



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/634
16 November 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 85 (a)

TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING
AND RESEARCH

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	3
II. RESTRUCTURING OF THE INSTITUTE	3 - 13	4
A. Programme activities	3 - 6	4
B. Full-time senior fellows	7	5
C. Execution of UNITAR projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme	8	5
D. Proposed UNITAR training centre for international co-operation and socio-economic development	9 - 10	5
E. Sale of UNITAR headquarters building	11 - 13	6
III. FINANCIAL QUESTIONS	14 - 27	7
A. 1990 budget	14 - 18	7
B. Budgetary performance in 1990	19 - 27	8
IV. LONGER-TERM ISSUES	28 - 32	10
V. CONCLUSIONS	33 - 34	12

209

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Annexes</u>	
I. Co-operation among autonomous research institutes of the United Nations	17
II. 1990 projected income and expenditures, including comparative amounts for 1988 and 1989	20

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 44/175 of 19 December 1989, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/44/611); reaffirmed the continuing validity and relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as contained in its amended statute (A/43/697/Add.1); took note of the criteria and qualifications to apply to full-time senior fellows of the Institute and of the amendment to the statute of the Institute, regarding full-time senior fellows, fellows, consultants, correspondents and advisory bodies, contained in the annexes to the report of the Secretary-General; authorized the Institute to enter into appropriate arrangements with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to execute projects funded by the Programme falling within the functions of the Institute, taking into account all relevant factors, including the comments of the Board of Auditors concerning the status of the Institute as an executing agency of UNDP; 1/ reiterated its request that the budgetary proposals of the Institute for 1990, as well as those for 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; urged the Secretary-General to proceed rapidly with the sale of the headquarters building of the Institute, as approved in General Assembly resolutions 42/197 and 43/201; 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; agreed with the Secretary-General that the purpose of the reserve fund to be established by the Institute was to provide greater stability, predictability and reliability in the financing of the Institute, and noted that the fund was not intended to be a substitute for voluntary contributions from Governments, either to the General Fund of the Institute or to the special projects; requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Board of Trustees of the Institute at its forthcoming session a complete report on his efforts to sell the land and headquarters building of the Institute; urged all States that had not yet contributed to the General Fund of the Institute to do so and called upon all contributing States to increase their contributions to the Institute, so as to enable it to continue to fulfil its mandate and to implement fully and successfully the provisions of the resolution and other relevant resolutions; appealed to all States to provide appropriate special-purpose grants to enable the Institute to implement the training and research programmes that cannot be financed from its General Fund, and called upon appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Institute; emphasized the urgent need for broad-based financing for the Institute and invited the traditional donors, in implementation of resolutions 42/197 and 43/201 and the present resolution, to resume or continue, as appropriate, their voluntary contributions to the Institute.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Board of Trustees of the Institute, on the longer-term issues related to the financing of the Institute; and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to explore new modalities for greater interfacing among United Nations research bodies, endorsed the proposals of the Secretary-General and requested the Director-General for

Development and International Economic Co-operation to organize a meeting of United Nations research institutes with a view to enhancing practical co-operation among them, particularly in regard to the formulation and implementation of their programmes and plans. The present report has been prepared in compliance with the request of the Assembly. The outcome of the meeting of United Nations research institutes, organized by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, is summarized in annex I to the present report, since the subject-matter has little bearing on the substantive questions raised in the body of the report and thus warrants separate treatment.

II. RESTRUCTURING OF THE INSTITUTE

A. Programme activities

3. The draft work programme of the Institute for the 1990-1991 biennium was prepared on the basis of the criteria laid down by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 (1) and paragraph 4 (6) of its resolution 42/197 of 11 December 1987, which provide for a core programme of activities funded through the General Fund and an expanded programme of activities funded through extrabudgetary resources. As shall be recalled, the former focuses on training in international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy; the latter, on training for economic and social development and research on the United Nations, energy and natural resources and the future of the main developing regions of the world.

4. Due account was also taken of the comments and observations made by the Board of Trustees of the Institute at its twenty-seventh session in 1989, in which the Board had invited the Executive Director of the Institute to rationalize the entire UNITAR programme and, accordingly, to consider priority setting in the light of the financial resources available both under the General Fund and under Special Purpose Grants. The draft work programme of the Institute was elaborated by also taking into account the views solicited by the Executive Director from the organs and organizations of the United Nations system and the Governments of developing countries.

