meeting agreed that coordination and collaboration among United Nations agencies would be based on the comparative advantage of each agency in dealing with regional specificities. A lead agency was assigned for each MDG in order to facilitate the use of coherent and accurate data and pertinent analysis in promoting collaborative initiatives and in preparing a regional report on MDGs for 2004 that would include information on all 22 Arab countries. With respect to peace building, the meeting emphasized the need to hear the voice of the region. In this regard, the meeting suggested the establishing of a regional inter-agency support mechanism to assess the current situation and promote the adoption of a regional perspective on regional issues, thereby strengthening cooperation among stakeholders.

23. In tandem, ESCWA plans to establish a network of technical cooperation focal points in Governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, and United Nations regional offices in the ESCWA region to promote transboundary alliances through a common framework for sustained, multidisciplinary cooperation, and to constitute a basis for collaborative work and active dialogue through knowledge sharing and networking.

24. The implementation of technical cooperation activities by ESCWA permits the Commission to complement its substantive work with operational activities, thereby allowing for lessons learned and increased sharing of experience and knowledge between member countries and ESCWA, and between ESCWA and such partners as other United Nations organizations, NGOs and civil society institutions. In this respect, the Commission continues to demonstrate its comparative advantage in providing multidisciplinary advisory services, particularly in assisting member countries to formulate and implement national development policies.

25. The regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account are primary funding sources for ESCWA technical cooperation. The General Assembly determines allocation of funds to these budget sections upon approval of the United Nations biennial budget. Funds thus approved are restricted and suffer from a time lag of approximately one to two years. Extrabudgetary resources, therefore, hold greater potential for flexibility in addressing regional emerging issues and issues requiring more immediate attention, such as the provision of assistance to countries emerging from conflicts.

26. Consequently, member countries are reminded that the provision of technical cooperation is on demand and accounts for the difference in the number of activities undertaken by ESCWA in any given member country when compared with others. The demand-drive nature of technical cooperation also requires systematic follow-up by ESCWA in order to enable a process of cooperation and to ensure the achievement of results. Member countries are therefore encouraged to support the technical cooperation activities of ESCWA through increased use of the services available and through the provision of contributions, financial and in-kind, to extrabudgetary activities of the Commission, including contributions to the ESCWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities. In this connection, the attention of the member countries

is drawn to the fact that no contribution for the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities was received in 2004. Of equal importance is the need for the secretariat to be actively engaged in partnership building and resource mobilization in order to enhance its technical cooperation activities.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 1: INTEGRATED POLICIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF REGIONAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **A. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

27. Through the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), the regular programme contributed to the development of strategies and plans of action for the efficient and sustainable management of the water and energy sectors, with due consideration given to the needs and role of women; and to the formulation and implementation of policies and policy measures for sustainable development.

28. Within the energy and water sectors, services were rendered to member countries with the following aims:

(a) *Jordan*: To review technical papers on energy conservation and deliver three lectures on energy conservation, integrated electricity grids between Arab countries, and energy conservation in the electrical power sector;

(b) *Oman*: To review projects on comprehensive management of water resources and management of water demands, including the review of an integrated catchment management policies (ICMP) report, modelling reports for the Salalah region, and Najid water catchments for the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources;

(c) *United Arab Emirates*: To reformulate proposed projects on survey and monitoring of water resources and on the assessment of desalinated seawater for the Ministry of Electricity and Water;

(d) *Yemen*: To design and identify the components of a system to support the planning operation of the Ministry of Water and Environment, and to provide support and advice on developing the action on the first stage of setting national strategies on renewable energy.

29. In the area of environment, services were rendered to member countries with the following aims:

(a) *Bahrain*: To review the contents and structure of the environmental management post-graduate programme for the Arabian Gulf University aimed at developing the capacities of policy-makers and implementers of environmental management in the Gulf region;

(b) *Egypt*: To evaluate the environmental management system of the Industrial City of the Tenth of Ramadan for the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI); and to assist, through coordination meetings with other concerned parties, on the subject of sustainable urban development, including technical assistance for the preparation of an annual report on the state of the environment and for the implementation of a number of pilot projects;

(c) *Kuwait*: To review the first stage of the project on environmental strategy by the Environment Public Authority, and to prepare the terms of reference for the second stage of the project;

(d) *Saudi Arabia*: To prepare a draft document on environmental dimensions to be the basis for the chapter on environmental and sustainable development within the eight Five-year National Development Plan;

(e) *Syrian Arab Republic*: To prepare a draft project proposal and work plan, including a new organizational structure and a data collection system, on the development of a sustainable environmental information system for the Information and Statistical Department; to establish essential data and information for the project during field visits; to prepare terms of reference for a training programme on environmental

indicators for the officials of the Information and Statistical Department; to provide advice to the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment on necessary requirements needed for the annual report on the state of the environment; to prepare a national project on industrial pollution prevention; and to prepare for a study on the legal and institutional framework, mandate responsibilities and procedures of the Directorate of Environmental Protection within the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources;

(f) *Yemen*: To identify the actual resources and mandate of the General Authority for the Promotion and Development of Yemeni Islands; to review the legislative and organizational structure of the Environment Protection Authority and the national plan for environment protection for updating purposes; to consult on a project for development of a green belt around Sana'a; and to review a project on strengthening capacity for sustainable environmental economic policy in ESCWA member countries.

30. The regular programme, through SDPD, continued to advocate for an integrated and coherent approach to sustainable development through the management of integrated water resources, renewable energy, sanitation, desertification, land degradation, and biodiversity in its efforts to ensure regional action towards the achievement of MDGs and the implementation of the outcomes of global conferences and summits, particularly, the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region. These efforts were extended through regular participation in meetings of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development (JCEDAR), which was established by the League of Arab States (LAS), ESCWA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in addition to active participation in intergovernmental meetings of the executive bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE) and in the twelfth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12).

31. Regional advisers, recruited under the regular programme, participated as resource persons in a number of regional and international events, including an expert group meeting on the structure and contents of a new environmental management postgraduate programme, which was held in the Arabian Gulf University; a seminar on the rationalization of energy consumption and environment protection in the oil industry; a regional consultation meeting on integrated water resources management, which was held within the framework of the Regional Water Initiative (RWI) for the Middle East and North Africa; a forum on national environmental strategy; and a training workshop on proper utilization of groundwater and soil for sustainable development in the Arab world, which was organized by the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD).

