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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION****THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
AND REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES****Summary**

This report provides an overview of technical cooperation activities carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) that are funded by the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) and the United Nations Development Account. All other activities and results achieved, whether funded from regular or extrabudgetary resources are highlighted in the "Programme performance report for the biennium 2004-2005", which is contained in document E/ESCWA/24/5(Part I).

The RPTC, which is covered in the first part of this document, aims to assist member countries by providing them with policy advisory services, technical support and training activities. It underscores the results of activities rendered in response to requests by member countries, in accordance with the requirements of the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Strategy and in relation to the expected accomplishments. Additionally, this part portrays the findings of the internal and external evaluation exercises, illustrates the needs identification for 2006-2007, and presents conclusions and recommendations.

The second part of the report highlights results achieved in 2005 by projects funded from the United Nations Development Account. It presents progress of work and achievements, linked to the expected accomplishments of each of the six subprogrammes of ESCWA.

The Commission is requested to take note of the accomplishments and consider the good practices and lessons learned from the implementation of these projects, when formulating its decisions and setting strategic direction.

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## **PART ONE**

### **THE REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

#### **Introduction**

1. Technical cooperation activities are programmed to further regional cooperation and integration through national capacity building by means of operationalizing the findings of the normative and analytical work of the Commission. They comprise policy advice, training workshops, knowledge networking and generation, and projects. Technical cooperation services are provided either by regional advisers recruited on a retainer basis, or by staff members and/or short-term advisers, or by a multidisciplinary team of advisers and staff. Technical cooperation services are demand-driven, i.e. they fulfil the explicit requests of member countries in areas of competence and proven excellence of ESCWA.
2. The present review of technical cooperation is organized in conformity with the result-based management (RBM) framework and with the related expected accomplishments developed to enable a focused approach to implementing technical cooperation activities. The review intends to impart improved transparency and provide result-oriented reporting. The report is also designed to address the requirements reflected in the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Strategy, which was adopted at the twenty-third session of the Commission under resolution 258 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005, with due consideration to evaluation and aimed at improving the planning, delivery and effectiveness of technical cooperation services.
3. During the biennium 2004-2005, the Commission introduced the short-term recruitment of regional advisers to accommodate requests from member countries; and the convening of national, subregional and regional capacity-building workshops aimed at providing technical cooperation services with more flexibility and timeliness, and targeted towards human resources development.
4. Technical cooperation activities address the four regional priorities identified by ESCWA member countries, namely: globalization; water and energy; social policies; and information and communication technology (ICT) for regional integration. The activities are implemented by the following six subprogrammes: (1) Integrated policy for management of regional resources for sustainable development; (2) Integrated social policies; (3) Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development; (4) Regional integration and responding to globalization; (5) Information and communication technology for regional integration; and (6) Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making. Services also address the crosscutting areas of empowerment and advancement of women and statistics. Special attention is given to the Least Developed Country in the ESCWA region, namely, Yemen; and to countries and territories emerging from conflict, namely, Iraq and Palestine.
5. Part one of this report highlights the results of activities rendered in response to requests by member countries in accordance with the requirements of the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Strategy and in relation to the expected accomplishments. Additionally, it relates the findings of the internal and external evaluation exercises, illustrates the needs identification for 2006-2007, and presents conclusions and recommendations.
6. In 2004-2005, a total of 356 missions for technical assistance were undertaken at the request of member Governments in the four priority areas and carried out by the six subprogrammes mentioned above. Given the increase by fifty-four per cent in the number of missions undertaken, compared to the previous biennium, internal and external evaluation exercises were conducted to appraise the extent to which the programme added value to the efforts of member countries to promote socio-economic development.
7. The Commission expresses its sincere gratitude to the Governments of member countries, and international and regional organizations active in the region for their participation in financing the above-mentioned missions, which accounted for 15 per cent of the total mission costs incurred.

8. Annex I illustrates the total number of missions undertaken to member countries by country and subprogramme; annex II presents an overview of advisory services rendered in 2004-2005; and annex III indicates the feedback from member countries quantified in percentage terms.

### I. OVERVIEW OF SERVICES RENDERED DURING 2004-2005

9. This section highlights the contribution, by subprogramme, of the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) towards the achievement of the expected accomplishments as approved by the General Assembly.

<b>Expected accomplishment 1:</b> Increased awareness and knowledge of internationally recognized standards and best practices in selected sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
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#### *Subprogramme 1: Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development*

10. This subprogramme rendered services to foster the development of strategies and plans of action for the efficient and sustainable management of water and energy resources, and on environmental issues within the context of sustainable development.

11. In the energy and water sectors, advisory services were rendered to Jordan, Qatar, Oman, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. They included the revision of technical papers on energy conservation and electrical interconnection in Arab countries aimed at raising public/private awareness of the importance of energy conservation in Jordan; the finalization of the draft electricity and water strategy in Qatar; the establishment of a cooperation programme on energy efficiency for the electricity sector in Qatar, namely, the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (KAHRAMAA); the revision of project documents to enhance national capacities towards the comprehensive and integrated management of water resources and water demands in Oman and the United Arab Emirates; and guiding Government officials in Yemen on modalities to set national strategies for renewable energy.