5. The draft work programme of the Institute for 1990-1991 was considered and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute at its twenty-eighth session, held in New York from 16 to 20 April 1990. It is worth noting that the cost of the programme approved for 1990 under the General Fund only represents one third of the 1990 programme resources of the Institute, two thirds of the programme being funded through special purpose grants. The Board also suggested that, in the future, the programme proposals of the Executive Director should be presented in such a manner as to allow for an easy identification of projects for which funding was already assured against those for which fund-raising efforts would be required. 2/

6. Further and fuller details on the approved work programme of the Institute and its implementation in the current year may be found in the biennial report of the Executive Director of UNITAR to the General Assembly. 3/ In this connection, it should be noted that, in keeping with the General Assembly's decision in its resolution 42/197, training has remained the main focus of the Institute's

programme of activities. In addition, as decided by the Assembly in the same resolution, the 1990-1991 UNITAR research programme is entirely funded through special purpose grants as was the case for the 1988-1989 biennium.

B. Full-time senior fellows

7. In order to implement adequately its training and research activities under both the General Fund and Special Purpose Grants, the Institute continues to resort to the services, free of charge, of full-time senior fellows appointed by the Secretary-General, as authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/210, as well as to other categories of rotating staff. In this connection, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 44/175, the General Assembly took note of the criteria and qualifications to apply to full-time senior fellows of the Institute proposed by the Secretary-General in its 1989 report to the Assembly (see A/44/611, paras. 18-20). It was on the basis of those criteria 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. In the light of the continuing importance of the role of full-time senior fellows in the implementation of the work programme of the Institute, the Secretary-General deemed it appropriate, in accordance with established procedures, to extend for another year the term of the full-time senior fellows appointed in 1989 and to appoint yet another senior fellow for 1990 who is stationed at Geneva.

C. Execution of UNITAR projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme

8. Still within the same context of the implementation of the Institute's work programme, it will be recalled that, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 44/175, the General Assembly authorized UNITAR to enter into appropriate arrangements with the Administrator of UNDP to execute projects funded by the Programme falling within the functions of the Institute, taking into account all relevant factors, including the comments of the Board of Auditors concerning the status of the Institute as an executing agency of UNDP. Through an exchange of letters between the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNITAR concluded in January 1990, the latter committed UNITAR, when serving as executing agency of UNDP-funded projects, to adhere to UNDP standard basic executive agency agreements.

D. Proposed UNITAR training centre for international co-operation and socio-economic development

9. In the course of its consideration of the work programme of the Institute for 1990-1991, the Board of Trustees considered an offer made to UNITAR by the Mayor of the City of Atlanta and the Governor of the state of Georgia to establish in Atlanta a modern state-of-the-art UNITAR training centre for international co-operation and socio-economic development. At its September 1990 special session, the Board noted with appreciation the information provided by the Executive Director in his report, 4/ describing and assessing the offer made to

UNITAR and outlining the purpose, funding, modality of operation and programme, staffing and budget of the proposed centre. After a detailed review of those matters, the Board approved the proposed project, a UNITAR training centre for international co-operation and socio-economic development at Atlanta, it being understood that the centre would only become operational if the United States Government does not object to its location and that there would be no financial cost to the UNITAR budget for the creation and functioning of the centre.

10. In a communication dated 12 September 1990, the Government of the United States made it known to the Executive Director of UNITAR that, after a careful review in accordance with its obligations and responsibilities as the host country to the United Nations, it could not concur with the proposal to establish a training site in the city of Atlanta.

E. Sale of UNITAR headquarters building

11. In paragraphs 7 and 10 of its resolution 44/175, the General Assembly urged the Secretary-General to proceed rapidly with the sale of the headquarters building of the Institute and requested him to submit to the Board of Trustees of the Institute at its 1990 session a complete report on his efforts to sell the building and the land on which it is situated. In response to the request of the Assembly, the Secretary-General submitted two progress reports to the Board of Trustees at its twenty-eighth regular session and special session of September 1990, both held in New York, from 2 to 6 April 1990 and from 10 to 12 September 1990, respectively. 5/

12. As shall be recalled, immediately following the purchase by the United Nations of the land on which the UNITAR building is erected, the Committee on the UNITAR Headquarters Property, established by the Secretary-General to advise him on this matter, worked out a procedure for the sale of the entire property. The Committee first sought expressions of interest from permanent missions to the United Nations. While 11 missions expressed interest in acquiring the property, none submitted bids by the closing date of 30 January 1990. Efforts to sell the site in the open market also proved unsuccessful when none of the bids received a minimum level considered satisfactory. In view of the current unfavourable state of the real estate market in New York City, the marketable value of the property has been affected in such a manner as to call into question the original objectives of the transaction, namely: to enable UNITAR to eliminate its financial liabilities; to repay the sum of approximately \$4,500,000 advanced by the United Nations for the purchase of the land, plus interest, and to set up a reserve fund to sustain the Institute's future operations as called for in General Assembly resolution 42/157.