#### B. EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES

32. The Trust Fund provided funding for a project on the dissemination of renewable energy services to rural villages in ESCWA member countries. The project complements regular programme of work of SDPD and enabled this Division to establish the Regional Promotional Mechanism for Sustainable Energy Systems (RPMSES); to hold annual meetings; and, in partnership with the Cairo Office of UNESCO, to conduct a series of training workshops on wind energy, solar electricity, and energy efficiency and conservation. RPMSES resulted in concerted regional cooperation in the field of energy for sustainable development, which further enabled the publishing of a Regional Renewable Energy Profile, which provides quantitative and qualitative information on available resources, programmes and the potential for renewable energy in member countries. In addition, the project made possible the implementation of a regional programme to build national capacities in the field of renewable energy and energy systems. This series of training workshops permitted ESCWA to assist concerned authorities in developing national capacities, and to promote exchange of views and experiences among member countries. In October 2004, ESCWA partnered with the OPEC Fund for International Development to further implement the project activities.

33. In the field of trade and environment, ESCWA supported the implementation of two regional meetings of the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP). METAP is a partnership between the European Commission, European Investment Bank, UNDP, the World Bank and bilateral donors. The project has been credited with significantly increasing regional understanding and capacity to analyse the relationship between environment and trade from a multi-sectoral perspective.



34. In the field of water resources, ESCWA cooperated with UNESCO and the Arabian Gulf University in the organization of a workshop on training needs assessment in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The workshop was the third in the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) regional activity and was held in Manama, in February 2004. Moreover, ESCWA, in partnership with the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), prepared training material on an integrated regional approach for capacity-building on IWRM. ESCWA and BGR conducted a series of training workshops on negotiation skills and dispute resolution over international water resources for Palestinian delegates; on dispute management and conflict resolution on shared water resource for the Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian delegates; and a workshop for Lebanese and Syrian representatives to assess cooperation needs to manage the Al-Kabeer Al-Janoubi basin.

35. Upon the request of Egypt and funded by DESA, the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD/DESA) in cooperation with ESCWA and in coordination with UNDP convened the Regional Workshop on National Sustainable Development for the Arab Region (Cairo, 12-14 December 2004).

36. Following the inauguration of three multipurpose technology community centres (MTCC) by ESCWA and the Fares Foundation in cooperation with the municipalities of Akkar, North Lebanon, ESCWA conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Relief Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), a workshop for MTCC trainers and managers. The five-day workshop was designed to enable two staff members in each MTCC to manage the centre and deliver training material.

#### C. COOPERATION IN KIND AND PARTNERSHIP

37. With a view to enhancing the productive sectors, placing special emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), ESCWA provided expert services to and reached agreements with the following: (a) the University of Manchester/Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) and other partners for the purpose of implementing the project by the European Commission, entitled "Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area"; (b) the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to jointly implement the project, entitled "Employment creation and income generation through the development of micro and small agro-industries in South Lebanon", which aimed at improving existing jobs as well as creating new employment opportunities by promoting the development of micro and small agro-industries and by enhancing the productivity, competitiveness and working conditions of existing industries; and (c) the Economic and Social Department in the Emirate of Mecca Al-Mukarramah Zone and the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on the one hand, and the Federation of the Syrian Chambers of Commerce, on the other, to cooperate and enhance trade facilitation and liberalization of the private sector and universities, and improve the capabilities of the private sector in acquiring the technology, social development and training in these and other fields.

38. With a view to promoting new technologies for poverty alleviation and employment creation, ESCWA agreed with the following: (a) ILO and the Regional Ministry for University and Scientific Research Technological Innovation and New Economy, in the region of Campania, Italy, to cooperate on promoting the use of new technologies for the creation of opportunities for decent work and for poverty reduction, with special attention to possibilities for enterprises to achieve greater productivity and reduced operational costs, thereby improving contributions to local and national growth and sustainable development; and (b) the Universities and Scientific Research and Innovation Centres in the region of Campania, Italy, together with the Lebanese University, the University of Baghdad, Thi-Qar University, Iraq, and the Ministry of Higher Education in the Syrian Arab Republic, to cooperate and collaborate on activities targeting technology capacity-building in research and higher education, through the transfer, adaptation and development of modern technologies and related best practices in higher education and research targeting sustainable development goals.

39. With a view to enhancing knowledge sharing and networking in the field of water resources, ESCWA agreed with the Institute for Water Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IHE) to continue collaboration on the establishment of AWARENET, which aims

to improve the implementation of IWRM concepts in the countries of the ESCWA region and, together with the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Capacity-Building Network for Integrated Water Resource Management (Cap-Net), to disseminate training material and documents and build on their strong regional base and linkage with national water related institutes and universities.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 2: INTEGRATED SOCIAL POLICIES**

### **A. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

40. The regular programme, through the Social Development Division (SDD) and the Center for Women, contributed to enhancing the ability of member countries to formulate integrated social policies and programmes that incorporate advantageous cultural values.

41. In the area of social development, services were rendered to member countries with the following aims:

(a) *Jordan*: To update the Jordanian Political Development Strategy by the Ministry of Political Development whereby a modality for this purpose was suggested emphasizing the role of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of the Strategy;

(b) *Saudi Arabia*: To prepare chapters 28 and 29 on, respectively, "Family and Society" and "Women and Development" of the eighth National Development for the Ministry of Economy and Planning;

(c) *Syrian Arab Republic*: To prepare a work plan and timetable for supporting the State Planning Commission in the preparation of the Tenth Five-year Plan; to evaluate the work mechanism and performance of the General Union for Women; to review the present strategy and activities of the Fund for Integrated Rural Development in Syria (FIRDOS); and to review the population and housing questionnaire to be adopted by the Central Bureau of Statistics;

(d) *Yemen*: To review the status of the technical and vocational training activities and preparation of a work programme for the General Directorate of Women and Qualitative Training within the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training; to review the final drafts of the 2004 Population, Housing and Establishment Census questionnaires and the training manuals; and to review a draft document on the statistical master plan of Yemen by the Central Statistical Organization.

42. With the aim of increasing the capacity of policy makers for mainstreaming gender and reducing gender imbalances at regional and national levels, the regular programme, through the Centre for Women, assisted member countries with the following: (a) a series of training workshops in preparation for national reports on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 10) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); (b) policy advice in institution building for national machineries for women; and (c) encouraging the building of synergies with NGOs, particularly with the newly established Ministry of Women's Affairs in Palestine.

43. In partnership with concerned ministries in Iraq and other organizations and entities of the United Nations system, the regular programme facilitated efforts to provide assistance to Iraq in the development of projects aimed at creating opportunities for productive employment for its citizens. To that end, continuous support for participation in meetings of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) resulted in the formulation of proposals targeted at capacity-building in the fields of education and culture, infrastructure and housing, governance and civil society, and poverty reduction and employment.

44. In the context of networking and knowledge sharing, the regional adviser on social policies assisted in the peer-review of the UNDP draft Arab Human Development Report, 2004. The adviser also participated in the Tripartite Review Meeting (TPR) of a project by UNDP on a national programme to combat unemployment in the Syrian Arab Republic; and made proposals during a forum for women and education in the Syrian Arab Republic on how to improve the survey and modalities of selection and award giving.