12. On environmental issues, advisory services were rendered to member countries with the following aims:

(a) *Bahrain*: To pave the way for the adoption of a postgraduate programme aimed at developing the capacities of policymakers and environmental management personnel in the Gulf region;

(b) *Egypt*: To assess the current environmental management practices, thereby developing a sustainable environmental management system and a work plan for its implementation;

(c) *Kuwait*: To finalize the first part of its National Environment Strategy;

(d) *Lebanon*: To advocate the role to be played by municipalities in planning and implementing various programmes and projects to achieve sustainable environmental development;

(e) *Saudi Arabia*: To complete the draft chapter on environmental and sustainable development, and to integrate properly the environmental dimension to its national strategy/development plan;

(f) *Syrian Arab Republic*: To adopt a well-defined set of indicators and, consequently, monitor and report on national progress within the context of the annual report on the State of the Environment; to increase awareness and build consensus for industrial pollution prevention and enhance the organizational structure, responsibilities and activities of the National Centre for Industrial Pollution Prevention; and to

adopt the organizational structure of the Directorate of Environmental Protection and embark on the development of a framework for the preparation of its five-year plan;

(g) *United Arab Emirates*: To advise on strategies for controlling mobile emissions and promote the protection of health and the environment;

(h) *Yemen*: To elaborate the organizational structure and internal reporting requirements of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), and to formulate a project proposal for a green belt around Sana'a.

13. The Technical Cooperation Programme continued to advocate an integrated and coherent approach to sustainable development through regional action towards the integrated management of water resources, renewable energy, sanitation, desertification, land degradation and biodiversity. These efforts aimed at implementing the outcomes of the global conferences and summits, especially the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region, and ensuring the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

*Subprogramme 2: Integrated social policies*

14. Technical cooperation services were provided to member countries with the following aims:

(a) *Bahrain*: To initiate the formulation of integrated social policies in accordance with the regional framework developed by ESCWA;

(b) *Iraq*: To ensure active participation of women in the political process;

(c) *Jordan*: To update the political development strategy;

(d) *Saudi Arabia*: To finalize the second national human development report (MDG report) in conformity with internationally recognized standards and requirements;

(e) *Syrian Arab Republic*: To assess the mechanisms and performance of the General Union for Women and its needs for reform, including revisiting the mandate, organizational structure, and human and financial resources; and to enhance the Tenth National Development Plan in order to reflect greater collaboration and cooperation with civil society institutions, with special attention to women and family issues;

(f) *Yemen*: To appraise the status of technical and vocational training activities to induce proactive participation of women, the private sector and civil society.

15. Noteworthy is the participation of a regional adviser of ESCWA in the meetings of the advisory board on the Arab Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

*Subprogramme 3: Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development*

16. Technical and advisory services were rendered to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen to evaluate the methodology for economic statistical surveys in order to align them with internationally recognized standards; to Qatar to lay down the methodology for the computation of human development indicators and to train officials on its application; to the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen to revise data entries of national accounts in order to rectify gaps, evaluate the statistical survey results and revise the quality of data, and to explore ways aimed at enhancing the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA 1993).

17. Moreover, services provided to the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) enabled the assessment of the impact of the application of the Unified Custom System Law in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

*Subprogramme 4: Regional integration and responding to globalization*

18. Services on World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations and accession-related issues were rendered to Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates. Specifically, Bahrain benefited from services on WTO negotiations relating to financial services and telecommunications issues, in particular; services to the Syrian Arab Republic focused on accession to WTO, including the preparation of a draft memorandum of accession to be presented during WTO negotiations, and on the establishment of a new section on trade and environment at the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment; and services to the United Arab Emirates aimed at assessing the impact of WTO agreements on the economy in Dubai, and at formulating a project for the introduction of a course on WTO issues at the University of Sharjah.

19. Services on transport were provided to Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, in addition to the GCC. These services enabled the National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committee (NTTFC) in Egypt to adopt a unified vision and agree on a follow-up plan of action; the Ministry of Transportation in the Syrian Arab Republic to assess the seaports of that country with a view to elaborate, modernize and renovate them; and the Ministry of Transport and Marine Affairs in Yemen to draft a national strategy for the development of seaports.

*Subprogramme 5: Information and communication technology for regional integration*

20. The advisory and technical services contributed towards enhancing national capacities for improving productivity by targeting innovative technology and management techniques; increasing new institution building, technology parks and incubators, and networking/clustering arrangements; and improving the connectivity in and between member countries. Services were rendered to Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

21. In the field of science and technology, services supported Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syrian Arab Republic in preparing project proposals for technology incubators and technology parks; Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic in elaborating the national science and technology strategies of the respective countries; Oman in promoting and creating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); Saudi Arabia in developing a national science and technology policy within the context of the first Five-Year Plan; and the Syrian Arab Republic in formulating a vision and long-term plan, including the linkage to economic activities in the region and the creation of a model technology park within the University of Kalamoon, and in establishing a supreme commission for research and development.

