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**TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR
TRAINING AND RESEARCH**

Report of the Secretary-General

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SUMMARY

Prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 43/201 of 20 December 1988, the present report reviews steps taken or to be taken in the context of the restructuring of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research prescribed by the Assembly in its resolution 42/197, presents an analysis of the current and projected financial situation of the Institute and discusses possible measures that would enhance greater interfacing among autonomous United Nations research bodies.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 43/201 of 20 December 1988, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/697 and Add.1); reaffirmed the continuing validity and relevance of the mandate entrusted to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); requested that the 1989 budgetary proposals of the Institute, as well as those of subsequent years, be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for review and comment prior to approval by the Board of Trustees of the Institute; reiterated its approval of the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Institute should, after the sale of the building, repay the amounts currently owed to the United Nations, and use the balance to establish a reserve fund for the Institute; urged the Secretary-General to proceed as rapidly as possible with the acquisition of the land and subsequent sale of the entire property of the Institute; requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Board of Trustees of the Institute a report on his efforts to purchase the land under the building and the subsequent sale of the entire property; also requested him, in the event that the necessary financing is not assured, through the sale of the building and/or voluntary contributions, for the administration of the Institute in the first half of 1989, to present to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session specific recommendations on the future of the Institute, together with detailed financial information; and further requested him to consult with the Board of Trustees of the Institute on criteria and qualifications to apply to full-time senior fellows and to present his recommendations to the Assembly; renewed its appeal to the Secretary-General to give priority consideration to absorbing the remaining staff members of the Institute who are occupying posts that have been abolished as a result of the restructuring of the Institute; and requested him to report on the exploration of new modalities for greater interfacing among United Nations research bodies.

2. The present report has been prepared in compliance with the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 43/201. Section II of the report reviews steps taken and/or to be taken in the framework of the various restructuring measures prescribed by the Assembly in its resolution 42/197. Section III presents an analysis of the financial situation of the Institute. Section IV discusses possible measures that would enhance greater interfacing among United Nations research bodies. The report's conclusions are found in section V.

II. PROGRESS MADE IN THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE INSTITUTE

3. In his report to the General Assembly (A/43/697 and Add.1), at its forty-third session, the Secretary-General provided full information on the implementation of the various measures prescribed by the Assembly in its resolution 42/197 on the restructuring of UNITAR. This report dwells on actions taken as regards the focus on training, the status of full-time senior fellows of UNITAR appointed by the Secretary-General, as well as on the latest developments related to the purchase of the land by the United Nations on which the UNITAR building is erected and subsequent sale of the entire property.

A. Training programme activities

4. As approved by the Board of Trustees at its twenty-sixth session, the 1988-1989 work programme of the Institute is based on the guiding criteria set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/197 (notably, paragraph 4 (1), and paragraph 4 (6)). It accordingly consists of a core programme and an expanded programme funded respectively through the General Fund and extrabudgetary resources. The former bears on training in international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy, the latter on training for economic and social development, research on the United Nations, research on energy and natural resources and research on the future of the main developing regions of the world. Further details on the work programme of the Institute may be found in the "UNITAR Work Programme 1988-1989", a UNITAR document, and the report of the Executive Director of UNITAR to the forty-third session of the General Assembly. 1/
5. The Board of Trustees, at its twenty-seventh session held in New York from 3 to 7 April 1989, noted with satisfaction the volume of activities conducted by the Institute in 1988 and the manner in which they were implemented. 2/ It also approved the programme of the Institute for 1989. 3/ In this connection, the Board endorsed a proposal of the Executive Director to launch the UNITAR Newsletter, which would disseminate information on UNITAR activities every four months to a broad audience. The first issue of the Newsletter was released in June 1989.
6. As a result of the priority given to training in its programme activities, every effort was made by the Institute to keep the volume of training activities in international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy at the same level as in previous years, despite the overall reduction of the staff subsequent to the implementation of the restructuring measures. Special purpose grants have also continued to be mobilized by the Institute for the funding of training projects for international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy that available resources under the General Fund could not accommodate, as well as for training projects for economic and social development which can only be funded under special purpose grants as requested in General Assembly resolution 42/197. One of the consequences of this situation has been that the resources of the UNITAR General Fund now represent only about one third of the total financial resources of the Institute.
7. The proper organization and management of development being essential in the developing countries' efforts for the promotion of their development, the Board of Trustees of UNITAR has authorized the Executive Director of the Institute to develop, in co-operation with other United Nations interested bodies, joint training projects for economic and social development in that field. In recent years, the Institute has thus designed a UNITAR/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) training programme for the management of natural resources and the environment, a UNITAR training programme in debt management for the least developed countries in co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and in consultation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and a UNITAR/Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) training programme in disaster relief management in Africa.