13. As no upward trend can now be anticipated in the real estate market, none of these objectives appears to be within reach. Accordingly, the Committee on the UNITAR Headquarters Property concluded that it had exhausted all available avenues and used its best efforts, within the framework of applicable United Nations procedures, to sell the UNITAR property at the highest obtainable price. Since these efforts have failed to produce a buyer, the matter was accordingly reported to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It is the

intention of the Secretary-General, in due course, to consult with the Advisory Committee on the appropriate disposition of the UNITAR property.

III. FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

A. 1990 budget

14. The Executive Director presented an expenditure budget for 1990, consistent with General Assembly resolution 42/197, amounting to \$1,335,550, together with a new budget for programme support costs of \$277,600. The resulting combined estimate for 1990 of \$1,613,150 compared with \$1,186,700 budgeted for 1989 - an increase of 36 per cent. Actual expenditures for 1989 had been \$1,279,500, compared with actual income for 1989 of \$1,175,500 - a shortfall of \$104,000.

15. The budget as submitted contained the following elements of income:

General Fund:

Government contributions	\$670 000
Rental income	160 000
Subsidy from project support	78 000
Publications and royalties	18 000
Interest from Reserve Fund	150 000
Advance from the United Nations	<u>250 000</u>
Subtotal	\$1 336 000
Project support income	<u>277 600</u>
	\$1 613 600

Details of the projected income, and related estimates of expenditures, including comparative amounts for the past two years, may be found in annex II to the present report.

16. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 43/201 and 44/175, had requested that the Advisory Committee consider the budget proposals of the Executive Director prior to approval by the Board of Trustees of the Institute. Difficulties of timing did not enable the Advisory Committee to review the proposals prior to the twenty-eighth regular session of the Board of Trustees in April 1990. Accordingly, the Board decided to give conditional approval to the budget proposals, on the understanding that they would be revised by the Executive Director in consultation with the United Nations Controller, to conform with the comments of the Advisory Committee. The Board further agreed that it would review the 1990 budget at its September 1990 special session in the light of the comments of the Advisory Committee, if these were of a substantive nature. In order to avoid the recurrence

of the same situation in the future, the Board also decided to hold its future regular session in mid-May of each year.

17 The comments of the Advisory Committee, g/ focus on the presentation and format of the Institute's budget proposals, the level of proposed estimated expenditures and the timing of the budget preparation. In this connection, the Committee recommended, inter alia, that the amount of \$150,000 as interest income from the reserve fund for 1990 should be deleted from income estimates, because the building had not yet been sold and the terms for investing the reserve fund resources, should the building be sold, were also not known. In addition, the Advisory Committee noted that UNITAR's proposed staffing established in 1990 was unchanged from that of 1989, except that it proposed to reclassify two P-5 posts to the D-1 level in the staffing nomenclature approved by the Assembly in the annex to its resolution 42/197. As established United Nations reclassification procedures had not been followed and in the light of current financial difficulties of the Institute, the Advisory Committee recommended that the proposed reclassification not be implemented.

18. The Executive Director explained to the Board of Trustees at its special session in September that the absence of interest income from the reserve fund for 1990 meant he saw no alternative that the United Nations should have to advance UNITAR \$400,000 instead of \$250,000 initially envisaged to balance the budget. The Board also felt that it was too late in the year to modify the budget substantively. The Board of Trustees, therefore, concentrated its review on the existing system of budget preparation and decided to discuss the matter further at its May 1991 session. The Advisory Committee pointed out that, in order for the Board to be able to consider fully the report of the Advisory Committee prior to the adoption of the Institute's budget, an anomaly would continue to exist in that the Institute's budget for a particular year would not be formally considered and approved until almost the mid-point of the year. The Board noted, however, that, subject to the availability of funds, it has authorized the Executive Director to incur expenditure not exceeding the corresponding expenditure of the previous year between the beginning of the budgetary year (1 January) and the time when the Board holds its regular session during which the budget is formally approved. Nevertheless, the matter will be examined again by the Board at its May 1991 regular session.