22. Additionally, ESCWA assisted the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) in developing the Arab ICT Strategy, and in implementing mechanisms for the information technology (IT) sector strategy of the GCC.

23. In the area of communications and computer networking, technical cooperation services were provided to member countries with several aims, including, most prominently:

(a) *Iraq*: To provide concrete recommendations aimed at reactivating the Arab Telecom Company;

(b) *Lebanon*: To assess the needs and requirements for the formulation of an e-strategy for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants;

(c) *Oman*: To provide a conceptual design for a data warehousing application;

(d) *Qatar*: To provide advice on how best to introduce e-learning at the corporate level, and to construct a database for social indicators;

(e) *Syrian Arab Republic*: To formulate a project proposal, together with the regional adviser on social development, for the establishment of an integrated information system for family-related information and data flows; to finalize the national ICT strategy for socio-economic development; and to provide concrete recommendations aimed at reactivating the Arab Telecom Company;

(f) *United Arab Emirates*: To finalize the project document on knowledge management aimed at transforming Dubai Municipality into a knowledge-based organization;

(g) *Yemen*: To propose a road map for the introduction of information management and decision support systems at the Ministry of Water and Environment.

24. Noteworthy is the role played by the regional adviser in conceptualizing, formulating and managing the Iraqi Networking Academies Project, which was awarded the “Against All Odds” prize by CISCO Systems.

*Subprogramme 6: Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making*

25. The Commission pursued its efforts to support member countries by increasing their knowledge in modern techniques of data processing used in population censuses, enhancing their capacity in the production of sectoral statistics and MDG indicators, improving the dissemination of census results and compiling statistics in accordance with international standards.

<p><b>Expected accomplishment 2:</b> Strengthened capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to formulate and implement policies for capacity-building and technical innovations, having significant impact on the development process in line with the decisions emanating from global conferences, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and/or United Nations legislative bodies.</p>
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*Subprogramme 1: Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development*

26. This subprogramme provided hands-on training during the workshops on standardization, and on inspection and technical regulations, which benefited a total of 100 participants from the Palestinian Authority and the private sector, trade and professional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and universities in Palestine. These workshops increased the understanding of basic principles and procedures of standard-setting in an international context; and developed capabilities with respect to, among others, concepts and practices of standardization, and the different standardization models used in Arab countries, Europe, the United States of America, and the International Electrotechnical Commission of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/IEC).

27. Moreover, the Workshop on Clusters and Enterprise Support Schemes: Modern Technology Inputs (Beirut, 5-9 December 2005) attracted 24 participants, who represented decision makers from member countries in charge of projects targeting employment and enterprise creation. The Workshop provided updated information on support networks of clusters and enterprises, highlighted the benefits of such clusters, and explored ways and means to facilitate their development and sustainability. Participants were also trained on issues related to knowledge management within cluster networks, project management and fund-raising.

*Subprogramme 2: Integrated social policies*

28. Through its Centre for Women, this subprogramme aims to increase the capacity of policymakers in terms of mainstreaming and reducing gender imbalances at the regional and national levels. Within that context, technical cooperation services were provided to member countries through a series of training workshops aimed at preparing national reports on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 10) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and at building institutions for national machineries for women, as well as at encouraging synergies with NGOs. The details of these workshops are summarized below.

29. Participants at the workshops on the mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on Eliminating Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which were convened for representatives of the High Council for Women in Bahrain, the National Committee for Women in Lebanon, and the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs in the Syrian Arab Republic, respectively, received in-depth explanation and understanding of the Convention, together with a review of all forthcoming recommendations resulting from this understanding, thereby enhancing capacities for drafting national reports on the implementation of CEDAW. Guidance was provided on essential and core information to be included in these national reports in terms of defining the Convention, studying its substance, presenting all the national reservations regarding some of its contents and exploring the work of the Convention.

30. Moreover, a workshop on raising gender awareness and capacity-building for gender mainstreaming exposed participants to the latest developments in terms of integrating a gender component in national policies and programmes, and focused on human development indicators.

31. Additionally, the subprogramme conducted a number of training workshops for countries and territories emerging from conflict. Specifically, the Palestinian Arab Civil Society Coalition Meeting (Beirut, 24-25 November 2005) attracted 26 participants who constituted the foundation committee of a coalition, within which three sectoral committees were formed to undertake a number of pilot projects in the respective sectors of health, education and agriculture. Additionally, the Workshop served as a platform for a preparatory process aimed at organizing a general assembly that will move in parallel with the implementation of the projects.

