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on Co-ordination

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CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANTIVE
QUESTIONS (PROGRAMME MATTERS)

REPORT OF THE ACC INTERSECRETARIAT GROUP FOR WATER RESOURCES
ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION

(United Nations Headquarters, New York, 8-13 April 1987)

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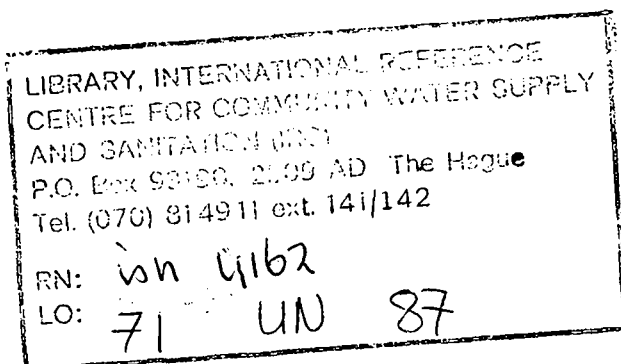
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I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
ON SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS (PROGRAMME MATTERS)

A. Substantive and technical issues for discussion by
the Group (agenda item 3)

1. The water situation in Africa (agenda item 3 (a))

1. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) presented a report prepared by the Commission for the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, concerning the development of water resources in the drought-stricken countries of the African region (E/C.7/1987/6), as background information on the water situation in Africa.

2. He summarized the current conditions in terms of the economic situation, the aftermath of the recent drought, the high rates of population growth (especially in urban areas) and the food deficits in many countries. He noted the relevance of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 to water resources development in the region, and the fight against drought and desertification. He briefly outlined the future activities of the ECA secretariat with reference to the Programme of Action and the Fourth Cycle Regional Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and suggested that it was now opportune to examine a new strategy for water resources development in Africa, the role of the Commission, and the role of the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources. He announced the Commission's intention of developing an information system concerning activities related to water resources development in the region, and asked the organizations and agencies of the system for their support in terms of supplying information on meetings and projects, and on their results, for inclusion in the proposed bulletin.

3. The representative of the World Bank drew the Group's attention to the Bank's recent activities in the water field, referring particularly to the proposed project on hydrological assessment in sub-Saharan Africa. That project was designed to assist countries in the sub-Saharan region in the creation and improvement of a sound hydrological base for the purposes of planning and evaluating water resources development programmes and projects. It would be carried out on a country-by-country basis, in five groups of countries. The cost of the project was estimated at \$3.6 million, and finance was expected to be arranged on a cost-sharing basis between the World Bank and UNDP.

4. The Group noted that the situation regarding the drought in Africa had improved as a result of recent rainfall, but that there was still need for short-term, medium-term and long-term measures for the development and management of water resources in the region. It agreed that it would be necessary to continue to monitor the situation in order to determine what future action should be taken by the United Nations system within the framework of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The Group further welcomed the ECA initiative to develop an information system relating to water resources development in the region, and agreed to provide the Commission with information on a regular basis.

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2. Human resources development (agenda item 3 (b))

5. At its seventh session the Group had received for its consideration a report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the assistance of a consultant financed by several organizations members of the Group, concerning a review of national manpower studies in the water resources sector. The report had been prepared as part of the Group's effort to develop comprehensive and integrated approaches to issues concerning human resources development in the field of water resources development. The members of the Group had agreed that the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report should be revised in order to reflect all the material and information that had been provided for the preparation of the report, and other material that could be made available to UNESCO by October 1986. The Group had also agreed that the final report should contain an outline of the essential components which should be included in any human resources development study with a view to its utilization as a basis for a case study in a developing country.