8. The implementation of the UNITAR/UNEP training programme for the management of natural resources and the environment is entering its fourth year. The programme, which has so far concentrated on the training of trainers during a six-month course, is supported financially by the Government of Switzerland. Nationals of 23 countries have benefited from it. The programme has received from International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) a \$6.5 million grant of equipment with a view to developing regional training programmes in African countries. Regional training programmes are also being designed for Asia and Latin America.

9. The implementation of the UNITAR training programme in debt management is initially focusing on countries members of the East African Development Bank. If appropriate special purpose grants can be mobilized, other least developed countries will also benefit from that programme.

10. Regarding the UNITAR/UNDRO training programme in disaster relief management in Africa, an expert meeting was held from 12 to 14 September 1989 at Geneva, under the auspices of UNITAR and UNDRO, to assist in the finalization of that programme, which is expected to be launched early next year initially for the Sahelian countries.

11. The Board of Trustees of UNITAR, at its twenty-seventh session, in 1989, had a preliminary exchange of views on the 1990-1991 work programme of the Institute, welcomed the proposal by the Executive Director to continue ongoing training activities in international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy and agreed that for new activities in this area, priority should be given to training on peace-making and peace-keeping, as well as for new members of the Security Council.

12. Within the framework of these guidelines, a number of new training projects are now being designed, especially in the fields of peace-making and peace-keeping, foreign policy analysis and planning, the use of informatics in diplomacy and in development organization and management, "prospective" techniques and planning in a world of uncertainty. UNEP, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and UNITAR have also jointly developed a training programme in oil spill containment, which UNITAR has been asked to discuss with the oil industry with a view to securing the support of major oil companies in the implementation of the programme.

13. Actual programme proposals will be submitted to and considered by the Board of Trustees at its twenty-eighth session in 1990. As in the past, the Executive Director will consult Member States on their views concerning the contents of the work programme and will seek from the various organizations of the United Nations their suggestions concerning specific projects they would recommend for inclusion therein.

14. In connection with the implementation of some of the Institute's projects funded through special purpose funds, the Secretary-General is hereby drawing the attention of the General Assembly, for its consideration and appropriate action, to resolution I adopted by the Board of Trustees at its twenty-seventh session, requesting the Secretary-General "to take the necessary action with a view to obtaining as soon as possible a decision by the General Assembly authorizing the Institute to act as an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)".

15. By way of background, it will be recalled that a report of the Joint Inspection Unit had earlier recommended that UNITAR should be given the status of executing agency of UNDP. Eventually, the General Assembly did not take any action on the recommendation of the inspectors. 4/ In their audit reports on UNITAR for 1986, 1987 and 1988, the Board of Auditors subsequently noted that, under arrangements existing hitherto for execution of sub-contracts in UNDP-financed projects, some instances had occurred where UNITAR pre-financed part of project costs before it received reimbursement. The Board had recommended that UNITAR negotiate with UNDP to obtain executing agency status for UNITAR, which would entitle it to full payment of project costs in advance. 5/

16. In submitting the proposal of the Board of Trustees of the Institute to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is mindful of the fact that, in the case of subsidiary organs of the United Nations, such as UNITAR, the status of executing agency of UNDP has in the past been accorded to the particular organ concerned by the UNDP Administrator on the basis of a decision of the competent principal organ of the United Nations: the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly.

17. Furthermore, UNITAR is, under its statute, an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations (see article I of the UNITAR statute). It has, in this respect, been given the authority under the statute, to enter into co-operative arrangements, for the purpose of carrying out its programmes (art. VII), and the capacity to enter into agreements and contracts with other institutions (art. X).

B. Full-time senior fellows

18. In compliance with the request of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 11 of its resolution 43/201, the Secretary-General submitted to the Board of Trustees a note on criteria and qualifications to apply to the appointment of the Institute's full-time senior fellows at its twenty-seventh session. 6/ The Board endorsed the proposals of the Secretary-General, with minor amendments subsequently accepted by the Secretary-General. The revised criteria, procedures and conditions for appointment of full-time senior fellows found in annex I to the present report are submitted to the Assembly for its approval. Should the Assembly concur with the proposals of the Secretary-General, the relevant sections of the statute of the Institute would be amended accordingly, as indicated in annex II.

19. As will be noted, these matters are dealt with in as detailed a manner as possible in order to give to the appointment process all the required transparency and to ensure that its outcome fully reflects the specific needs and requirements of the Institute. Due account was also taken of the comments made by Member States in the course of their deliberations on the subject in the General Assembly at its forty third session.