32. Equally, a workshop for officials of the Ministry of Economy and Trade in the Palestinian Authority helped to formulate technical cooperation projects and to identify funding resources, which provided 34 participants with the fundamentals and practical experience for project development that focused on all processes within the integrated project management cycle, thereby strengthening the capacity of the participants in this area.

*Subprogramme 3: Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development*

33. Technical cooperation activities promoted knowledge-sharing and capacity-building through a series of training workshops to develop human resources on unified statistical terminology and classification, in Oman; and on international standards of statistical classifications, in the United Arab Emirates.

*Subprogramme 4: Regional integration and responding to globalization*

34. This subprogramme facilitated knowledge exchange and encouraged capacity-building within the context of various training programmes and workshops. A number of technical papers were presented to this effect, including the legal framework of anti-dumping, the crude oil and energy sector negotiations, the role of parliaments in WTO agreements and accession negotiations, the Singapore issues and the programme of work under the Doha Development Agenda.



35. The Workshop on the Implementation of Good Practices for Road Traffic Safety (Muscat, 28-29 November 2005) attracted 49 participants, including Government officials, from 12 member countries and from international and civil organizations. These participants were assisted in drafting strategies to improve road traffic safety in their respective countries in conformity with global best practices in traffic safety.

36. Moreover, 14 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq were assisted in their WTO negotiations and exposed to best practices in order to avoid obstacles in the accession process during the training session on the issue of agriculture with respect to the negotiations on Iraq's accession to WTO (Beirut, 5-10 December 2005), which was held in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), WTO, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and regional organizations.

*Subprogramme 6: Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making*

37. The programme supported two workshops within the statistical sphere, namely: (a) the Workshop on Egypt's General Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2006 (Cairo, 18-21 April 2005), during which 74 participants from the Central Statistical Office in Egypt, local universities, research centres and the media gained knowledge of emerging issues in census-taking and improved utilization of census data through IT, in accordance with internationally recognized standards; and (b) the Workshop on Land Transport Statistics in the ESCWA Region (Beirut, 12-14 July 2005), which aimed at upgrading the capabilities of 19 national officers working in this area.

38. The latter Workshop resulted in unifying the concepts and definitions used in processing statistics on land transport, and provided a forum for sharing experiences among ESCWA member countries, thereby identifying common difficulties facing producers and users of these statistics and attempting to find harmonized and suitable solutions.

## **II. EVALUATION OF THE REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

39. In line with ESCWA Technical Cooperation Strategy that was adopted at the twenty-third session of the Commission (Damascus, 9-12 May 2005) and with the aim of improving the delivery and effectiveness of technical cooperation services, numerous monitoring and evaluation activities were conducted in 2005 with several aims, including, most prominently:

(a) *Monitoring and evaluation of each advisory service by ESCWA and by concerned member countries:* To ensure that the advisory service responds to the needs of the country and to seek Government opinion as to the quality of the mission/report, appropriateness and adequacy of recommendations, and for further services that might be required;

(b) *Evaluation of the services rendered during 2004-2005 by member countries, advisers and the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division at ESCWA:* To assess the impact and suitability of services in order to achieve better results in the subsequent biennium 2006-2007;

(c) *Evaluation of training workshops by participants:* To enquire about the opinion of the participants on the quality and usefulness of workshops in order to enable ESCWA to plan better future activities.

40. In order to standardize the evaluation process, the questionnaires developed with the aim to report on the various activities, included the following: (a) performance review for advisory and technical support services, submitted to and completed by member countries; (b) evaluation of advisory services delivered in 2004-2005, submitted to and completed by member countries; (c) self-evaluation of advisory services, submitted to and completed by regional advisers; and (d) evaluation of training workshops, submitted to and completed by the participants to the workshops.

## A. FEEDBACK FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES

41. Member countries evaluated the advisers' reports of each service rendered, as of May 2005, and the programme of technical cooperation for the biennium 2004-2005, including both advisory services and training workshops.

### 1. *Advisers' reports*

42. A total of 29 evaluation forms were submitted to member countries, out of which only 10 were duly filled and returned. All respondents expressed satisfaction with the quality, timeliness, applicability and usefulness of the services; 40 per cent of the respondents rated the services as excellent and the remainder rated them as good. Major comments and recommendations made by the beneficiaries included as follows: (a) providing further assistance in the same field; (b) increasing the length of missions; and (c) assisting in the implementation of recommendations.

### 2. *Advisory services rendered in 2004-2005*

43. A total of 82 evaluation questionnaires were submitted to ESCWA focal points and to the organizations that benefited from the advisory services. Eight out of the 13 focal points, or 61 per cent, and 52 out of 69 organizations, or 75 per cent, responded. Percentage responses varied among countries with the highest number of responses from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, and the lowest responses from Egypt and Iraq.

44. Member countries expressed satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of ESCWA advisory services. More than 85 per cent of the respondents rated the services as good and punctual; and 90 per cent of respondents found the recommendations of advisory services suitable, applicable and useful for future work.