B. Budgetary performance in 1990

19. Budgetary performance in 1990 has again been disappointing, inasmuch as income has again not matched expectations, while expenditures have been incurred at or close to budgeted levels. As a result, the amount owed by UNITAR to the United Nations has continued to rise in 1990.

20. As regards income in 1990, government contributions received during the nine-month period ended 30 September amounted to \$320,394 against a budgetary estimate of \$670,000. While certain additional contributions are anticipated before the end of the year, it may be expected that there will be a shortfall of government contributions in the range of \$300,000 to \$350,000. Other income,

including income from programme support, estimated at \$943,000, is now not expected to exceed \$393,000 - a shortfall of \$550,000, owing largely to the inability to sell the property and to benefit from the proceeds. Thus, actual income in 1990 may fall short of expectations by \$850,000 to \$900,000.

21. At the same time, UNITAR has been unable to effect savings in expenditures to offset the shortfalls in income. As at 30 September 1990, expenditures, including expenditures against programme support income, amounted to \$1,162,650, which implies that, by the end of the year, UNITAR expenditures will be at or close to the budgeted amount of \$1,612,150.

22. In addition to amounts included in the UNITAR budget, certain costs have continued to be temporarily carried outside the budget of UNITAR through a reserve account set up two years ago. It was felt indeed that such an arrangement was necessary, pending the sale of the UNITAR building, in order to reduce the financial burden of the Institute during the restructuring phase. It was intended that this account would be replenished in full as soon as the sale of the UNITAR property was completed. As at 30 June 1990, expenditures against this reserve account amounted to \$1,116,483, as follows:

Pension liabilities	\$272 928
Staff costs (staff affected by the restructuring)	\$690 932
Security	<u>\$152 623</u>
	\$1 116 483

23. As noted by the United Nations Board of Auditors in its report to the General Assembly on the accounts of UNITAR for the year 1989, four projects financed by special purpose grants which are no longer operational have incurred deficits totalling \$247,988. Those deficits are temporarily being financed by donors of other special purpose grants, pending a decision to be taken by the Board of Trustees as to their disposition.

24. A further financial problem, brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Board of Auditors, concerns a charge made by the United Nations to UNITAR for rental of the premises occupied by UNITAR at Geneva. That charge was made in accordance with recommendation 36 in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 7/ which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, that Member States and other users occupying space in United Nations premises should pay rent based on current commercial rates. The United Nations has implemented that decision by charging UNITAR and reflecting rental income in its own budget. As at 30 September 1990, the outstanding amount due from UNITAR is \$112,591. At its twenty-seventh session, held in April 1989, the Board of Trustees endorsed the recommendation of its Finance Committee that the Secretary-General of the United Nations be requested to consider to continue exempting UNITAR from paying rent for its Geneva Office. When the Board was informed that the Secretary-General was not in a position to make an

exception to the decision of the General Assembly, the Board felt that the matter should be raised in the Secretary-General's report on long-term issues related to the financing of the Institute. If the General Assembly does not make an exception for the Institute, the above-mentioned amount due from UNITAR will have to be added to the Institute's debt to the United Nations.

25. The combined effect of the shortfalls and deficits, projected to 31 December 1990, discloses that the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations, which stands at \$3.9 million as at 30 September, may be estimated at approximately \$4.2 million by the end of 1990. Most of this debt would have represented a first charge against the proceeds of the sale of the UNITAR property.

26. This debt is in addition to the amount of \$4,410,566 advanced by the United Nations in 1989, in connection with the purchase of the land on which the UNITAR building stands. It will be recalled that under the conditions of the loan set by the Advisory Committee, the funds advanced for this purpose are to be repaid with interest equivalent to the average rate of investment return that would otherwise have been earned by those funds. The related amount is projected to total \$4.9 million by 31 December 1990.