## B. EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES

45. As a follow-up to ESCWA resolutions 237 (XXI) of 11 May 2001 and 252 (XXII) of 17 April 2003, the Commission, together with LAS and the Palestinian Authority, invited Arab Funds and other economic and funding organizations, civil society institutions and the private sector to join in efforts to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to provide coherent assistance towards socio-economic development in Palestine.

46. To that end, the Trust Fund provided seed funds for holding a number of meetings with co-financing from the UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Al Aqsa Fund/Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Norwegian People's Aid and the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND). These meetings resulted in the formulation of mechanisms with the following aims: (a) to enhance cooperation between Palestinian and Arab civil society entities; (b) to increase support of Palestinian expatriates and institutions for the process of socio-economic rehabilitation and development in Palestine; and (c) to develop Arab private sector support to sustainable development efforts in Palestine, including through the development of public-private partnerships.

47. The project culminated with the convening of the Arab-International Forum on Rehabilitation and Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Towards an Independent State (Beirut, 11-14 October 2004). In addition to those mentioned above, other sponsors included the Qatar Red Crescent, the Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority, UNESCO, UNCTAD, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), ILO, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and such private sector firms as Consolidated Contractors Company, Arabia Insurance Company, Khatib and Alami, Gezairi Transport, El-Nimer Family Foundation, and Al Jawal Company/Palestine. Participants expressed complete solidarity with the Palestinian people and the determination to intensify and coordinate endeavours with the following aims: (a) to uphold the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people established by international conventions, norms and resolutions, including the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent State, and to exercise its right to development and to have sovereignty over its resources, using them in accordance with its own interests and in accordance with its priorities; (b) to implement the relevant international resolutions and to continue the efforts and initiatives of the international community aimed at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace; (c) to link relief efforts to comprehensive development, thereby ensuring that these efforts contribute to building Palestinian capacities and helping the Palestinian people to deal with the economic and social impact of the occupation; and (d) to provide various forms of international and Arab support for the rehabilitation and development in Palestine in accordance with the Palestinian vision priorities.

48. The Forum also resulted in a number of initiatives with Arab and local partners, namely: the Al Aqsa Fund/IDB for the rehabilitation in the Gaza Strip; the I'tilaf Al-Khayr Union to support the agricultural and agro-food products sectors; the Qatar Red Crescent for the development of human capacities in the health services sector; the Europal Group of Companies and I'tilaf al-khayr for media campaigns and advocacy efforts to remove the separation barrier; the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and ESCWA to replant one million trees; and IDB and the Palestinian Businesswomen's Association (ASALA) to support micro-projects for women.

49. The Trust Fund also provided funding to a set of projects on skills upgrading and economic development of the communities of the liberated areas of South Lebanon in an effort to address poverty eradication and increase productive employment in the affected region. The Social Development Division (SDD), in partnership with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Ministry of Social Affairs in Lebanon and the Association d'Aide au Developpement Rural (ADR) conducted 22 vocational training sessions and small business courses. The training sessions benefited 366 individuals and facilitated the provision of 47 micro-credits loans to graduates, thereby assisting many of the graduates to start their own businesses.

50. Financing from the Trust Fund was also provided for a project on the Arab Youth Directory. The project addressed weak communication and the low level of cooperation among NGOs working in the area of youth at national and regional levels, and with the United Nations system in general. The website for the

Directory was launched in December 2004 ([www.escwa.org.lb/ayd/index.asp](http://www.escwa.org.lb/ayd/index.asp)) and serves as a platform for young people to connect and network, to exchange experiences and good practices, to promote the establishment of partnerships, and to coordinate efforts and projects throughout the region.

51. In coordination with the Safadi Foundation, ESCWA hosted three panels on international regional peace and security in Beirut over a four-month period. The panels were organized to articulate an Arab perspective for consideration during deliberations of a high-level panel on international peace and security, which was initiated by the Secretary-General and which drew 60 participants from the Arab region, comprising decision-makers and public opinion makers, academics, intellectuals and civil society leaders. A report incorporating the deliberations and recommendations of the panel was subsequently submitted to the Secretary-General.

52. ESCWA, in partnership with the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) and DESA, completed two projects to benefit the visually impaired. These efforts resulted in the establishment of a Braille computer training centre in Lebanon and the first online Braille documentation centre in Arabic.

53. In association with the Abdel Latif Jameel Group (ALJ Group) and AGFUND, ESCWA undertook several projects in the field of community development. A total of 665 local community developers received training on the subject and a network of qualified individuals was established in order to coordinate local community activities in the region. In Saudi Arabia, ESCWA undertook a study of women welfare organizations and held several workshops to train Saudi women in different administrative, planning, and social fields with the aim of fostering the assimilation of new social functions. A manual on health awareness was issued, which covered such issues as hygiene, elderly and childcare, accident prevention in the home, nutrition and disease prevention. Through joint partnership with the Safadi Foundation, the Fares Foundation and the Azm and Saade Association (ASA), ESCWA was able to offer further training aimed at rehabilitating the work of local community developers in the region.

54. With the aim of assisting the reconstruction efforts in Iraq, ESCWA implemented the following development projects:

(a) Funded by the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund, ESCWA in cooperation and collaboration with Cisco Networking Academies Programme (CNAP) and the Lebanese American University (LAU) conducted the first Training of Iraqi Academics on Networking Technologies with a view to providing the people of Iraq with the opportunity to receive networking education and to empower for the rebuilding and development process of the ICT education system in Iraq. The training course took place at the campus of LAU, 21 August - 25 September 2004. Furthermore, procurement of computers and other ICT items have taken place in order to initiate the establishment of four academies inside Iraq;

(b) Funded by the UNDP Iraq Country Office, the Management Skills Training Programme was conducted at the request of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation in Iraq as part of the capacity-building activities of that Ministry. Ten senior staff of the Iraqi National Centre for Planning and Management Training participated in the first training course that took place in Beirut, 27 September - 10 October 2004;

(c) The ESCWA Centre for Women, in partnership with the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, organized two training sessions, namely, the Workshop on Building a New Iraq: Women's Role in the Political Process (Beirut, 11-13 July 2004); and the Workshop on the Role of Women in the Electoral Process (Beirut, 13-16 December 2004). The training objectives were to increase women's political participation in Iraq, identify gaps in programmes, discuss strategies to foster the empowerment of women, and develop a plan for coordination and cooperation within Iraq. A total of 45 politically active women attended the sessions, including the Minister of Women's Affairs in Iraq and two members of the Iraqi Governing Council;

(d) ESCWA and Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC) jointly organized a conference on the rehabilitation of the telecommunications sector in Iraq, which drew 150 participants, many of whom were owners of telecommunication companies in the region;

(e) At the request of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation in Iraq, ESCWA provided the library within that Ministry with 1,143 ESCWA publications. The publications cover a wide range of recent research activities as well as outputs from diverse regional meetings that were organized by ESCWA.