6. At the current session the Group had before it the consultant's final report, entitled "Review of national manpower surveys in the water resources sector", (ACC/ISGW/1987/3). The Group agreed that the document provided a useful methodological guide for the preparation of human resources surveys, and that as a next step it would be useful to test the model contained in the report via a pilot study in an interested developing country. The view was expressed that it would be desirable to seek the co-operation of a bilateral donor organization in order to proceed with the pilot study, and it was agreed that efforts would be made to that end. The title of the report should be changed, to read "human resources development surveys" rather than "manpower surveys". It was also suggested that photographs on the cover page should emphasize the importance of the role of women in water resources development and utilization.

3. Operation and maintenance for water supply
(agenda item 3 (c))

7. As agreed at its seventh session the Group had before it a draft discussion paper prepared by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in co-operation with other organizations on the subject of operation and maintenance and cost recovery of rural water supply (ACC/ISGW/1987/4). In introducing the paper, the representative of ILO noted that it dealt only with rural areas, and that it contained an overview of the experiences of different United Nations agencies involved in operation and maintenance, and a summary of recommendations derived from those experiences, as well as from the small enterprise management projects of ILO and from the special public works programmes. He stated that current practice was usually to leave operation and maintenance in the hands of Governments and water district authorities. In most instances, however, that did not provide a suitable solution since Governments were unable to fulfil those functions. Finance was a major obstacle to proper maintenance of existing water supply schemes. Different priorities of developing countries and a small revenue base often left insufficient funds for operation and maintenance, considering the lack of

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institutional set-up and technical support services required for operation and maintenance. He noted further that those factors contributed to the early breakdowns of water supply systems and to decrease in utility and loss of expected financial, health and social benefits.

8. He mentioned that the report pointed out the necessity to decentralize operation and maintenance and to focus decision-making at the local level. Local communities should play an important and active role in operation and maintenance and should be given the required authority. The great importance of cost recovery as the element in creating revenue and the financial basis for maintenance and repair works was also emphasized. From that point of view, it would be essential to consider, already in the early stages of project preparation, the ability of local communities to pay, and the selection of appropriate technologies which they could afford and would be capable of maintaining. The report further recommended an improved design approach and a "franchising system" which would leave behind a functioning system of after-sale services.

9. The representative of the World Bank pointed out that the imposition of water charges and the establishment of cost recovery measures were fundamental principles of the lending policy of the Bank. Communities would also have to repay investment costs of water infrastructures, and the Bank was investigating the circumstances and conditions under which even most disadvantaged rural communities, with very low incomes, would be able to repay investment costs, at least partially. The value of rural women's time was mentioned in this respect as an important economic factor to be taken into account.

10. Members of the Group agreed that operation and maintenance was currently the most critical problem of water supply, and should be given the highest priority. In rural areas operation and maintenance should be the responsibility of the local communities, and women should have a leading role in maintenance as well as in the management of water supply as a whole. The importance of training was emphasized in this context. Representatives of several agencies, including the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), agreed to collaborate in the elaboration of operation and maintenance policies. It was agreed that organizations would send detailed comments on the report by the end of June 1987, and would also recommend ways of collaboration by the organizations of the system for improving operation and maintenance. The representative of ILO agreed to amend the report on the basis of the Group's comments and to present a revised version to the Group at its next session as a basis for further discussion on system-wide approaches to operation and maintenance.

11. The Group decided to keep the subject in the agenda and to review work regularly.

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B. Issues arising from the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources (agenda item 5)

12. The eighth session of the Group opened immediately after the Committee on Natural Resources had completed its consideration of items concerning the follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan (item 3 of the Committee's agenda), and co-ordination in the field of natural resources (item 9). The members noted that the Committee had invited the Intersecretariat Group to report to it on the results of its eighth session. The Group welcomed this opportunity to inform the Committee of the co-operative efforts being undertaken under its aegis.