27. Thus, the total indebtedness of UNITAR to the United Nations is projected at \$9.1 million at 31 December 1990.

IV. LONGER-TERM ISSUES

28. The financial information presented in the previous section once again underlines, as a matter of utmost and grave urgency, the imperative need to place the funding of the Institute on a more predictable, assured and continuous basis. The sale of the UNITAR building was an essential component of the restructuring of the Institute mandated by the General Assembly three years ago. It was then expected that the streamlining of the Institute's programme, coupled with measures bringing about a more transparent administrative, budgetary and financial pattern of management, would restore a climate of political confidence conducive to the resumption of adequate levels of voluntary contributions to the General Fund. At the same time, the reserve fund which would have been set up out of the proceeds of the sale of the building would have enabled the Institute to continue its activities on a firm basis and provided it with a safety net to weather possible future vicissitudes.

29. The stringent restructuring of the Institute, which has taken a heavy toll on its staff and could not be further intensified without bringing the work of the Institute to a standstill have, nevertheless, not prevented UNITAR from slipping into repeated fiscal deficits and growing indebtedness *vis-à-vis* the United Nations. There is a minimum level of budgetary resources required to keep the Institute alive. While the purchase of the land on which the UNITAR building is erected took more time than expected, thus delaying the sale of the UNITAR property, voluntary contributions from Governments to the General Fund have continued to decline. Thus, in 1986, the year of the first restructuring, \$1,269,406 have been contributed to the UNITAR General Fund against \$708,203

pledged in 1989. For 1990, government contributions pledged until 31 October 1990 amounted to \$336,760.68, and \$327,909.13 were pledged for 1991 at the recently held United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. Concurrently, the hope to cushion the Institute against future crises through a reserve fund can no longer be entertained, at least for the time being. In brief, the process of revitalizing the Institute on a long-term basis after years of financial tribulations appears to have reached a new impasse as a solution has yet to be found to the problem of devising ways and means to fund the Institute's core budget.

30. The outcome of these difficult years of transition is all the more disappointing as many other signs point to the enduring vitality of the Institute. The new programmes that were authorized by the Board of Trustees for the present biennium, as well as the continuing high proportion of projects funded from extrabudgetary resources, are indeed all important reminders of the significance and usefulness attached by many to the work of the Institute.

31. It is against this background of deepening General Fund financial constraints that the Board of Trustees of the Institute reviewed at its September special session the matter of the long-term issues related to the financing of the Institute in order to respond to the Secretary-General's request for suggestions on effective ways and means to find solutions to the problem. In this connection, the Board adopted a number of recommendations, which the Secretary-General is transmitting to the Assembly for its consideration and appropriate required action.

32. Considering the very few options at hand, the views of the Board could be summarized as follows:

(a) Regarding the sale of UNITAR headquarters property and the fulfilment of the above-mentioned objectives of that transaction, the Board recommended that, in view of the circumstances that prevented UNITAR from selling its headquarters property, the General Assembly should consider deferring payments related to the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations for about five years in the expectation that the real estate market in New York City will improve, or for a shorter period if the real estate market becomes more favourable earlier;

(b) The Board noted the need to balance the General Fund in view of the constant decrease of General Fund resources. For that purpose, the Institute should aim preferably at increasing its General Fund's income or at decreasing its General Fund's expenses or a combination of both measures. The General Fund's income could be increased in the following ways:

(i) As government contributions are the main source of the General Fund's income and since the resources of that Fund are only used for the funding of training activities benefiting all Governments, as well as to satisfy some training needs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Board suggested that the UNITAR General Fund should be supported by the United Nations budget, it being understood that training activities that are not being funded through the General Fund would continue to be funded through voluntary contributions mobilized as special purpose grants from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and other non-governmental sources;

- (ii) In its resolution 42/197, the General Assembly requested that UNITAR research on the United Nations should be funded either by the appropriate United Nations organ or by special purpose grants to be sought for its execution. The Board thus recommended that, in view of the difficulty of raising voluntary contributions for UNITAR research on the United Nations, research activity should also be funded by the United Nations, while other UNITAR research activities continue to be funded through voluntary contributions made available to the Institute as Special Purpose Grants;

(c) The Board noted also that the Institute was quite successful in raising funds for training and research benefiting developing countries in the field of economic and social development to which major donors' voluntary contributions are primarily directed. As a result, the UNITAR General Fund budget represents only one third of the Institute's total financial resources. The financial problem of UNITAR concerns mainly activities funded through the Institute's General Fund budget which, as mentioned above, benefit all Governments. If the Institute's resources for its General Fund were assured through the adoption of the above-made suggestions, there would no longer be a major problem for the long-term financing of the Institute.