### C. COOPERATION IN KIND AND PARTNERSHIP

55. ESCWA and the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in GCC States (Executive Bureau) agreed to cooperate and coordinate their activities and identify areas of common interest with a view to developing modalities for forging closer cooperation and promoting effective coordination to attain their mutual goals in furthering social development.

56. Within the context of its activities in the field of local community development, with special emphasis on the liberated areas of South Lebanon, ESCWA and Mercy Corps International agreed to cooperate towards protecting and preserving Ebel es Saqi woodland site and developing its full potential into an ecological park and a nature education and tourism attraction, thereby bringing about economic benefits to the region by enhancing the participation of local community residents in activities with job creation potential.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 3: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

57. Through the Economic Analysis Division (EAD), the regular programme contributed to services aimed at improving the capacity of member countries in implementing comparable national accounts. Services were rendered to member countries with the following aims:

(a) *Qatar*: To prepare the methodology for the computation of human development indicators and to provide training and guidance to counterparts on the application of that methodology;

(b) *Yemen*: To review data entry of national accounts in order to rectify gaps; to evaluate statistical survey results undertaken in 2003; to review the quality of data and the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA 1993); and to prepare a plan for implementation of statistical surveys for 2005 through the process of developing and implementing current surveys.

58. The regular programme also achieved the following: (a) facilitated knowledge sharing through the delivery of a technical paper on statistical classifications and its analytical purpose in a training workshop on unified statistical terminology and classification, organized by the Ministry of National Economy in Oman; (b) presented a technical paper on international standards of statistical classifications in the United Arab Emirates, during a related training workshop that was organized by the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry and UNDP; and provided technical support to the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) in the supervision of the methodological scheme for the preparation of a study on assessing the impact on GCC under the application of the Unified Custom System Law for the Council States.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 4: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND RESPONDING TO GLOBALIZATION**

### A. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

59. Through the Globalization and Regional Integration Division (GRID), the regular programme contributed to increasing awareness among member countries of the challenges facing their economies and the opportunities offered by the new regional and international trading systems.

60. With respect to WTO issues, services were rendered to member countries with the following aims:

(a) *Bahrain*: To offer advisory services to the Ministry of Commerce in Bahrain on WTO negotiations, including financial services and telecommunication issues;

(b) *Kuwait*: To review a draft proposal by the Public Authority for Industry for a training programme on anti-dumping in line with WTO procedures and agreements;

(c) *Syrian Arab Republic*: To assist the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade in drafting a project proposal for accession to WTO and to prepare a draft memorandum of accession to be presented during WTO negotiations; and to establish a new section on trade and environment at the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment;

(d) *United Arab Emirates*: To assess, with the Department of Economic Development, the impact of WTO agreements on the economy of Dubai; and to advise on a project for establishing a course on WTO issues in the University of Sharjah.

61. A regional adviser on WTO issues presented several technical papers during a number of workshops and conferences, as follows: (a) a study on the legal framework of anti-dumping with a focus on Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco, during a workshop on anti-dumping in WTO, which was organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bahrain and the Federation of GCC Chambers (FGCCC); (b) a technical paper on crude oil and energy sector negotiations within the WTO framework at the Conference on Developing Countries and the WTO: Realities and Future Challenges (Kuwait, 23-24 November 2004); (c) a paper on the role of parliaments in negotiating and joining WTO agreements during a workshop on that topic by the Parliament of Lebanon; (d) a technical paper, entitled "Medical services and medications industry in light of WTO agreements", at the Seminar on National Medications Industry in Light of the World Economic Changes (Damascus, 11-12 February 2004), which was co-organized by the Ministry of Health in the Syrian Arab Republic and the World Health Organization (WHO); and (e) three papers on dispute settlement, trade in services, the Singapore Issues and the Doha Work Programme at a conference on the legal and economic aspects of WTO Agreements, which was held in the United Arab Emirates University.

62. Additionally, the regular programme contributed to a training workshop on WTO negotiations and results, organized by the Arab Planning Institute (API), and to sharing relevant knowledge during the Informal Consultation on the WTO Negotiations on Agriculture: Post-Cancun Major Issues, Analytical Needs and Technical Assistance Requirements (Rome, 5-6 April 2004), which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Furthermore, the following activities were undertaken: (a) a paper on trade facilitation in the WTO was presented at the Training Workshop on Trade Facilitation (Sokhna, Egypt, 17-21 April 2004); (b) participation as a resource person in the Conference on Trade in Services (Washington D.C., 19-23 April 2004), which was organized by the World Bank Institute (WBI); (c) participation in the Regional Workshop on Research Methodology in Trade in Health Services (Hammamat, Tunisia, 11-13 June 2004); (d) participation in the Regional Training Workshop on Current Agricultural Trade Issues and Food Security in the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Countries" (Alexandria, Egypt, 14-17 June 2004); and participation in a meeting on the WTO framework agreement for countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which was organized by IDB.

## B. THE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

63. The project on Networking of Expertise on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Member States of ESCWA is jointly implemented by ESCWA and UNCTAD. National training workshops organized under the project provided training on FDI data collection methodology to collection officers from Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Using the techniques acquired during the workshops, these trained personnel guided the production of enterprise surveys carried out in their respective countries. The surveys are to be updated regularly and will, therefore, have positive impacts on future activities related to data collection, reporting techniques and policy development. A second component of the project, which is near completion, seeks to establish databases for FDI statistics in participating countries in order to facilitate the

use of international standards in the collection of FDI data. The project contributes to ESCWA efforts aimed at increasing the attractiveness of member countries for domestic, interregional and foreign investment.

64. The five regional commissions of the United Nations, including ESCWA, jointly implement the interregional project on Capacity-building in Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum-sea Transport Linkages. In terms of the ESCWA region, the project facilitated the preparation of national reports on the identification and formulation of interregional transport linkages and corridors in four member countries, namely, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, ESCWA identified the potential land and land-sea linkages between the ESCWA, ECA and ECE regions. Under the project, ESCWA continues to play an active role in the establishment of national transport and trade facilitation committees (NTTFC) in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. This project seeks to increase the facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital both among ESCWA member countries, and with countries in other regions.

65. As part of the implementation of the Development Account project on Capacity-building in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Mediterranean, which is jointly implemented with ECA and ECE, ESCWA organized, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Trade in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Workshop on National Trade Facilitation in the Syrian Arab Republic (Damascus, 25-26 August 2004). The Workshop discussed and identified issues of trade facilitation and transport in the Syrian Arab Republic, made appropriate recommendations on these issues and assisted the recently established NTTFC in addressing effective solutions to a broad range of trade and transport issues. This project contributes to increasing the facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital among Mediterranean countries of ESCWA, ECA and ECE.