13. In this regard, it was noted that the question of the follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan had valuable implications for the work of the various organizations of the system, and that it was important to continue and increase inter-agency efforts to keep the Committee informed of progress and problems in the implementation of the Action Plan. International meetings, such as the Interregional Symposium on Improved Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources: Follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan, convened in January 1987 by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Intergovernmental Conference convened in March of 1987 by UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), led to the adoption of important conclusions entailing possible future action by both Governments and the international community. The members of the Group felt that a broader system-wide effort should be made to develop a comprehensive strategy for action at the national, regional and global levels in the 1990s, aiming at the preparation of specific targets based on the objectives of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. Such a strategy could be presented to the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session in 1991.

14. It was agreed that the preparation of such a strategy would constitute a major focus of the activities of the Group in the years to come, and that the regional commissions would be required to play a major role in the preparation of the regional components of the proposed strategy. The conclusions of the symposium, as well as comments received from Governments following the wide dissemination of the symposium's report, would be an input for the preparation of the strategy. The preparation of the strategy would involve an in-depth assessment at the national, regional and global levels of the situation with regard to the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, as well as assessments of the ability of the programmes of the various organizations to respond to the needs of Governments. It would also require the holding of consultations with international, regional and bilateral external support organizations concerning their perception of the problems, and actions to be taken towards their solution.

15. It was agreed that the Group's secretariat, in consultation with the organizations concerned, would prepare an outline for action in the preparation of the strategy, which would be discussed at the Group's ninth session. In the interim period, the secretariat will consult with the commissions and the organizations concerned on various issues relating to the work to be undertaken, and inputs needed prior to the ninth session.

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C. Other matters (agenda item 6)

16. The participants had before them a discussion paper presented by the representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat which provided an assessment of the status of inter-agency co-operation in the field of water resources, and proposals for action (ACC/ISGW/1987/6). The paper contained a brief history of the evolution of inter-agency co-operation, and an assessment of action that could be taken in the future to increase the Group's effectiveness in the three areas covered by its terms of reference, namely: co-operation in the monitoring of the progress being made in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan; promotion of co-operative and joint planning of water-related programmes of the United Nations system, and review of their implementation; and assistance in co-ordinating the water-related activities of the United Nations system at country and regional levels. Also discussed in the paper were possible approaches to the future relationship between the Intersecretariat Group and the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

17. The representatives of the organizations agreed that the Group played a very important role in the harmonization of the activities of the system, and recommended that the Group should continue to meet on an annual basis. They further agreed that the Group had performed an important function in the implementation of its terms of reference. Nevertheless, it was noted that recent budgetary restrictions had hampered its optimum performance. In particular it was noted that the loss of one staff member from the Group's secretariat in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs had made it impossible to implement its research function into problems of global concern as had been envisaged at the outset. The Group considered that a strengthening of the secretariat was essential in order to increase the Group's effectiveness, particularly in view of the proposals stemming from the current session. It was also recognized that the various organizations would have to increase their contributions to the work of the Group.

18. With regard to the Group's function vis-à-vis the monitoring of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, the participants agreed that it achieved very useful results as shown by the various reports that had been prepared for the Committee on Natural Resources and the General Assembly, concerning the implementation of the Action Plan as a whole, and of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. That monitoring role would acquire increased significance in future years in view of the severe problems encountered by developing countries in developing their water resources, and of the agreement to prepare a strategy for the 1990s.

19. In addition, the members of the Group agreed that efforts were needed to disseminate information to Governments on issues concerning the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan beyond reporting to intergovernmental bodies, including information on the role that the United Nations system was playing and could play in the future to assist them in the development of their water resources. It was agreed that each organization would submit proposals to the

secretariat for the organization and implementation of a coherent information programme, and that the matter would be discussed further at the ninth session of the Group.