V. CONCLUSIONS

33. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 42/197, the action of the Secretary-General has focused on laying down the foundations for an enduring revitalization of the Institute. In spite of these efforts, however, there has been no solution to the financial difficulties that UNITAR has been facing. While the Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed its support for the continuing relevance and importance of the mandate of the Institute, Member States have not provided sufficient funding in the form of voluntary contributions to the UNITAR General Fund. The minimum expenditures of UNITAR under the General Fund have repeatedly exceeded its income. The Institute's debt to the United Nations has continued to rise and has now reached a level that cannot be raised further without calling into question the ability of UNITAR to ever repay this debt.

34. Under the circumstances, there would appear only to be two possible solutions to the recurring financial difficulties of the Institute: a resumption, at significantly higher and predictable levels, of government voluntary contributions to the General Fund of the Institute, or significant allocations on a continuing basis from the United Nations regular budget to the General Fund. The Secretary-General is of the opinion that the first option is unlikely to materialize. The Secretary-General accordingly believes that the recommendations of the Board of Trustees deserve careful consideration as, in the final analysis, the recurring difficulties of the Institute are inextricably linked to declining levels of voluntary contributions to its General Fund and the long-term viability of the Institute depends upon the assured funding of its General Fund at an appropriate level. As regards the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations, the General Assembly could also consider endorsing the proposals of the Board of Trustees. If the General Assembly is not prepared to act upon the recommendations of the Board of Trustees, it may wish to decide what other course of action should be taken.

Notes

- 1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 5D (A/44/5/Add.4), paras. 25 and 26.
- 2/ UNITAR/BT/R.79, para. 8.
- 3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/45/14).
- 4/ UNITAR/EX/R.155.
- 5/ UNITAR/EX/R.142 and UNITAR/EX/R.152.
- 6/ See UNITAR/EX/12.151, annex.
- 7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49), para. 44.

ANNEX I

Co-operation among autonomous research institutes of
the United Nations

1. In paragraph 15 of its resolution 44/175 of 19 December 1989, the General Assembly requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to organize a meeting of autonomous research institutes of the United Nations with a view to "enhancing practical co-operation among them, particularly in regard to the formulation and implementation of their programmes and plans".
2. In compliance with the request of the General Assembly, a meeting of autonomous research institutes of the United Nations was organized by the Director-General, which was held on 11 July 1990 at Geneva. In view of the importance of their substantive work, invitations were also extended to a number of research institutes in the United Nations system. In addition, entities of the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions, were invited so that they could indicate how they could benefit from such enhanced co-operation and what contribution they could provide in order to facilitate greater interaction between research institutes and other entities of the United Nations in the area of research.
3. The meeting was thus attended by the United Nations University (UNU), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNCICRI), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the Research Administration Office (RAD) of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund Institute and the International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS). The following entities of the United Nations Secretariat were also represented: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Department for Disarmament Affairs, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Centre for Science and Technology for Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Economic Commission for Africa, World Food Council, Centre for Human Rights and Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations Office at Vienna).
4. The meeting focused its discussions on ways and means to build upon the already existing network of functional relationships among research institutes so that they could move towards a flexible and more sustained system of interaction among themselves that could lead to mutually reinforcing initiatives within the framework of their respective mandates and enable them to make appropriate contributions to the work of United Nations intergovernmental bodies as well. More specifically, the meeting dealt with information exchange, areas for possible research co-operation and modalities for ongoing co-operation among United Nations autonomous research institutes.

5. All participants underlined the importance of information exchange among research institutes for the purpose of promoting their practical co-operation at the planning and implementation stages of their respective mandated programmes and activities. In this connection, it was agreed to systematize further informal and other ad hoc arrangements already in place through the designation of focal points within each institute. Acting as central clearing houses for its receipt and dissemination, such focal points would also ensure that the material and information thus shared would filter down to the working level in each research institute. The data exchanged would include prospective programme budgets and medium-term perspectives or plans as proposed before their final adoption, the sharing of research outputs such as completed reports and publications, rosters of experts and academic networks in given fields, bibliographical databases and methodological approaches used for particular research projects and the like. It was also agreed that the working paper prepared by the Secretariat, presenting in tabular form an overview of the current and planned activities of all research institutes, could also be usefully circulated at regular intervals in a revised and more forward-looking format placing particular emphasis on future activities. Such a paper would enable all participants to identify possible substantive areas lending themselves to strengthened co-operation among research institutes at the planning stage of their respective programmes.