#### C. EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES

66. Complementing the work programme activities of GRID, the Trust Fund provided support for the Development of an information base for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM-INFOSYS), in accordance with the ITSAM agreement for the establishment of a regional integrated database that is comprehensive and compatible with relevant international, regional and national transport information systems.

67. Within the context of raising awareness on WTO agreements and issues and related capacity-building in Arab countries, WTO and ESCWA jointly organized the Regional Seminar on WTO Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (Beirut, 4-6 May 2004). The Seminar drew 70 high-level participants involved in international trade and provided an overview on concepts and provisions of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), which sets out the basic rules for food safety and animal and health standards to the extent necessary to protect human, animal and plant life or health.

68. The Training Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the Arab Region (Beirut, 20-24 September 2004) was organized jointly by ESCWA and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and brought together several experts from WIPO, prominent Arab and foreign international experts in the field of IPRs. The Workshop provided participants with a comprehensive framework for ways and means of protecting IPRs and identifying and defining the rules for registering trademarks, patent and industrial designs, in addition to the arbitration and dispute settlement mechanism related to IPR issues.

#### D. COOPERATION IN KIND AND PARTNERSHIP

69. Within the context of the Development Account project on Networking of Expertise on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Member States of ESCWA, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Oman expressed an interest to cooperate with the Commission in the implementation of phase II of the project in general and in participating in the training workshops in particular.

70. With a view to enhancing regional integration, ESCWA and the World Tourism Organization (WTO) agreed to forge reciprocal cooperation and coordination aimed at furthering economic and social developments, particularly in terms of tourism services.

#### **SUBPROGRAMME 5: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

##### **A. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

71. Through the Information and Communication Technologies Division (ICTD), the regular programme contributed to the following: (a) enhancing national capacities for improving productivity through targeting innovative technology and management techniques, as well as increasing new institution building, technology parks and incubators, and networking/clustering arrangements; and (b) improving the connectivity in and between member countries.

72. Services were rendered to member countries with the following aims:

(a) *Bahrain*: To establish a technology park;

(b) *Kuwait*: To evaluate the Fifth Strategic Plan for Research and Development for the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR); and to assess the implementation of the Fifth Strategic (2000-2005) and offer guidance for the Sixth Strategic Plan for KISR;

(c) *Oman*: To improve local area networking with emphasis on the need for developing standardized e-government oriented applications for this purpose, and to integrate geographic information systems (GIS) in the development of information systems for the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources in Oman; and to offer advice on the development of internal and external ICT databases for the Ministry of Housing, Electricity and Water;

(d) *Saudi Arabia*: To review and finalize the chapter on science and technology and to review development policies in the telecommunications sector to be incorporated in the Eighth Development Plan of the Ministry of Economy and Planning in Saudi Arabia; to provide technical assistance on the Fourth Stage of the National Comprehensive Plan for Science and Technology (2005-2025) and on a technology park for King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology; to implement an incubator project for the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry; to propose concept papers for five projects in socio-economic fields for Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and, on the assessment of available data and requirements for producing ICT statistics and indicators, to propose a plan of action for sustainable production of ICT statistics and indicators for the Ministry of Communications and Technology;

(e) *Syrian Arab Republic*: To draft a national industry strategy for the Ministry of Industry in the Syrian Arab Republic; to provide technical assistance on a national ICT strategy in preparation for a second forum on national strategy for the deployment of ICT in social and economic development, during which a final version of the national ICT strategy and proposed plan of action for implementation were discussed; to provide support on feasibility studies for SMEs and for the establishment of SME incubator zones; to advise on the Ten-year Development Plan of the Syrian Arab Republic for the State Planning Commission; to provide technical support to the University of Kalamoon on vision and long-term strategic planning in the area of economic activities in the region; and to review the terms of reference for a joint venture by the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq for manufacturing and assembling communication equipment and switches for both markets, and to agree on a timetable for carrying out a feasibility study for the re-activation of that venture;

(f) *Yemen*: To assess the current information flow within the IT sector and propose a roadmap for the introduction of information management and decision support systems for the Ministry of Water and Environment in Yemen.



73. Additionally, technical assistance was provided to GOIC with regard to a strategy on implementation mechanisms and tools for the ICT sector in the Gulf region. The strategy was presented to Ministers of the six GCC countries and recommendations were submitted to the GCC Council through GOIC.

74. In the context of networking and knowledge sharing in the field of science and technology, the regular programme facilitated the following: (a) presentation of a keynote paper, entitled "Trends in archiving: education introduced by digital technology" (in Arabic), during the Conference on Information Archiving in a Knowledge Society (Beirut, 24-26 November 2004), which was organized by the Lebanese University, UNESCO and the International Council for Archiving; (b) participation in a workshop on building research and development partnerships in Lebanon and the region; (c) participation in a workshop on the industrial research achievements programme, which was organized by the Ministry of Industry in Lebanon; (d) participation in the Conference on Investing in Science and Technology: Success Stories and Promising Opportunities (Beirut, 27-28 April 2004), which was organized by the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) in cooperation with IDB and ALJ Group; and (e) participation in a meeting on IT policies in Arab countries, organized by the Arab Club for Information.

75. In addition, the regular programme contributed to the following: (a) a workshop on industrial integration systems; (b) participation in the Third Seminar on Scientific Research Prospects in the Arab World (Riyadh, 4-7 April 2004), which was organized by ASTF and during which a paper was presented on investment in technology in the Arab region; (c) participation in the Conference on Issues of Scientific Terminology (Damascus, 11-12 October 2004), which was organized by Academie Arabe; (d) participation in the Symposium on Research and Development: Prospects and Difficulties (Damascus, 13 October 2004), which was organized by the Atomic Energy Commission of the Syrian Arab Republic; (e) review of the Arab strategy on ICT by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO); and (f) formulation of terms of reference for the creation of an Arab Language Organization (ALO), in collaboration with UNDP - Regional Bureau of Arab States (UNDP/RBAS).

76. In parallel, networking and knowledge sharing in the field of communications was enhanced through the following: (a) participation in the Regional Seminar on The Role of ICT in Protecting Man and Environment: How to Limit the Impact of its Use (Cairo, 4-7 October 2004), which was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in cooperation with LAS; (b) contributions to the Sixth Annual Meeting for the Development of the Telecommunication Sector in the Arab Region (Doha, 30 May - 1 June 2004), which included presenting a paper on ICT direction for Iraq; (c) presenting a paper on structuring, displaying and analysing ICT indicators to the Third Seminar on Scientific Research Prospects in the Arab World (Riyadh, 4-7 April 2004); (d) participation in the Fifth Meeting of the IT and Telecommunications Services Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Riyadh, 11-14 April 2004); participation in the Tripartite Review Meeting (TPR) of two project by UNDP on a national programme to combat unemployment in the Syrian Arab Republic, namely, National E-Strategy, and ICT for Socio-Economic Development; (e) participation in the International Conference on Renewal and Reconstruction in Iraq (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 25-27 September 2004), which was organized by the Investment Business Committee (IBC) Gulf Conferences; and (f) participation in a meeting on Arab and international banking technology, which was organized by the Union of Arab Banks.