20. With regard to the Group's function of promoting co-operative and joint planning, the Group noted the difficulties involved in developing a system-wide plan, but agreed that the preparation of a strategy for the 1990s would be instrumental in harmonizing plans over the medium term. It was felt that progress had already been made in that regard through the discussion of substantive issues of system-wide concern during the recent sessions of the Group, such as those concerning human resources development and operation and maintenance. That type of discussion should be continued at future sessions of the Group, and could include such issues as the assessment of economic and social damages accruing from inadequate water supplies, the assessment of the economic value of women's time saved as a result of improvements in water supply facilities; the assessment of the possible uses of water for irrigation in conjunction with other uses, in particular small-scale irrigation combined with rural water supply; measures that needed to be taken to overcome the inadequacy of hydrological and hydrogeological data; and approaches to water resources development designed to alleviate the plight of the poorer strata of the rural population. It was also felt that a fuller implementation of the terms of reference of the Group required consultations with the donor community in terms of issues of common concern.

21. With regard to the Group's function relating to the co-ordination of activities at the country and regional levels, the Group agreed that the intensification of efforts concerning the data bases, as well as the suggested widening of the scope of the activities of the UNDP/WHO co-ordinator for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, would provide the Group with opportunities for a fuller implementation of that function. Discussions concerning substantive issues would also be conducive to defining approaches to be taken in the implementation of technical co-operation activities. As in the case of the first two functions of the Group, consultations with external support organizations outside the system would be important as a means of improving the Group's ability to perform its functions relating to co-ordination of activities at the country and regional levels.

22. In considering the relationship between the Group and the Steering Committee by the end of the Decade, the members of the Group felt that it was premature to attempt to define future arrangements at this point, although the matter would have to be considered in detail at future sessions both of the Group and of the Steering Committee. In the mean time, however, the Group and the Committee would need to continue to co-operate as closely as possible. Whenever possible, tasks of mutual interest should be implemented jointly.

D. Date and place of the ninth session of the Group and selection of candidates for Chairman (agenda item 7)

23. Following an offer by WHO to act as host for the next session, the Group recommends that its ninth session be held at WHO Headquarters at Geneva, and that Dr. W. Kreisel, Director of the WHO Division of Environmental Health, be appointed as Chairman for the session. The session would be held in about the third week of October 1988, depending on the schedule for the session of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The provisional agenda for the ninth session is contained in annex IV to the present report.

II. CONCLUSIONS REACHED AND SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS: CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULAR PROGRAMME AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES (AGENDA ITEM 4)

A. Outcome of the Interregional Symposium on Improved Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources: Follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan (agenda item 4 (a))

24. The representative of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat made a brief review of the background to and conclusions of the Interregional Symposium on Improved Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources: Follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan, held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 January 1987. He recalled that there had been a general agreement, by those who had read the report, that the conclusions were useful, and he thought that the report would be borne in mind as one of a number of background documents setting out the future proposals of the system for follow-up activities in the water resources sector in the years ahead. The Group agreed that the report could usefully be widely circulated and representatives of the regional commissions offered to assist in circulating the report within their respective areas.

B. Outcome of the WMO/UNESCO International Conference on Hydrology and the Scientific Bases of Water Resources Management (agenda item 4 (b))

25. The representative of UNESCO informed the Group of the outcome of the Third UNESCO/WMO Conference on Hydrology and the Scientific Bases of Water Resources Management, which had been held at Geneva from 16 to 20 March 1987. The Conference had been attended by approximately 170 participants, including representatives of 63 States members of UNESCO and/or WMO and observers for one non-member State and 19 international organizations. The basic aim of the Conference had been to review the results achieved within the framework of UNESCO and WMO programmes since the second such conference, held in 1981, and to consider medium-term and long-term planning of those programmes.

26. The Conference had endorsed, with some suggestions for amendment, the proposed long-term programme (1988-1997) of WMO in the field of hydrology and water resources. It had also endorsed the objectives, the structure and, with some additional suggestions, the tentative activities proposed for the fourth phase (1990-1995) of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), on the understanding that further planning of that phase would be undertaken by the Intergovernmental Council of IHP.

27. Since the Conference had been held exactly 10 years after the United Nations Water Conference, it had given particular consideration to the contributions of UNESCO and WMO to the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. Other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system had been invited to participate in the Conference and report on their programmes in the field of water resources, which, to a large extent, were keyed to the Mar del Plata Action Plan. In that way, the Conference had been afforded an overview of the efforts of the United Nations system in that area.