45. The majority of the respondents indicated that the advisory services contributed positively and directly to their work by providing solutions to specific problems or by introducing improvements. However, several respondents indicated that a higher positive impact could be achieved if additional services were extended to assist beneficiaries in the application of recommendations and/or the supervision and review of recommended activities.

46. In terms of major achievements made by beneficiaries as a result of the advisory services provided by ESCWA, 78 per cent of respondents indicated that achievements had been made and 10 per cent indicated that achievements were under way. Some of the achievements the beneficiaries cited were as follows: (a) developing appropriate strategies, plans of action and country reports; (b) improving existing procedures and organizational structures; (c) initiating projects; and (d) implementing and evaluating activities in a precise manner.

47. While all types of advisory services extended by ESCWA were found useful, the first preference was for training workshops and technical support services, followed by the formulation of strategies and policies and, finally, project identification, preparation and implementation.

48. With regard to the working relationship with the regional advisers and ESCWA staff at headquarters, 72 per cent of respondents indicated that they maintained a good relationship, 23 per cent failed to reply and 5 per cent specified that the relationship needed to be improved.

49. Good practices, lessons learned and suggestions that ESCWA should take note of and disseminate among member countries are as follows:

- (a) Establishment of a database of regional experts to facilitate the identification of required expertise by member countries;
- (b) Allocation of financial resources for the implementation of specific activities, namely, those recommended by the advisory missions;
- (c) Longer duration of missions and provision of more missions;
- (d) Involvement of local experts in advisers' missions to ensure adequate follow-up and assistance at the national level;
- (e) Close follow-up on the implementation of recommendations towards the achievements of tangible results;
- (f) Regular monitoring and evaluation of services rendered and closer coordination between ESCWA and direct beneficiaries;
- (g) Organization of capacity-building training workshops for ministries and other Government institutions;
- (h) Better dissemination of information on ESCWA programmes and activities;
- (i) Organization of regional meetings for knowledge-sharing among member countries;
- (j) Development of exchange and cooperation programmes among member countries;
- (k) Dissemination of information, achievements and lessons learned in a specific country among all member countries;
- (l) Wider distribution of publications on a regular basis, including through electronic means.

#### B. SELF-EVALUATION BY REGIONAL ADVISERS

50. Six regional advisers and four short-term advisers presented a self-evaluation of the services delivered in 2004-2005. In general, all the advisers stated that they achieved to a high degree the objectives of their missions, as evidenced by the quantity and quality of services provided and the number of reported achievements.

51. Among the obstacles the advisers faced during the execution of their missions, the following were the most prominent: (a) Lack of clarity and precision on the part of member States in articulating the purpose of the request, which often led to changing the objective of a particular mission; (b) failure to assign motivated and qualified staff at the middle-management level in member countries in order to coordinate and collaborate with the adviser; (c) unavailability of funds to implement recommended actions; and (d) slow execution rate, in general, and delay in implementing recommendations, specifically.

52. Advisers believed that member countries made good use of the results of their missions and recommendations, especially when the advisory service was a process that required several missions for initiation, follow-up and closure. Prominent results of ESCWA missions included as follows:

- (a) Incorporation and adoption of the recommendations of advisers in strategies, action plans and regulations in such specific cases as, for example, the electricity strategy in Qatar, the national environment strategy and action plan in Kuwait, and the draft of the environment protection law in Yemen;

(b) Execution of project proposals, which was evident in such cases as the industrial pollution prevention centre in the Syrian Arab Republic, networking of academies in Iraq, and the national programme of energy conservation in Jordan.

53. The answers of advisers were varied with respect to the ranking of the types of services. Specifically, four out of the six regional advisers believed that priority needed to be given to the preparation of national strategies and policies, while two regional advisers indicated that the provision of technical support and training needed to be the number one priority.

54. Lessons learned and suggestions made by regional advisers include the following:

(a) A clear understanding of the situation and the actual needs is a prerequisite for providing effective advisory services;

(b) Further efforts need to be made by ESCWA aimed at improving the reporting and dissemination of the results and achievements of advisory services;

(c) Cooperation with other international organizations enhances the outcome of the ESCWA technical cooperation programme;

(d) Cooperation with United Nations resident coordinators and with UNDP offices in member countries need to be strengthened and institutionalized;

(e) More attention must be given to the managerial and administrative aspects of project implementation;

(f) Free trade is a new challenging field for the region that requires special attention from ESCWA.

#### C. EVALUATION OF TRAINING WORKSHOPS

55. The programme facilitated the servicing of 11 training workshops in 2005, namely, seven regional workshops and four national workshops for Bahrain, Iraq and Palestine. The total number of participants at these workshops was some 485, 32 per cent of whom were women. At the end of each workshop, the trainees completed an evaluation questionnaire. ESCWA developed a standardized evaluation questionnaire, which was instigated for all workshops at the end of 2005, in order to standardize the assessment of the quality and impact of training activities, enable comparability and better plan future activities.