20. Three central considerations guided the formulation of the conditions of appointment of full-time senior fellows. Firstly, full-time senior fellows should undertake work on projects falling within the framework of the programme of the Institute as approved by the Board of Trustees. Secondly, they should conduct

their work on a full-time basis, free of charge to the Institute, but could receive honoraria within the limits established by the General Assembly. Thirdly, for the duration of their appointment, they should not have concurrent outside remunerated activities without the prior approval of the Secretary-General. It is on the basis of these core criteria, which were deemed essential, that, after a careful review of the proposals of the Executive Director, the Secretary-General decided to appoint eight eminent persons as full-time senior fellows for 1989, as called for by the Assembly.

C. Sale of UNITAR headquarters building

21. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 43/201, the Secretary-General continued his efforts to proceed as rapidly as possible with the acquisition of the land occupied by the UNITAR building and the subsequent sale of the entire property, as approved by the Assembly in its resolution 42/197. As requested by the Assembly, the Secretary-General submitted to the Board of Trustees, at its twenty-seventh session, a complete and current report 7/ of steps taken towards that end.

22. That report 7/ provides a full account of the problems encountered in the course of the negotiations with the owners and in particular those arising from the inability of the sellers to reach agreement among themselves on terms and conditions for the sale, which contributed to delays in the transaction. The Secretary-General also brought to the attention of the Board the fact that further consultations with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would be necessary in light of the sellers' non-negotiable decision to increase their selling price from \$US 4 million, quoted in November 1986 and later approved by the Committee, to \$US 4.5 million.

23. The Board was also informed that this development, compounded by continuing difficulties arising from the sellers, which had precluded the signature of a contract of sale in February 1989, as anticipated late in the fall of 1988, had led the Secretary-General to establish definite conditions upon which the United Nations would consider buying the property and a cut-off date for receipt of any offers from the sellers.

24. Outstanding problems with the sellers were eventually resolved in the days following the session of the Board. A contract of sale was immediately entered into by all the parties concerned, subject to the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to an increase in the financial authority of the Controller to borrow internally for purposes of financing the acquisition of the land. The concurrence of the Advisory Committee was obtained on 19 April 1989. The contract of sale between the sellers and the United Nations thus became effective on 21 April 1989, following payment by the Organization of \$US 450,000 which was the down-payment on the purchase price. Closing was expected to take place on 20 July 1989, 90 days from the final contract date, but was rescheduled twice; the first time, as a result of last-minute complications with the sellers, to 29 August 1989; the other, occasioned by the illness in July and subsequent death in August 1989 of one of the owners. Closing eventually took

place on 22 September 1989, with realized savings for the Organization amounting to approximately \$207,000 against the \$4.5 million previously allocated for the purchase of the land and resulting from tax exemptions and price reductions imposed by the United Nations in the light of the delay by the sellers to close in due time.

III. FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

25. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 43/201, the draft general fund budget for 1989 of the Institute was submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for review and comment prior to approval by the Board of Trustees. The recommendations of the Committee focus on the need for improvements in the format and presentation of the UNITAR draft budget and modifications to bring it in conformity with prevailing practices relied upon in the preparation of the United Nations programme budget. More specifically, the Advisory Committee recommended that UNITAR budget submissions should include narratives highlighting policy considerations and underlying assumptions and explaining proposed changes in the estimates of income and expenditures from one year to the next. Future submissions should also include information on the status of funding and use of UNITAR under special purpose grants, as these data are essential to a full understanding of the totality of resources available to UNITAR, the relationship between the General Fund budget and special purpose grants and, in particular, the basis of the estimates of project support income from special purpose grants included in the UNITAR General Fund budget. For the same reason, information should also be provided on the status of the Institute's total accumulated operating deficits from prior years as well as on reimbursements of the advance of \$886,000 approved by the General Assembly, in its resolution 38/177 of 19 December 1983, to cover the deficit in the UNITAR budget for 1983.

26. The Board of Trustees, at its twenty-seventh session, endorsed the recommendations of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and authorized the Executive Director, as requested by the General Assembly, to submit henceforth to the Advisory Committee for its comments, future annual budgetary proposals.

27. As presented to and adopted by the Board of Trustees, the General Fund budget, including project support income for 1989, is as follows compared to that approved for 1988:

I. <u>Income</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Government contributions	545 000	751 100
Rental income (full year)	170 000	221 900 a/
Project support income	224 700	198 700
Interest from Trust Fund (Nigeria)	80 000	0 b/
Non-governmental contribution	35 000	0
Miscellaneous	15 000	15 000 c/
Total	<u>1 069 700</u>	<u>1 186 700</u>
II. <u>Expenditures</u>		
I. Office of the Executive Director		
	166 100	173 700
Subtotal I	<u>166 100</u>	<u>173 700</u>
II. Programme activities		
Training (Headquarters and Geneva offices)	410 300	457 000
Research	0 d/	0 d/
Subtotal II	<u>410 300</u>	<u>457 000</u>
III. <u>General operating costs</u>		
(a) Finance and administration	108 400	125 400
(b) Security	0	0
(c) Board of Auditors	18 000	19 000
(d) Supplies of materials, rental and maintenance of equipment	30 000	45 000
(e) Library books, documents, etc.	2 000	2 000
(f) Documentation/publications	0	8 000
(g) Communications	53 300	65 000
(h) Premises	260 000	270 000
(i) Staff travel and fund raising	21 600	21 600
(j) Repayment of 1933 General Assembly advance	0	0
(k) Payment of Pension Fund claims	0	0
(l) Miscellaneous cost	0	0
Subtotal III	<u>491 300</u>	<u>556 000</u>
Grand total	<u>1 069 700</u>	<u>1 186 700</u>

a/ Based on existing leases.

b/ Included under line 1.

c/ Income derived from sale of UNITAR publications and from royalties.

d/ For the time being, research is not being funded through the General Fund.

28. The 1988 budget approved by the UNITAR Board of Trustees was \$1,069,700. Actual income amounted to \$1,330,128 (with government contributions reaching \$851,013 against the \$545,000 projected), while total expenditures for the year were increased, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, to \$1,273,571, thus leaving an excess of income of \$56,557 over expenditures. UNITAR total income and expenditures for 1989 were balanced at a level, lower than the actual 1988 budget results, of \$1,186,700, an increase of \$117,000, or 10.9 per cent over the approved 1988 budget of \$1,069,700.

29. In keeping with the pattern set last year, UNITAR projections of income from government contributions in 1989 were based on unconditional firm pledges received in writing from the donor countries concerned and on estimates based on previous experience. Income from rental of premises (\$221,900) was based on actual rental income to be paid in 1989 by three tenants in the UNITAR building. The estimate of income from royalties/sales (\$15,000) was determined on the basis of past experience.

30. Of the total General Fund expenditures for 1989, \$173,700 relate to the expenses of the Office of the Executive Director; \$125,400 to the Finance and Administration Section, \$430,600 to general operating costs in New York, \$229,400 to the Programme Department/Training Branch in New York, and \$227,600 to the Programme Department/Training Branch at Geneva.

31. As in 1988, no provision has been included under the General Fund budget for the Programme Department/Research Branch in New York, since UNITAR research activities are now financed from special purpose grants or undertaken, free of charge, by full-time senior fellows.

32. The bulk of the increase of \$117,000 is attributable to additional requirements amounting to \$71,300 under salaries and common staff costs/temporary assistance/overtime/income tax reimbursement.

33. UNITAR staffing in 1989 remains unchanged from that of 1988 comprising nine posts of which four are at the Professional and higher levels (one Under-Secretary-General, two P-5, one P-4) and five at the General Service level, three of which are at the principal level. This number represents an increase of two General Service posts over the staffing establishment specified by General Assembly resolution 42/197, as it is still felt that three General Service staff members could not cope with the work-load. Furthermore, the increase from seven to nine posts in 1988 in UNITAR staffing funded from the General Fund had been approved by the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provisions of part II, paragraph 15, of the same resolution, in which it was stated, *inter alia*, that "the composition and structure of the staff to be funded from the General Fund shall be reviewed by the Board of Trustees in the context of budget preparations and may be adjusted in the light of the financial resources available to, and programme activities of, the Institute ...".

34. The increase of \$45,700 in general operating cost requirements covers additional requirements for supplies and materials/rental and maintenance of equipment (\$15,000), communications (\$11,700), premises (\$10,000), documentation,

publications (\$8,000) and external audit costs (\$1,000). Additional requirements shown under communications take account of actual expenditures incurred during 1988 that were higher than estimated. The incremental requirement for premises reflects provision for payment of projected real estate taxes on the land on which the UNITAR building is located. Documentation/publications resources cover the cost of the printing of a training manual as well as studies completed during 1988, but not printed for lack of funds.

35. Certain costs have continued to be temporarily carried out outside the budget of UNITAR through a reserve fund set up last year to be replenished in full as soon as the sale of the UNITAR property is completed. These include, as further elaborated below in paragraph 39: (a) the cost of security services; (b) payment due to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in respect of non-contributory service performed by former holders of UNITAR Letters of Award; and (c) salaries and entitlements of those UNITAR staff members whose posts were abolished effective 1 January 1988 pending expiration of their contracts or transfer to other sources of funding. As at this date, only one staff member at the P-5 level, whose post had been abolished in 1988, remained with the Institute. This post was funded through special purpose grants up to 30 June 1989. The incumbent was extended to 31 December 1989 to allow the United Nations to find a suitable post for him, on the understanding that the cost of this extension would be reimbursed to the Organization from the proceeds of the sale of the Institute's headquarters property.