28. The Conference had adopted a recommendation in which it had invited the governing bodies of UNESCO and WMO to strengthen their programmes in water resources assessment, research, education and training contributing to the attainment of the objectives of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. It had also invited UNESCO and WMO to co-operate with other organizations of the United Nations system with a view to increasing the system-wide efforts in that direction.

29. The Group took note of the outcome of the Conference.

C. Issues pertaining to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (agenda item 4 (c))

30. Since no meeting of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade had been held since the seventh session of the Intersecretariat Group, no formal progress report was put before the Group. The Group noted, however, that, since the last session, the secretariat of the Steering Committee had finalized and circulated the summary of conclusions and recommendations of its fourteenth meeting, held at Geneva on 4 and 5 September 1986. It was reported to the Group that members of the Steering Committee were following up on those recommendations, particularly in respect of strengthening co-ordination and collaboration at the country level, and in promotion of software project elements.

31. The Group was informed that the fifteenth meeting of the Steering Committee would be held at Santo Domingo, at the Headquarters of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), on 5 and 6 November 1987.

32. The representative of WHO distributed an informal paper on the item (ACC/ISGW/1987/8), which provided summarized figures based on returns made by countries on the situation as at the end of 1985. It was noted that while there was evidence of a slowly improving situation with regard to coverage in respect of

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water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas, increased efforts were still required in rural areas, especially in connection with sanitation. Perhaps more interesting than the actual percentage increases recorded was the fact that the figures provided by countries indicated an improvement over the earlier estimated levels which would be achieved by 1985, thus pointing to an increased pace of development since 1983. In conjunction with this, many countries had revised their coverage targets for 1990, adopting more realistic levels than earlier proposed.

33. It was pointed out, however, that there was a danger in taking too optimistic a view. The numbers of persons without access to safe water and adequate sanitation in developing countries remained at the end of 1985 very little different from the numbers at the end of 1980, indicating that improved services were barely coping with the population increase and the effects of urbanization. Time would tell whether the planning and preparatory work carried out in the first half of the Decade would lead to a faster rate of implementation of activities in the second half.

34. The discussion touched on the importance of the involvement of women in Decade-related activities, the changes which were apparent in the pattern of investment in water supply and sanitation programmes at the country level, and the possibilities for continued activities after the end of the Decade. The mechanisms for interface between the Steering Committee and the Intersecretariat Group were referred to but it was agreed that that subject would be dealt with in more detail under agenda item 6, relating to the role of the Group.

35. The representative of UNDP stated his view that while the first half of the Decade had been devoted to the developing and testing of technologies, emphasis in the second half of the Decade should be placed on implementation. To that end, UNDP would make efforts to increase funding through the specialized agencies.

36. The representative of INSTRAW appealed to the Group to secure representation of the regional commissions at the next Steering Committee meeting at Santo Domingo. She stressed that there would have to be a continuation of activities after the end of the Decade, but that a change of strategy, particularly with regard to the role of women, might be necessary.

D. Issues pertaining to the environmental aspects of water resources (agenda item 4 (d))

37. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) informed the Group of developments concerning the Zambezi Action Plan, the Committee on River and Lake Basins, and the programme on the environmental management of inland waters (EMINWA).

38. With regard to the Zambezi Action Plan, he recalled that the third meeting of the Working Group of Experts on the Zambezi River System, held at Gaborone from 20 to 23 January, had finalized the draft Agreement on the Action Plan for the Environmental Management of the Common Zambezi System, and had recommended the

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adoption of the Agreement to the Governments of the Zambezi basin at an intergovernmental meeting held in May 1987. In accordance with the Action Plan, a donor meeting had been held at Geneva on 23 March 1987.