56. Given the diversified evaluation criteria used prior to October 2005, a comprehensive statistical analysis of the responses of participants is not possible. However, a review of all evaluation questionnaires indicate that the majority of participants expressed satisfaction with respect to the usefulness of topics covered and to the organization and quality of the training; and some 74 per cent of participants found that the workshops achieved their set objectives.

#### D. FIELD ASSESSMENT MISSIONS

57. ESCWA staff members undertook field missions to selected member countries and territories in December 2005, including Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The objective of the missions was to discuss with ESCWA focal points and beneficiaries the benefits and impact of the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation and the priorities for the biennium 2006-2007.

58. These field missions confirmed most of what had been reported in the evaluation questionnaires by the focal points and direct beneficiaries. In general, most beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of ESCWA services and requested the provision of more services during 2006-2007.

59. A number of organizations raised the issue of the provision of multidisciplinary missions. The necessity to extend the length and frequency of missions was equally raised by some beneficiaries, notably those in Yemen. Specifically, officials in Yemen indicated that it would be more effective to decrease the number of missions and increase their duration beyond the standard two-week period.

60. With respect to the type of services rendered, it was noted that some services were restricted to resource inputs to meetings and conferences and/or meetings with officials without necessitating the delivery of any report or written recommendations. Several beneficiaries indicated that the participation of regional advisers in meetings and conferences had little impact and needed therefore to be discouraged.

61. A number of focal points complained that, rather than being coordinated through them, many services were rendered to the direct beneficiaries and that, moreover, copies of the advisers' reports were often not made available to them. From the perspective of some beneficiaries, while coordination with focal points was deemed necessary, evaluation, coordination and follow-up on the implementation of advisers' reports did not seem to be carried out systematically by all focal points. Additionally, beneficiaries raised the need to coordinate with United Nations resident coordinators, UNDP offices and other United Nations agencies and international organizations as a means of avoiding duplication of efforts and making better use of limited resources.

62. In all countries visited, beneficiaries indicated that they were not regularly informed of the activities and services of ESCWA. For example, none of the direct beneficiaries had received a copy of the Technical Cooperation Strategy adopted at the twenty-third session of the Commission. Moreover, activities that could be delivered under the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation were not clear to several beneficiaries who seemed confused with regard to activities that were undertaken under the programme of work of ESCWA and those under the RPTC.

### **III. IDENTIFYING NEEDS FOR 2006-2007**

#### **A. ESCWA FOCAL POINTS AND DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**

63. As part of the evaluation questionnaire, member countries were requested to identify their priorities for 2006-2007. Contrary to what was intended, ESCWA focal points failed to indicate national priorities. Rather, the focal points either provided the priorities of specific ministries or did not respond. Direct beneficiaries from ESCWA services indicated their own priorities for 2006-2007. Most respondents identified priorities that fall within the programme of work and priority areas of ESCWA. The priorities of member countries for 2006-2007 are summarized in table 1.

64. The field missions provided an opportunity to review the priorities with the focal points and direct beneficiaries. While all beneficiaries indicated priorities in their own respective fields, in view of the high demand for technical assistance, it was difficult to agree on national priorities with all ESCWA focal points. Some countries indicated that services needed to be in line with their national strategies and action plans. For example, the priorities of Kuwait will be listed in the Five-Year Plan, which will be completed early April 2006. Similarly, the priorities of Jordan will be identified in the National Agenda 2006-2015, which is set to be released in March 2006. In parallel, other countries, including the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, did not prioritize their needs and it was deemed necessary for ESCWA to assist in identifying priorities. In view of the low percentage response from some countries, including Egypt and Iraq, no priorities could be reported. This should not be construed as a correct indication of the prevailing situation.

TABLE 1. PRIORITIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR 2006-2007 AS REQUESTED  
 BY ESCWA FOCAL POINTS AND DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

	Social	Environment	Water	Energy	ICT	Science and technology	WTO	Statistics and national accounts	Gender
Bahrain		X					X		X
Egypt									
Iraq									
Jordan	X			X		X			X
Kuwait		X				X	X	X	
Lebanon			X			X			X
Palestine									X
Oman			X		X				
Qatar				X	X	X			
Saudi Arabia		X			X	X	X	X	
Syrian Arab Republic	X	X			X	X	X	X	
United Arab Emirates			X				X	X	
Yemen	X	X	X				X	X	

#### B. ADVISERS' PRIORITIES

65. Regional advisers and short-term advisers identified a number of regional priorities in their fields of work, including as follows:

(a) *Environment*: Environmental strategies, legal and regulatory framework, and institutional and organizational structure;

(b) *Energy*: Dissemination of renewable energy, and energy management and conservation;

(c) *Social*: Social policies;

(d) *WTO*: WTO accession and free trade agreements;

(e) *ICT*: Bridging the digital divide through ICT applications, collection and dissemination of indicators on the information society, and regional and international networking for sharing knowledge on ICT development;

(f) *Science and technology*: Improving the use of science and technology, developing regional initiatives to integrate science and technology among member countries, and promoting knowledge-based economies;

(g) *National accounts*: Economic surveys;

(h) *Gender*: Gender mainstreaming, and reporting and following up on CEDAW.