#### B. EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES

77. In order to familiarize the population of the region with the activities of ESCWA and help in raising funds, a media campaign covering the six ESCWA subprogrammes was organized, for which in-kind contribution was received from ALJ Group. In an effort to promote technology transfer in the region, ESCWA also agreed with ALJ Group to create a project to make possible four annual awards under the name Abdul Latif Jamil Award for Technological Innovation. The project is funded by the Group and will be promoted through a televised media campaign and letters to universities within the region.

#### C. COOPERATION IN KIND AND PARTNERSHIP

78. With the aim of promoting ICTs in the region, ESCWA and Alcatel CIT agreed to specify a framework of cooperation in support of ICT-based regional integration and development, particularly in

facilitating access to ICT in ESCWA member countries; to jointly pursue opportunities that support socio-economic development in the ESCWA region; and to promote an enabling environment for building the information society, with special emphasis devoted to carrying out a number of activities to facilitate dissemination of ICT and encourage public-private partnership development.

79. In its continuing efforts to promote new technologies for poverty alleviation, ESCWA agreed with a number of ministries and official bodies in the Syrian Arab Republic, namely, the Ministry of Communications and Technology, the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, the State Planning Commission, the Higher Institute for Applied Sciences and Technology, to promote national capacities by applying and disseminating modern technologies to secure higher productivity in existing and new businesses in rural areas, and by participating in sustainable development settlements. ESCWA and these national entities, together with FIRDOS are set to cement their coordination and cooperation through the implementation of a pilot project on the creation of settlements and pilot villages in the Syrian Arab Republic.

#### **SUBPROGRAMME 6: COMPARABLE STATISTICS FOR IMPROVED PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING**

##### **A. THE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT**

80. Within the context of the project on strengthening statistical capacity of ESCWA countries, which is jointly implemented by ESCWA and the United Nations Statistical Division, the Commission continued to support its member countries by increasing their knowledge in modern techniques of data processing used in population censuses, enhancing their capacity in the production of environment statistics and MDG indicators, improving the dissemination of census results and compiling statistics in accordance with international standards.

##### **B. EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES**

81. ESCWA has partnered with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the World Bank to serve as the regional implementing agency for the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The Programme is a global statistical exercise designed to collect and disseminate purchasing power parity (PPP) data, and contributes to efforts by ESCWA aimed at improving the capacity of member countries for the implementation of comparable national accounts. Moreover, PPP data allows for performance measurement and comparison of different economies and of the socio-economic status of different groups of people. During 2004, the ESCWA ICP Regional Office held two national meetings for coordinators and two workshops for a total of 60 national accounts experts and price statisticians. A two-day training workshop on ICP-Tool Pack software was provided to two participants from each of eleven countries participating in the ICP. Two staff members and three national statisticians from Jordan, Oman and the United Arab Emirates were also trained to become trainers on the specific ICP software.

82. Furthermore and at the request of the Planning Council of Qatar, ESCWA co-organized the Symposium on Statistics for Development: Dialogue between Users and Producers (Doha, 17-19 May 2004), during which a draft five-year plan for strengthening statistical work in that country was formulated.

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(a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Oman, Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority, and the League of Arab States (LAS);

(b) Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD); Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND); Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie; Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS); Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND); German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR); German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ); International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference (SESRTCIC - OIC); and Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars;

(c) American University in Dubai (AUD); Azm and Saade Association (ASA); Fares Foundation; Friedrich Ebert Foundation; El-Nimer Family Foundation; Norwegian People's Aid; Qatar Red Crescent; Safadi Foundation; and the University of Manchester;

(d) Abdul Latif Jameel Group (ALJ Group); Al Aqsa Fund/Islamic Development Bank (IDB); Al-Jawal Company/Palestine; Arab Protection and Indemnity Company; Arabia Insurance Company; Banque de la Méditerranée S.A.L.; Consolidated Contractors Company; CWC Associates Limited; Gezairi Transport; Hani Safieddine Company; Hitech FZE; Hewlett-Packard (HP) Middle East; Islamic Protection and Insurance Company; Khatib and Alami Company; and Phoenicia Aer-Rianta Company;

(e) The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); the United Nations Development Group - Iraq Trust Fund (UNDG-ITF); the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the International Labour Organization (ILO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and the World Bank.

Annex I

**DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECTS WHERE ESCWA IS THE LEAD AGENCY**

Type	Project Title	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
<b>Subprogramme 1: Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development</b>					
Field project	Capacity-Building for Sustainable Utilization, Management and Protection of Internationally Shared Groundwater in the Mediterranean Region	1 January 2004	31 December 2006	360 000	In progress
<b>Subprogramme 4: Regional Integration and Responding to Globalization</b>					
Field project	Capacity-Building in Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum-sea Transport Linkages (ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA and ESCWA)	1 January 2002	31 December 2005	1 250 000	In progress
Field project	Networking of Expertise on Foreign Direct Investment in the Member Countries of ESCWA	1 January 2002	31 December 2005	480 000	In progress
<b>Subprogramme 5: Information and Communication Technology for Regional Integration</b>					
Field project	Promoting New Technologies for Employment and Poverty Alleviation in the Member Countries of ESCWA	1 January 2004	31 December 2006	360 000	In progress

Annex II

EXTRABUDGETARY TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Type	Project title	Source of finance	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
<b>Subprogramme 1: Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development</b>						
Field project	Knowledge mapping for IWRM in the water and environment sectors in the ESCWA Region	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)	1 January 2002	31 March 2004	71 628	Completed
Field project	Trade and environment capacity-building for SMEs	World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	1 January 2002	31 March 2004	100 000	Completed
Field project	Preparation of regional meetings of the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP)	World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	1 January 2003	30 June 2004	40 000	Completed
Field project	Extension of the preparation of regional meetings of METAP	World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	1 January 2003	31 December 2004	23 000	Completed
Field project	Preparatory assistance to disseminating renewable energy services to rural villages in ESCWA member countries	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), OPEC Fund	1 May 2002	31 December 2005	160 000	In progress
Field project	Regional initiative on the use of new technologies for poverty alleviation	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), International Labour Organization (ILO)	1 August 2002	30 June 2006	34 753 <sup>a</sup>	In progress
Field project	Employment creation and income generation through the development of micro and small agro-industries in South Lebanon	International Labour Organization (ILO)	1 June 2004	31 May 2006	42 375	In progress