36. The present financial situation of the Institute is as follows. Although the budget approved by the Board of Trustees was based on projected government contributions of \$751,000, only \$562,370 had been pledged, thus falling short by \$188,730. On the other hand, other income, budgeted at \$435,600 is expected to be \$5,100 higher, thus bringing the total estimated shortfall in income to \$183,630.

37. Concurrently, expenditures against the \$1,186,700 budget approved by the Board of Trustees are expected to amount to \$1,337,000, i.e., by \$150,300 higher than projected due primarily to higher than anticipated staff costs.

38. Thus, the combination of reduced income and increased expenditure may be projected to result in a budget imbalance for UNITAR amounting to \$333,930. However, on the basis of past experience, it is likely that an additional amount of \$177,000 may be contributed by some Governments - most of which are members of the UNITAR Board of Trustees - which do not formally announce their pledges. Thus, the amount of projected budget imbalance of UNITAR for this year may be \$156,930. In accordance with past practice, the United Nations has advanced operating funds to UNITAR, in the process of building up a current account balance which will need to be refunded as a first charge on UNITAR funds once the real estate transaction referred to above has been completed.

39. As at 31 December 1988, the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations amounted to \$2,556,800, including \$686,000 advanced under General Assembly resolution 38/177 of 19 December 1983, \$1,323,200 reflecting the balance of the current account of UNITAR with the United Nations, and \$547,600 comprising charges against the reserve fund to be set up once the real estate transaction is completed. In 1989, in addition to the budgetary shortfall projected at \$156,930 (or \$330,930, as

explained in paragraph 38 above), it is anticipated that UNITAR will borrow a further \$370,000 from the United Nations for additional charges against the reserve fund. These charges have to do with the provision of security services in the UNITAR building, staff litigation, staff reduction and to payments made to the Pension Fund in respect of Letters of Award to former staff members of UNITAR whose service with the Institute was found to be pensionable.

40. As a result of the foregoing, it may be expected that, by 31 December 1989, the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations may have risen by \$526,930 to a total of \$3,083,730 (or by \$703,930 to a total of \$3,260,730). Most of this debt, together with the costs advanced by the United Nations to finance the purchase of the land upon which the UNITAR building stands, will comprise a first charge against the proceeds of the eventual sale of the UNITAR property.

41. In addition to activities under the General Fund, UNITAR continues to attract resources as special purpose grants, and to carry out a number of activities of interest to Member States. Thus, in 1989, the Institute is implementing 27 projects funded by means of such grants, for which total funds available in 1989 were \$2,298,619. On the other hand, as pointed out by the Board of Auditors in its report to the General Assembly on the accounts of UNITAR for the year 1988, a number of projects financed under special purpose grants have incurred expenditures in excess of available resources. The total of such deficits as at 31 December 1988 amounted to approximately \$150,000. Unless UNITAR is able to procure additional funding for these projects, the amounts of these deficits will necessarily have to be made up from the general resources of UNITAR.

IV. INTERFACING AMONG UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTES

42. In compliance with the request of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 13 of its resolution 43/201, communications were addressed to a number of autonomous United Nations research entities, requesting information about their interfacing and ways and means through which such current practices could be enhanced. Specifically, views and suggestions were elicited on (a) the exchange of information on work in progress and outputs with other research institutes; (b) the co-ordination of work programmes and plans, at the formulation stage, with that of other research institutes, which could avoid duplication, highlight complementarity and lead to the development, where feasible and appropriate, of joint projects and collaborative approaches; and (c) the possible participation of concerned research bodies in the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) on matters of priority concerns to intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. The views of the heads of the organizations contacted were also invited regarding their experience in the annual meetings of the Directors of United Nations institutes for training, research and planning, which had been held under the Chairmanship of the Executive Director of UNITAR until 1985 when such meetings were discontinued. The following observations and suggestions are based on replies obtained from the United Nations University, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development

in Latin America, the Regional Centre for Peace and Development in Asia, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the United Nations Social Defense Research Institute (UNSDRI) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE).

43. The responses received suggest the existence of a widespread informal information exchange network among autonomous research entities of the United Nations. This pattern of co-operation usually takes the form of contacts at the working level among the organizations and their researchers, the circulation of data, documents and mailing lists among professionals and the free distribution of monographs, reports and publications, including newsletters and bulletins of varying periodicity summarizing recent research results together with reviews of current or planned activities. It should be noted, in this connection, that the United Nations University and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development are now in the process of undertaking preparation for organizing a registry of research carried out in the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development. The proposed system for the exchange of information among United Nations organizations on their research activities and its dissemination to Governments and aid agencies and the academic and research community in general in the form of a computerized register available in both machine readable and published form is expected to be an important catalyst for closer collaboration between the academic community and the United Nations system, as well as among United Nations organizations themselves. The Secretary-General believes that a phased broadening of this project to encompass research carried out or planned by the United Nations in the political, economic and social fields warrants careful consideration in the light of the potential benefits that might accrue to the entire system and the co-operation that would be promoted, particularly at the programme planning stage among research institutions. In the light of its mandate and its experience in the development of the project now planned with the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, preparation for and development of this more comprehensive register of research in the United Nations system could be undertaken under the aegis of the United Nations University, with due regard for activities already carried out in this area.