#### C. PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2006-2007

66. As mentioned above, regional advisory services are demand-driven. Taking into consideration resource availability in the RPTC, ESCWA responds to as many requests as possible and strives to maintain a balance in the number of services rendered to member countries. During 2004-2005, ESCWA provided a

total of 133 advisory services to member countries (see annex II). It should be noted that some of these services necessitated several missions to a particular member country, while other services involved more than one regional adviser.

67. Based on the outcome of the various evaluation exercises, the need to complete some services initiated in the previous biennium and considering available resources under the RPTC, ESCWA proposes that each member country concentrate on three priority areas during 2006-2007 (see table 2), with due attention to the Least Developed Country in the ESCWA region, namely, Yemen, and to countries and territories emerging from conflict, namely, Iraq and Palestine. The three national proposed priorities would be used as a framework to guide the work of regional advisers and to enable ESCWA member countries to focus on the desired results.

68. In view of the fact that feedback was not received from both the ESCWA focal points and the direct beneficiaries in Iraq and Egypt, it was difficult to propose priority areas in these countries, except in the ICT sector of Iraq where ongoing services are currently underway. To enable ESCWA to extend services to these two countries, the ESCWA focal points of Iraq and Egypt must submit their priorities as soon as possible.

TABLE 2. PROPOSED PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2006-2007

	Social	Environment	Water	Energy	ICT	Science and technology	WTO	Statistics and national accounts	Gender
Bahrain		X					X		X
Egypt									
Iraq					X				
Jordan	X			X					X
Kuwait		X				X		X	
Lebanon			X			X			X
Palestine									X
Oman			X		X				
Qatar				X	X	X			
Saudi Arabia		X				X		X	
Syrian Arab Republic	X	X			X		X		
United Arab Emirates			X				X	X	
Yemen	X	X	X				X	X	

#### IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

69. The following major conclusions can be drawn:

(a) Member countries are generally satisfied with the RPTC in terms of quality, usefulness and timeliness. Equally, beneficiaries are pleased with the changes in the type of services introduced in 2004-2005 in terms of giving priority to capacity-building and of providing additional flexibility through short-term advisers. Accordingly, the Programme should be continued and will endeavour to meet the high demands of member countries;

(b) The percentage response of member countries to the evaluation questionnaires is modest, particularly with respect to the evaluation of advisers' reports and the identification of priorities. To date, priorities identified by member States have been limited to the direct needs of beneficiaries. Priorities of member countries will be coordinated at the national level and will take into consideration the necessity of addressing regional, subregional and transboundary issues through ESCWA advisory services;

(c) ESCWA rendered a large number of advisory services in 2004-2005. While all countries benefited from these services, a disparity in the number of services rendered to each member country was noticed;

(d) ESCWA focal points do not systematically follow up on the implementation of the advisers' recommendations by the concerned beneficiaries;

(e) Dissemination of information on ESCWA activities and services in member countries is still insufficient.

70. In line with the above, the recommended actions are reproduced in the box below.

**Recommended actions**

(a) Member countries need to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the regional advisers, and ESCWA must follow up on the implementation of such recommendations;

(b) ESCWA needs to take action on, disseminate and promote among member countries the good practices and lessons learned on technical cooperation;

(c) ESCWA must continue to extend services to its member countries through the RPTC and further strengthen capacity-building and training activities. ESCWA needs to maintain balance in the services rendered to member countries;

(d) In each country, a technical focal point needs to be appointed in order to follow up on the RPTC. Once these persons are nominated, ESCWA can organize a regional meeting aimed at discussing and agreeing on the most efficient process to identify national priorities, follow up on the implementation of advisers' reports, share knowledge and disseminate information at the national and regional levels;

(e) ESCWA needs to exert further efforts to assist countries in prioritizing their requests and to review and assess regularly the impact of services rendered under the RPTC;

(f) ESCWA needs to consider the provision of multidisciplinary missions at both national and regional levels;

(g) ESCWA needs to pursue the mobilization of extrabudgetary funds from its member countries and to explore the potential of mobilizing extrabudgetary resources from the private sector in the countries of the GCC in order to increase the quantity of advisory services to member countries.