39. As a follow-up to the Cairo conference, the first meeting of the Committee on River and Lake Basins had been held at Harare from 25 to 27 March. The Committee had recommended that the approach followed in the Zambezi Action Plan should be considered as a possible approach for the integration of environmental components in the water management of other regions of Africa. The Committee had also prepared guidelines for the establishment of the African Water Network. The Management Group of the network was scheduled to meet at Cairo in July 1987.

40. Finally, UNEP was working in co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, UNESCO, WHO and WMO in the development of methodological guidelines and training programmes in support of the EMINWA programme.

E. Review of regular programme activities and main issues
related to the implementation of these programmes
(agenda item 4 (e))

41. Information concerning the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989 of the various United Nations units was provided in document ACC/ISGW/1987/7. Additional information was exchanged among the participants concerning their ongoing and future programmes of work.

42. The members of the Group reiterated the importance of exchanging information on programmes, and agreed that each organization would make every effort to circulate to the others information concerning their programmes in a systematic manner. In particular, it was agreed that such information should be circulated at an early stage prior to the finalization of proposals for intergovernmental bodies, so that they would be able to comment on such proposals with a view to a greater harmonization of programmes. The representative of UNICEF, in his capacity as Chairman until the ninth session, informed the Group that he would co-operate with the secretariat in the preparation of a bulletin designed to keep the organizations informed of developments of current interest.

43. It was agreed that the preparation of a strategy for the further implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, with its regional components, would provide the most practical approach to the harmonization of the programmes of all the organizations concerned with water resources development.

44. The members of the Group also agreed to work towards maximizing the impact of publications from the different organizations by mutually circulating reports to the audience reached by each. It was felt that the regional commissions would be particularly useful in that regard. It was also noted that the second issue of the catalogue of publications of the United Nations system had just been completed, and that it would be sent to each organization for distribution. Since the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs had decided to put that information in

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a data base rather than preparing the catalogue on a periodic basis, the members of the Group were requested to inform the Department when their publications were issued.

F. Issues concerning technical co-operation activities
(agenda item 4 (f))

45. The Group had before it document ACC/ISGW/1987/5 which provided information on recently approved UNDP-financed projects, and projects in the pipeline. The secretary of the Group provided a progress report on the development of a data base for projects, and stated that, as agreed at the previous session of the Group, information was being gathered and processed on projects in the countries of the Zambezi and Niger river basins.

46. The Group reiterated the importance of having information concerning technical co-operation projects, including projects financed and implemented by other external support organizations. It agreed that efforts towards establishing a suitable data base should be continued. The WHO CESI data base system concerning drinking water supply and sanitation projects should also be fully utilized for that purpose.

47. It was felt that, in spite of the progress that had been achieved in recent years with regard to co-ordination and co-operation at the country level in the implementation of water resources projects, there were a number of occasions where the assignment of project execution did not take into consideration the expertise and responsibilities of other agencies in the subject. There was also a need for further efforts to improve the delivery capability of the system. In that connection, members of the Group stressed the importance of the participation of representatives of UNDP and the World Bank in the Group's session. The Group noted the results that had been achieved in the case of drinking water supply and sanitation through the offices of the UNDP/WHO co-ordinator for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and suggested that it might be useful to widen the scope of his activities to include the whole range of water resources projects. It requested UNDP to give favourable consideration to that possibility.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

48. The eighth session of the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, to which UNICEF acted as host, was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 8 to 13 April 1987, in conjunction with the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources.

49. The session was opened by Mr. Karl-Erik Knutsson, Deputy Executive Director (Operations) of UNICEF, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNICEF. In welcoming the participants he stressed the importance of water resources development not only as an integral part of health education and primary health care, but also as an entry point to social and economic development. The co-operative efforts of the United Nations system of organizations in the field of

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water resources was of particular importance in view of the severe economic difficulties faced by developed and developing countries alike during the decade of the 1980s, and in particular of the tragic conditions faced by the African region. There was an ever-increasing need for approaching water resources development from an integrated rather than a sectoral point of view. Even though significant progress had been achieved with regard to drinking water supply and sanitation in the context of the Decade, as well as in other areas of water resources development, the task ahead remained very large, and there was the need for support by the organizations of the system to Member States in their efforts to increase their capacity for the efficient management, conservation and utilization of water resources.