6. With respect to areas for research co-operation, it was understood that due attention would have to be given to the autonomous status of each research institute and their differing mandates, as well as the fact that their governing bodies would ultimately have to approve their respective programmes. Within this framework, it was agreed that research institutes could collaborate to mutual advantage not only for the benefit of the research to be undertaken but also for enhancing their possible contribution towards the overall mandates of the United Nations. In general terms and to the extent possible, research institutes could organize their theme and problem-solving oriented research in such a manner as to add a dimension dealing with policy options that could assist the deliberations of United Nations intergovernmental bodies. Specific modalities for such co-operation that were discussed included the organization of seminars and round tables and cost-sharing research activities for interdisciplinary research projects of relevance to the agenda of the United Nations. Thus, it was felt that the crisis facing the developing countries from the beginning of the 1980s and the enormous political and economic changes that were reshaping the contemporary world, as well as the present technological revolutions, all constituted compelling reasons to rethink the concept of development. Research institutes could also contribute to the intellectual and scientific underpinnings for the substantive policy discussions to take place at forthcoming major meetings and conferences, such as the seventh session of UNCTAD, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1993 world conference on human rights, the 1994 international meeting on population, the 1995 World Conference on Women, and the 1995 Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, as well as the high-level thematic meetings scheduled to take place in the Economic and Social Council as of next year on East-West relations (1991) and the eradication of poverty (1992). While research institutes could contribute individually to these forthcoming major events, they could also, whenever appropriate and feasible, act bilaterally or multilaterally through an effective utilization of their specialization.

7. As to the modalities for ongoing co-operation among them, the participants welcomed the proposal of the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) and the United Nations University (UNU) to develop a register of research in progress or planned in the United Nations in the area of science and technology to begin with. They also shared the views expressed by the Secretary-General in his report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session (A/44/611) to the effect 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 warranted careful consideration in the light of the potential benefits that might accrue to the entire system and the substantive co-operation that it would thereby stimulate among research institutes. It was, therefore, agreed that the launching of the register should entail a gradual widening of participating institutes in its preparation. Concerned entities would thus provide the necessary inputs through their focal points on a periodic basis so that UNU and UNCSTD could enter and regularly update the data in the register. This information would initially be made available to all research institutes and other interested parties in the Secretariat in machine readable form and, at a later stage, also in published form. The progressive development of the register, as outlined above, would take account of the work carried out by ACCIS and could also benefit from discussions taking place within the framework of the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. It was thus hoped that this gradual pattern of development of the register would enable UNU and UNCSTD to keep the project within manageable proportions and to ensure that it fully meets the needs of research institutes and other users, including the Secretariat.

8. Finally, all participants agreed that the meeting had been especially valuable and useful as an initial first step towards strengthening co-operation among research institutes. They, accordingly, endorsed the proposal to convene similar but subject and theme-oriented meetings at regular intervals. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation would act as convener of the next meeting, tentatively scheduled to take place in July 1991 at Geneva and assisted in this task by the Rector of the United Nations University. Contributions by research institutes to forthcoming major United Nations meetings and conferences, publication and dissemination policies, research methodologies and consultations on preparations by the institutes of their future activities with a view to identify possible areas for co-operation were mentioned as possible agenda items of future meetings.

9. The Secretary-General welcomes the concrete and practical recommendations emerging from this first meeting of United Nations autonomous research institutes and hopes that their implementation will serve as a catalyst for a mutually beneficial and sustained interfacing among them. The Secretary-General further believes that the implementation of these measures, coupled with periodic regular issue-oriented meetings, will enable research institutes to make a fuller use of their substantive expertise and, by the same token, to maximize the utilization and impact of their limited financial and human resources. At a time when the United Nations must meet new challenges requiring a thorough reappraisal and reformulation of policies in development and security matters, the Secretary-General believes that, through their co-operation, research institutes within the framework of their mandates will thus be in a better position to provide fresh and new insights into major policy questions and issues of concern to United Nations intergovernmental bodies and the Secretariat.