44. As in the case for information exchange, the co-ordination of the work programmes at the formulation stage among research institutes generally takes place primarily through bilateral direct consultations, ad hoc arrangements and/or formal agreements leading to the development of specific joint activities. CELADE, for example, carried out joint projects with UNITAR and INSTRAW in 1988. INSTRAW carries its programmes through consultations with such entities as UNITAR and UNRISD. UNIDIR has also followed the practice in the last two years of sending to all relevant organizations and institutes its work programme as approved by its Board of Trustees for the following year, inviting co-operation in its programmed research activities. With respect to the Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu regional centres on disarmament, which became operational in 1987, 1988 and 1989 respectively, consultations have been carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs with governmental and non-governmental experts on the activity these centres could undertake so as to fulfil their objectives. As a result of the consultations, the Department plans to encourage its regional centres to establish contact and co-operation with the various research institutes in their respective regions.

45. The experience gained by UNSDRI has also led that Institute to conclude that it was often too late at the stage of preparing annual work programme documents to fully identify and take advantage of areas of potential co-operation. This was one of the reasons that prompted UNSDRI to prepare in 1988 a medium-term perspective for the three-year period 1989-1991, which is indicative of future activities. By providing an early indication of general intentions, one of the major benefits coming out of its circulation is that it would improve the process where activities can be co-ordinated with those of other organizations and institutes within and outside the United Nations system. The Secretary-General shares the view of the Director of UNSDRI that a wider use of this type of document by other organizations would provide co-operation among research institutes and organizations of the United Nations. It was in this spirit that the representative of the Secretary-General on the Council of the United Nations University undertook to circulate to organs and organizations of the United Nations the draft of the University's second medium-term perspective before its adoption by the Council. This process of consultation has produced useful comments and suggestions enhancing interfacing between the University and other research bodies and organizations of the United Nations.

46. In sum, a significant network of functional relationships exist among research institutes through *ad hoc* informal co-operation networks, bilateral arrangements and, in a more limited manner, through more formal co-ordination mechanisms. The complex and constantly evolving links could nevertheless be further strengthened by means of a more organized system facilitating possibilities for programme planning co-operation. It is in this spirit that the Secretary-General offers the above stated proposals. The Secretary-General is also of the opinion that the work of research institutes should focus more on the activities carried out within the machinery of ACC as the results of their work could feed back into the system for future policy action. Also, in the context of their actual policy assessment and formulation functions, intergovernmental bodies themselves should rely more frequently than was hitherto the case on the resources and capabilities of research institutes.

47. Such proposals are also warranted by the value apparently attached by most responding organizations to the annual meetings of the Directors of the United Nations institutes for training, research and planning that were discontinued in 1986. A large number of the replies received underline the usefulness of these meetings as a forum particularly suited for establishing personal contacts and gaining information about ongoing research. Suggestions were also made about the desirability to give greater thematic focus and structure to these meetings if they were to resume and to rotate their venue and chairmanship. It may be noted in this connection, that the Executive Director of UNITAR expressed his intention at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, to resume in 1990 the practice of holding annual meetings of Directors of the United Nations institutes for training, research and planning, which was established at the request of ACC.

48. In any event, the necessity for such an institutional mechanism for interfacing among research institutions need not be emphasized. At the same time, it would appear timely to rethink the terms of reference of such an institutional mechanism with a view to enhancing co-operation in programme planning among

research institutes and their potential contributions to the United Nations system. Within this broad framework, consideration could be given, as suggested by the United Nations University to the possibility of the Director-General organizing a meeting of the various United Nations research and training institutions, with a view to enhancing practical co-operation among them. Such a meeting could, among other things, discuss revised terms of reference, the nature, frequency and modalities for holding future meetings of this kind.