Type	Project title	Source of finance	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
Field project	Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (SIA/EMFTA)	University of Manchester	1 January 2004	31 March 2006	70 000	In progress
<b>Subprogramme 2: Integrated Social Policies</b>						
Field project	Training and Rehabilitation in Community Development in Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)	1 March 2000	31 December 2004	75 000	Completed
Field project	Expansion of the Braille Computer Training for the Blind in Lebanon and the Arab region	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)	1 January 2001	30 June 2004	79 000	Completed
Field project	Skills upgrading and economic development of the communities of the liberated areas of South Lebanon	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities, British Embassy in Beirut	1 January 2002	31 December 2004	161 900	Completed
Field project	Arab Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+10)	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	1 June 2003	31 December 2004	183 217	Completed
Training	Panels on International Regional Peace and Security	Safadi Foundation	1 January 2004	31 December 2004	60 000	Completed
Field project	Socio-economic rehabilitation and development in Palestine	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities - TC, International Development Research Center (IDRC), UNESCO, Qatar Red Crescent, International Organization for Migration, Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority <sup>b/</sup>	1 January 2004	31 December 2005	207 900	Completed

Type	Project title	Source of finance	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
Expert services	Regional Report on Integrated Social Policies	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities - TC	1 January 2004	31 October 2004	457 649	Completed
Field project	Arab Rural Community Development in Lebanon	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)	1 January 2000	31 December 20-04	100 000	In progress
Field project	Youth NGOs Directory - Network in the Arab Region	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities	1 January 2002	31 December 2004	75 000	In progress
Field project	Online Braille Documentation Centre and dissemination of information about the latest accessible ICT for blind users	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (United Nations-DESA)	1 January 2002	31 December 2004	50 000	In progress
Field project	Youth NGOs Directory-Network of Young Women's Organization in the Arab Region	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (United Nations-DESA)	1 July 2002	30 June 2004	15 000	In progress
Field project	Technical cooperation in the field of community development in Lebanon	Safadi Foundation, Fares Foundation	1 May 2002	31 December 2006	400 000	In progress
Field project	Activating social welfare work of women NGOs in Saudi Arabia	Abdul Latif Jameel Group	1 January 2003	31 December 2004	200 000	In progress
Field project	Regional campaigns on secure tenure and good governance	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities	1 March 2003	31 December 2004	50 000	In progress
Field project	Enabling women in Saudi Arabia to join the labour market through the training of vocational trainers	Abdul Latif Jameel Group	1 July 2003	30 June 2006	1 126 000	In progress
Field project	E-Caravan project	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities - TC	1 October 2003	31 January 2005	35 000	In progress
Field project	Iraq Networking Academies <sup>6/</sup>	United Nations Development Group - Iraq Trust Fund (UNDG-ITF)	1 August 2004	31 July 2007	4 000 000	In progress

Type	Project title	Source of finance	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
Training	Workshop on disability statistics	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities - TC	1 August 2004	28 February 2005	47 742	In progress
Training	Management Training for the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	1 January 2004	31 December 2005	230 000	In progress
<b>Centre for Women</b>						
Expert services	Arabic Glossary of Development Terms	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities	1 January 2004	31 December 2004	19 775	Completed
Training	Building a New Iraq: Role of Women in the Political Process	Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars	18 June 2004	31 December 2004	41 500	Completed
Expert services	Status of Arab Women Report 2005	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities - TC	1 June 2004	31 December 2005	28 250	In progress
Meeting	Arab Regional Conference Ten Years after Beijing: Call for Peace	Banque de la Mediterranee	1 June 2004	31 December 2004	25 000	Completed
Expert services	Interpretation and translation services for the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years after Beijing: Call for Peace	Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie	1 June 2004	31 December 2004	22 000	Completed
Training	Building a New Iraq: Role of Women in the Electoral Process	Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars	1 December 2004	30 January 2005	42 000	Completed
<b>Subprogramme 4: Regional Integration and Responding to Globalization</b>						
Expert services	Follow-up to ESCWA preparation of Arab countries for the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, Cancun, Mexico	World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) - International Development Research Center (IDRC)	1 January 2003	30 June 2004	96 940	Completed



Type	Project title	Source of finance	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
Training	Standardized FDI statistical methodology for data compilers in Bahrain	Ministry of Finance and National Economy - Kingdom of Bahrain	1 September 2003	31 December 2004	6 083	Completed
Expert services	ESCWA Second Forum on Arab Business Community and WTO Agreement	Safieddin Company, Phoenicia-Aer Rianta co. S.A.L. (PAC)	1 January 2004	31 December 2004	16 000	Completed
Training	Intellectual Property Rights for SMEs in the Arab Region	HITECH FZE	1 June 2004	31 December 2004	135 000	Completed
Database	Development of an information base for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM-INFOSYS)	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities	1 January 2001	31 December 2004	60 000	In progress
<b>Subprogramme 5: Information and Communication Technology for Regional Integration</b>						
Expert services	Western Asia Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)	Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities, World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	1 January 2003	31 December 2004	70 000	Completed
Training	Strategic communications programme for the Middle East and Arab region	Banque de la Méditerranée S.A.L.	1 March 2004	31 December 2004	32 000	Completed
Field project	Abdul Latif Jameel Award for Technological Innovation - poverty alleviation	Abdul Latif Jameel Group	1 June 2003	31 May 2006	800 000	In progress

Type	Project title	Source of finance	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
<b>Subprogramme 6: Comparable Statistics for Improved Planning and Decision-making</b>						
Field project	Database on Palestinians in the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)	1 January 1998	31 December 2004	130 000	Completed
Field project	Development of national gender statistics programmes in 13 Arab countries	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)	1 January 2001	31 December 2004	69 000	Completed
Field project	Regional Household Survey Project	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)	1 January 1993	31 December 2005	300 000	In progress
Field project	International Comparison Programme (ICP) for Western Asia	World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)	1 January 2003	31 December 2005	450 000	In progress

a/ AFESD donation of US \$24,753 represents 10 per cent of the total budget; ILO donation amounts to US \$10,000.

b/ In-kind contributions were received from the following: the United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Al Aqsa Fund/Islamic Development Bank, the Norwegian People's Aid, the Arab NGO Network for Development, UNCTAD, UNICEF, ILO, HABITAT, and a number of private sector firms (Consolidated Contractors Company, Arabia Insurance Company, Khatib and Alami, Gezairi Transport, El-Nimer Family Foundation, and Al-Jawal Company/Palestine).

c/ This multidisciplinary project is implemented in close cooperation and coordination with subprogramme 5: Information and Communication Technology for Regional Integration.

## EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES\*

Type	Project title	Source of finance	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
<b>Subprogramme 1: Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development</b>						
Expert services	Expert group meeting on upgrading environmental monitoring system in the ESCWA region	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries - Organization of Islamic Conference (SESRTCIC)	1 November 2004	31 December 2004	7 000	Completed
Expert services	New technologies with emphasis on biotechnologies, ICT and new materials as well as indicators for scientific and technological development and innovation capacity	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Development Research Center (IDRC)	1 January 2002	31 December 2005	12 106	Completed
Expert services	Forum on capacity building through technology transfer and networking	Ministry for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in the Region of Campania in Italy	1 April 2003	31 December 2005	27 332	In progress
Support	AWARENET-TNA		1 May 2004	31 January 2005	13 000	In progress
<b>Subprogramme 2: Integrated Social Policies</b>						
Website	Network of Arab Planning and Architecture Research and Academic Institutions (NAPA)	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	1 January 2002	31 December 2005	10 000	In progress

\* For more information relating to the extrabudgetary resources in support of substantive activities, refer to the performance report by the secretariat (E/ESCWA/23/5(Part I)/Add.1).

Type	Project title	Source of finance	Begin date	End date	Total budget (United States dollars)	Stage of implementation
Expert services	Opportunities in developing the telecommunications sector in Iraq	CWC Associates Limited	1 February 2004	31 December 2005	8 806	Completed
Support	Assistance to Iraq	Hewlett-Packard	1 January 2004	31 December 2005	4 000	Completed
<b>Centre for Women</b>						
Expert services	Arab preparatory meeting for the 10-year review of the International Year of the Family (IYF 1994+10)	Arab Family Organization (AFO)	1 January 2002	31 December 2005	20 000	Completed
<b>Subprogramme 3: Economic Analysis and Forecasting for Regional Development</b>						
Expert services	Workshop on the role of indebtedness in regional economic development	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries - Organization of Islamic Conference (SESRTCIC)	1 October 2004	31 December 2005	6 000	Completed
<b>Subprogramme 6: Comparable Statistics for Improved Planning and Decision-making</b>						
Expert services	Expert group meeting on poverty statistics	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)	1 August 2002	31 December 2005	4 770	Completed
Expert services	Expert group meeting to monitor the progress on MDGs in the ESCWA region	Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)	1 January 2004	31 December 2005	1 000	In progress

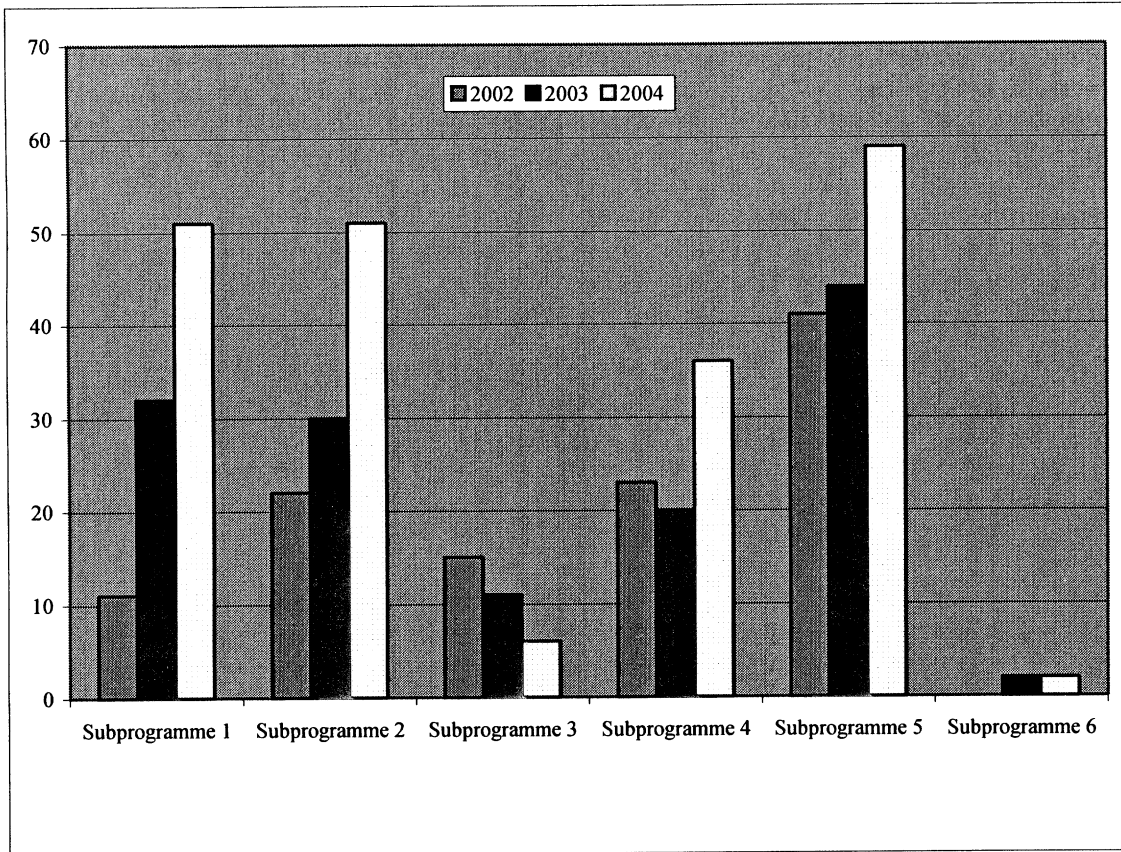
Annex IV

**NUMBER OF ADVISORY MISSIONS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES DURING 2004**  
*(Distributed by subprogramme)*

Country	Subprogramme 1		Subprogramme 2		Subprogramme 3		Subprogramme 4		Subprogramme 5		Subprogramme 6		Total	
	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days
Bahrain	2	5	2	17	-	-	2	10	1	3	-	-	7	35
Egypt	14	63	2	16	-	-	2	6	1	2	-	-	19	87
Iraq	-	-	10	107	-	-	-	-	12	27	-	-	22	134
Jordan	2	16	4	69	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	7	88
Kuwait	3	14	-	-	-	-	4	14	2	12	-	-	9	40
Lebanon	1	1	3	6	-	-	9	16	7	8	-	-	20	31
Oman	2	8	-	-	1	4	-	-	2	11	-	-	5	23
Palestine	-	-	7	161	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	161
Qatar	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	-	2	4	-	-	4	15
Saudi Arabia	1	13	11	90	-	-	3	25	10	56	-	-	25	184
Syrian Arab Republic	12	81	8	55	1	3	7	20	17	37	1	4	46	200
United Arab Emirates	1	6	1	3	1	7	3	7	1	2	-	-	7	25
Yemen	7	37	1	14	1	14	1	4	2	10	1	7	13	86
Others	6	22	2	31	-	-	5	15	1	7	-	-	14	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>1 184</b>

Annex V

**NUMBER OF ADVISORY MISSIONS DISTRIBUTED BY SUBPROGRAMME  
IN 2002, 2003 AND 2004**



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