50. The list of participants is reproduced in annex I to the present report. Mr. Martin Beyer (UNICEF) was elected Chairman, and Mr. Pierre Najlis (United Nations) served as Secretary. The agenda, as adopted by the Group, is reproduced in annex II. The documents submitted to the Group are listed in annex III.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: Martin Beyer (United Nations Children's Fund)

Secretary: Pierre Najlis (United Nations)

United Nations

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	Jane Jopling Pierre Najlis Phyllis Lee
Department of Technical Co-operation for Development	Enzo Fano Marcia Brewster
Economic Commission for Africa	K. A. Edwards
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Terence Lee
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Hai Lun Zhang
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Ahmad Radjai
United Nations Environment Programme	Jean Claude Faby
United Nations Children's Fund	Martin Beyer
United Nations Development Programme	Frank Hartvelt
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)	H. Nargolwala M. Martinelli
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organisation	Arpad Konye
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Juan Sagardoy
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Sorin Dumistrescu
World Health Organization	Michael Acheson
World Bank	Saul Arlosoroff
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	James Crooke
International Atomic Energy Agency	Marlene O'Dell

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Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Substantive and technical issues for discussion by the Group:
 - (a) The water situation in Africa;
 - (b) Human resources development;
 - (c) Operation and maintenance for water supply.
4. Co-ordination and co-operation in the implementation of regular programme and technical co-operation activities:
 - (a) Outcome of the Interregional Symposium on Improved Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources: Follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan;
 - (b) Outcome of the WMO/UNESCO International Conference on Hydrology and the Scientific Bases of Water Resources Management;
 - (c) Issues pertaining to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
 - (d) Issues pertaining to the environmental aspects of water resources;
 - (e) Review of regular programme activities and main issues related to the implementation of these programmes;
 - (f) Issues concerning technical co-operation activities.
5. Issues arising from the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources.
6. Other matters.
7. Date and place of the ninth session of the Group, and selection of candidates for Chairman.
8. Adoption of the report of the Group on its eighth session.

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Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ACC/ISGW/1987/1/Rev.1	Revised annotated provisional agenda
ACC/ISGW/1987/2	Proposed schedule of work
ACC/ISGW/1987/3	Review of national manpower surveys in the water resources sector
ACC/ISGW/1987/4	Operation and maintenance and cost recovery of rural water supply
ACC/ISGW/1987/5	Recently approved projects and projects in the pipeline
ACC/ISGW/1987/6	An assessment of the status of inter-agency co-operation in the field of water resources and proposals for action
ACC/ISGW/1987/7	Review of regular programme activities and main issues related to the implementation of these programmes
ACC/ISGW/1987/8	Issues pertaining to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

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Annex IV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINTH SESSION OF THE ACC
INTERSECRETARIAT GROUP FOR WATER RESOURCES

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Matters arising from the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters).
4. Preparation of a strategy for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s.
5. Substantive and technical issues for discussion by the Group:
 - (a) The water situation in Africa;
 - (b) Human resources development;
 - (c) Operation and maintenance for water supply;
 - (d) Other matters;
6. Co-ordination and co-operation in the implementation of regular programme and technical co-operation activities:
 - (a) Issues pertaining to the implementation of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
 - (b) Issues pertaining to environmental aspects of water resources;
 - (c) Review of regular programme activities and main issues related to the implementation of these programmes;
 - (d) Issues concerning technical co-operation activities.
7. Other matters.
8. Date and place of the tenth session of the Group, and selection of candidates for Chairman of the Group.
9. Adoption of the report of the Group on its ninth session.