V. CONCLUSIONS

49. In the course of the year that has just elapsed, the secretariat has pursued its efforts with a view to further strengthening the administrative, financial and programmatic reorganization of the Institute in line with the guidelines laid down by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/197. It is the intention of the secretariat to consolidate the steps already taken in order to provide the Institute with durable and sound internal foundations. In this connection, the Secretary-General fully concurs with the invitation addressed by the Board of Trustees at its twenty-seventh session in 1989 to the Executive Director of UNITAR to consider rationalizing the 1990-1991 UNITAR programmes in the light of the financial resources available, both under the General Fund and under Special Purpose Funds with particular attention to priority setting. The Secretary-General also shares the view of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the financial position of UNITAR requires that the resources available to the Institute under the General Fund or the special purpose grants should be managed very efficiently (A/44/543, paras. 31 and 32).

50. The financial situation of the Institute, however, remains a source of grave concern. In all likelihood, as a result of unanticipated shortfalls in income and unexpected expenditures, the Institute's 1989 budget will be in deficit. Concurrently, the United Nations acquired the land occupied by the UNITAR building only last month. The sale of the entire property could not therefore be completed, thus precluding the establishment of the Reserve Fund endorsed by the General Assembly under its resolution 42/197. By the same token, these factors, compounded by a decline in government contributions to the General Fund, have led in 1989 to a net increase in the overall liabilities of the Institute. Under these conditions, the Secretary-General considers that it is essential that the real estate transactions be consummated as soon as possible. This process, once completed, will enable the Institute to eliminate all its present cash liabilities. It should also make possible the establishment of the Reserve Fund contemplated by the Assembly. This Fund, if operational by early next year, could thus be reasonably expected to be of a size commensurate with its original stated purpose to assist UNITAR in sustaining its operations. At the present time, the parameters of the situation are not fully known. In any case, if the magnitude of the remaining endowment emanating from the sale of the property proved to be inadequate, the Secretary-General intends to submit to the General Assembly, through the Board of Trustees of UNITAR, a report addressing longer-term issues related to the financing of the Institute.

51. It should, nevertheless, be emphasized here that the rationale of the Reserve Fund is to provide greater stability, predictability and reliability in the financing of the Institute. It is not, nor is it intended to be a substitute for voluntary contributions from Governments, either to the General Fund or to special projects. While the Institute has retained, albeit at a considerably reduced level, the capacity to pursue a significant number of its traditional activities, particularly in the training field, there is a minimum budget level below which the Institute would no longer be viable. The precarious financial predicament of the Institute results from declining contributions to the General Fund and needs to be addressed. In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to reiterate his sincere appreciation to the Government of Nigeria for having provided UNITAR with a Trust Fund of \$1 million, the interest of which can be used by the Institute for its annual budget. This generous initiative, if followed by other Governments, could indeed represent a major step towards ensuring greater stability in the financing of the Institute.

Notes

- 1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/43/14).
- 2/ UNITAR/BT/R.73, para. 4, of 7 April 1989.
- 3/ UNITAR/EX/R.134 and Add.1.
- 4/ JIU/REP/79/18.
- 5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 5D (A/42/5/Add.4), sect. II, para. 20; *ibid.*, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 5D (A/43/5/Add.4), sect. II, paras. 34-36; and *Ibid.*, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 5D (A/44/5/Add.4), sect. II, paras. 25 and 26.
- 6/ UNITAR/BT/R.76 of 13 March 1989.
- 7/ UNITAR/EX/R.133.
- 8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 5D (A/44/5/Add.4), sect. II.

ANNEX I

Appointment of full-time senior fellows of UNITAR

A. Criteria

1. Full-time senior fellows shall be appointed with a view to conducting training and/or research within the work programme of the Institute, approved by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). They shall not normally perform administrative functions that would be assigned to regular staff members of the Institute.
2. Full-time senior fellows shall meet the highest standards of competence and integrity. They should have, as appropriate, extensive academic, governmental or international organization experience. If they are former staff members of the United Nations, they should have distinguished themselves at a level at least comparable to a D-2 position in the United Nations system.
3. Full-time senior fellows shall have proven expertise and have made outstanding contributions in fields germane to the work of the Institute.

B. Procedure

4. Full-time senior fellows shall be appointed by the Secretary-General upon the recommendation of the Executive Director of UNITAR. A panel composed of representatives of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Office of Human Resources Management shall be designated by the Secretary-General to provide advice, as necessary, with regard to the application of the criteria and conditions for the appointment of full-time senior fellows.