ANNEX II

1990 projected income and expenditures, including comparative amounts for 1988 and 1989

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) General Fund

	<u>1988</u>		<u>1989</u>		<u>1990</u>
	Estimates	Actual	Estimates	Actual	Estimates
I. <u>Income</u>					
Government contributions	625.0	693.3 a/	751.1	520.9 a/	670.0
Rental income	170.0	183.5	221.9	227.6	160.0 b/
Project support income	224.7	245.2	198.7	191.1	78.0 c/
Non-governmental contribution	35.0	-	-	-	-
Income from royalties and from sales of publications	15.0	2.1	15.0	15.6	18.0
Interest from reserve fund	-	-	-	-	150.0 d/
Advance from the United Nations	-	-	-	-	250.0 e/
Interest income	-	7.7	-	12.5	-
Miscellaneous	-	40.6	-	20.4	10.0
	<u>1 069.7</u>	<u>1 172.4</u>	<u>1 186.7</u>	<u>988.1</u>	<u>1 336.0</u>
II. <u>Expenditures</u>					
Office of the Executive Director	<u>166.1</u>	<u>187.6</u>	<u>173.7</u>	<u>177.8</u>	<u>189.5</u>
	<u>166.1</u>	<u>187.6</u>	<u>173.7</u>	<u>177.8</u>	<u>189.5</u>
Programme activities					
Training (Headquarters and Geneva)	410.3	414.9	457.0	463.0	500.1
Research f/	-	11.2	-	5.8	-
	<u>410.3</u>	<u>426.1</u>	<u>457.0</u>	<u>468.8</u>	<u>500.1</u>

	1988		1989		1990
	Estimates	Actual	Estimates	Actual	Estimates
III. General operating costs					
Finance and administration	108.4	100.9	125.4	135.5	137.7
Security	-	0.3	- g/	-	23.0
Board of auditors	18.0	18.2	19.0	18.3	18.3
Supplies and materials, rental and maintenance of equipment	30.0	29.6	45.0	42.4	60.0
Library books, documents, etc.	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.4	3.0
Documentation/publications	-	6.3	8.0	4.9	20.0
Communications	53.3	58.3	65.0	89.1	80.0
Premises	260.0	360.4	270.0	298.3	275.0
Staff travel and fund-raising	21.6	11.4	21.6	15.4	22.0
Repayment of 1983 General Assembly advance	-	-	-	-	-
Payment of Pension Fund claims	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous costs	-	71.5	-	25.6	3.0
Public relations and hospitality	-	0.9	-	-	4.0 h/
Subtotal III	<u>493.3</u>	<u>659.8</u>	<u>556.0</u>	<u>632.9</u>	<u>646.0</u>
Grand total (1)	1 069.7	1 273.5	1 186.7	1 279.5	1 335.6
Excess of expenditure over income	-	(101.1)	-	(291.4)	0.4

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

a/ Contributions paid in cash.

b/ Based on existing leases and on the assumption that these leases will remain in force until October 1990 (10 months).

c/ In addition to Programme Support under (2) below.

d/ Relates to above two months of interest on the UNITAR Reserve Fund to be established from the sale of the Institute's headquarters premises. The calculation is based on a fund capital of \$10 million invested in United States Treasury Bonds with 4 years' maturity at 10 per cent interest.

e/ This advance, to be repaid after the sale of the UNITAR headquarters premises, is needed to balance the budget, as delays in the acquisition of the land and the subsequent sale of the entire projects do not allow the Institute to realize in 1990 an interest higher than \$150,000 from the Reserve Fund.

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

g/ The 1989 cost of this item was charged to the Reserve Account set up by the Secretary-General to accommodate the proceeds from the sale of the UNITAR Headquarters premises.

h/ This relates to the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNITAR.

(2) Programme support a/

Programme	1988 appropriation	Proposed increase	1990 estimates
	(United States dollars)		
A. Board of Trustees	-	-	-
B. Office of the Executive Director	-	-	-
C. Programme operational costs:			
(a) Programme department/Training Branch - (New York)	-	39 800	39 800
(b) Programme department/European Office - (Geneva)	-	48 000	48 000
(c) Programme Department/Research Branch	-	-	-
D. General operational expenses:			
(a) External relations, inter- agency affairs, Board matters and programme co-ordination	-	-	-
(b) Finance, administration and programme support		91 800	91 800
(c) General operational costs		98 000	98 000
Total (2)		277 600	277 600 <u>b/</u>
(3) Special Purpose Grants			<u>2 440 740</u> <u>c/</u>
			TOTAL (1), (2) and (3): <u>4 053 890</u>

a/ Until 1989, programme support resources were used in full to subsidize the General Fund of the Institute.

b/ As against anticipated programme support income (from ongoing projects totalling \$280,793).

c/ Relates to ongoing projects' projected expenditure for 1990.