C. Conditions of appointment

5. The legal status, entitlements and obligations of full-time senior fellows shall be spelled out in full in their letters of appointment. The appointment of full-time senior fellows shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) The appointment of full-time senior fellows shall be made for renewable periods of one year. Renewal of such appointments shall be on the basis of the continuing relevance of their assignments to the programme activities of UNITAR as approved by the Board of Trustees;

(b) Full-time senior fellows shall be appointed on a full-time basis, free of charge for UNITAR. For the duration of their appointment, they may only undertake concurrent, remunerated activities with the prior authorisation of the Secretary-General, in which latter event they may receive honoraria not exceeding the limit prescribed by the General Assembly for United Nations retirees;

(c) Full-time senior fellows shall serve in their personal capacity and have the status of officials of the United Nations for the purpose of articles V and VII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (General Convention) (see General Assembly resolution 22 A (I)). They shall not, however, be considered staff members under the Staff Rules and Regulations of the United Nations;

(d) As officials of the United Nations, full-time senior fellows may be issued a United Nations laissez-passer and other travel facilities, including travel expenses if they are required to undertake official travel;

(e) The privileges and immunities attached to the United Nations under the General Convention are conferred on officials of the United Nations in the interest of the Organization. As such officials, full-time senior fellows have a duty immediately to report all cases in which these privileges and immunities arise to the Secretary-General, with whom alone it rests to decide whether they shall be waived;

(f) Full-time senior fellows shall refrain from any activity that might adversely reflect on their position and will exercise the utmost discretion in all matters of official business of the Institute or the United Nations. This obligation does not elapse upon termination of their appointment, except when expressly provided;

(g) Full-time senior fellows shall be required to obtain medical clearance from the United Nations Medical Service prior to their appointment or renewal of appointment, and before undertaking travel at United Nations expense;

(h) The United Nations shall be entitled to all property rights, including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to material which bears a direct relation to, or is made in consequence of, the services or assignments undertaken by full-time senior fellows on behalf of the Institute. At the request of the United Nations, full-time senior fellows shall assist in securing such property rights and transferring them to the Organization in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law;

(i) Full-time senior fellows are fully responsible for arranging, at their own expense, such life, health and other forms of insurance, social security and pension covering the period of their services for the United Nations as they consider appropriate. The senior fellows are not eligible to participate in the life or health insurance scheme available to United Nations staff members. The responsibility of the United Nations is limited, in this respect, to the conditions described in paragraph (j) below;

(j) Full-time senior fellows who are authorized to travel at United Nations expense or who are required to perform their services in a United Nations office, shall be entitled, in the event of death, injury or illness attributable to the performance of services on behalf of the United Nations while in travel status or while working in an office of the Organization on official United Nations business, to compensation equivalent to the compensation that would be payable under the

rules governing compensation to members of commissions, committees or similar bodies in respect of whom the United Nations pays daily subsistence allowances or annual remuneration;

(k) The Institute or the United Nations undertakes no liability for taxes, duty, social security, or other contribution payable by full-time senior fellows during the course of their service with UNITAR;

(l) Any dispute relating to the terms and conditions of appointment of full-time senior fellows shall, if attempts at settlement by negotiation have failed, be submitted to arbitration in New York by a single arbitrator agreed to by both parties. Should the parties be unable to agree on a single arbitrator within 30 days of the request for arbitration, then each party shall proceed to appoint one arbitrator and the two arbitrators thus appointed shall agree on a third. Failing such agreement, either party may request the appointment of the third arbitrator by the President of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. The decisions rendered in the arbitration shall constitute final adjudication of the dispute. The costs of arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties.

ANNEX II

Proposed new article VI of the statute of UNITAR

Full-time senior fellows, fellows, consultants,
correspondents and advisory bodies

1. The Secretary-General may appoint, for a renewable period of one year, a small number of especially qualified persons to serve on a full-time basis free of charge for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as full-time senior fellows of the Institute. Such persons, who may be invited to participate as lecturers or research scholars, shall be selected on the basis of outstanding contributions that they have made in fields germane to the work of the Institute, but they shall not be considered as members of the staff of the Institute or of the United Nations. They shall, however, have the status of officials of the United Nations for purposes of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (see General Assembly resolution 22 A (I)). For the duration of their appointment, they may only undertake concurrent, remunerated activities with the prior authorization of the Secretary-General, in which latter event they may receive honoraria not exceeding the amounts prescribed by the General Assembly for United Nations retirees. The other criteria and terms and conditions of service for their appointment shall be governed by the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.
2. For the purpose of contributing to the analysis and planning of the activities of the Institute or for special assignments in connection with the Institute's programmes of training and research, the Executive Director may arrange for the services of consultants, fellows and experts, who shall not be considered as officials of the United Nations and who shall not be regarded as members of the staff of the Institute or of the United Nations.
3. The Executive Director may also appoint correspondents in countries or regions to assist in maintaining contacts with national or regional institutions, in selecting trainees and in carrying out or advising on studies and research.
4. In addition to the advisory bodies referred to in article V, paragraph 2 (i) above (in the statute), the Executive Director may establish other advisory bodies composed of individual experts or representatives of organizations and institutions to advise him with regard to the programme and functioning of the Institute.
5. Fellows, experts, correspondents and other additional personnel of the Institute shall be financed from special purpose grants.