## PART TWO

### ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

#### Introduction

71. The Development Account was first introduced in the 1998-1999 United Nations programme budget and was established by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/54/15 of 19 November 1999 as a special multi-year account with the aim of supplementing development activities based on priority objectives of the approved medium-term plan (which has since been replaced by the strategic framework). The Development Account provides funding for projects that can achieve the following: (a) demonstrate the benefits accruing in capacity-building; (b) utilize the technical, human and other resources available in developing countries; (c) have multiplier effects and promote capacity-building in developing countries; (d) promote regional and interregional economic and technical cooperation among developing countries; (e) lead to some durable, self-sustaining process and have synergies with other development interventions; and (f) be executed within four years.<sup>1</sup>

72. The Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) functions as Programme Manager of the Development Account, and overall guidance on its use is provided by the General Assembly. In addition to adhering to criteria established by the General Assembly, projects must be in conformity with a theme proposed for the specific biennium, referred to as a tranche in this context. For the fifth tranche, which covers the 2006-2007 biennium, the theme is "Supporting progress towards the internationally agreed development goals through knowledge-management, networking and partnerships". In this biennium, there has been increased and strong emphasis on the selection of multiregional and interregional projects, which indicates the determined effort of regional commissions to work together on issues of common interest and to increase collaboration and enhance synergies between entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA).

73. ESCWA first participated in the Development Account in the second tranche, namely, the 2000-2001 biennium. DESA, as the lead agency, partnered with ESCWA and the other regional commissions in a project to build capacity in water management and investment in the water sector. Since its initial involvement, ESCWA has steadily increased its participation in projects funded from the Development Account. Information on the participation of ESCWA in Development Account projects either as a lead agency or as a partner since 2000 is available in annex IV. In the current biennium, ESCWA is the lead agency for two projects and will partner with other regional commissions and EC-ESA entities in an additional five projects.

#### I. PROJECTS BY SUBPROGRAMME

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

<b>Expected accomplishment 2:</b> Increased regional cooperation in the management of shared surface and groundwater and energy networks.
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74. Improving shared groundwater management is a core expected accomplishment in the programme of ESCWA, which is being pursued by the project, entitled "Capacity-building for sustainable utilization, management and protection of internationally shared groundwater in the Mediterranean region". In 2005, a total of 26 officials from six countries in the Mediterranean region improved their knowledge on instruments for groundwater management, thereby contributing to the project goal of increasing awareness of international norms among officials and engaging in inter-state cooperation regarding shared aquifers.

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed information on the Development Account is available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/>.

75. In parallel, that project established and fostered a partnership with sister organizations to address jointly issues of common interest. Within that context, ESCWA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) agreed to cooperate in the management of shared groundwater in the region under the International Shared Aquifer Resource Management (ISARM). The ISARM initiative is a collaborative project of UNESCO, FAO and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) with the goal of developing and championing best practice for the management of groundwater resources shared between neighbouring countries.

**Expected accomplishment 3:** Increased capacity of member countries in the formulation and implementation of policies and policy measures for sustainable development.

76. ESCWA is a partner in the project on “Capacity-building in trade and environment”, which aims to enhance national capabilities in and promote coherent trade-environment policies. Advocacy, presentations and a series of consultations raised awareness among stakeholders in ESCWA member countries regarding the importance of this project for the trade competitiveness of the region. A first workshop, which was held in March 2006 and benefited Government officials and representatives from private enterprises, explored the complex relationship between environmental standards and competitiveness. The project contributes to the implementation of the Regional Programme on Trade and Environment Capacity Building in the Arab Region, which was adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) of the League of Arab States (LAS). Some of the project activities are complemented by work of the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (SIA/EMFTA) and the implementation of the MedPolicies Initiative of the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP).

#### SUBPROGRAMME 4. REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND RESPONDING TO GLOBALIZATION

**Expected accomplishment 1:** Increased facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital among member countries.

77. ESCWA leads the implementation of the interregional project on “Capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages”, which involves all the regional commissions. The first objective of that project was fully achieved in 2005, namely, to identify the land and land-sea linkages between the regions of ESCWA, ECE, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Africa (ECA). In order to operationalize these linkages, five national trade and transport facilitation committees were established in Egypt, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Oman and Yemen aimed at addressing physical and non-physical obstacles to movement of goods and passengers.

**Expected accomplishment 2:** Increased awareness among member countries of the challenges to their economies and opportunities created by the new regional and international trading systems.

78. ESCWA actively participates in the project, entitled “Interregional partnership for promoting trade as an engine for growth through knowledge management and taking advantage of information and communication technology”. Two workshops on improving the capabilities of negotiators and on promoting the participation of SMEs in global supply chains are planned for 2006. These workshops will contribute to the achievement of incorporating trade facilitation and to the promotion and diversification of concepts and practices into national and regional trade policy and in development plans.

79. In preparation for the activities of the above project, ESCWA built on the achievements of an earlier project that was completed in 2005, namely, “Capacity-building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean”. Within that context, the completed project provided support to the overall trade and

transport facilitation strategy of ESCWA through training workshops and seminars, which strengthened and developed the skills of some 300 stakeholders from Governments in terms of designing efficient trade and transport regimes. Additionally, it improved the institutional capacity of companies towards increased competitiveness by reducing costs and delays in the supply chain.

**Expected accomplishment 3:** Increased attractiveness of member countries for domestic, intraregional and foreign investment.

80. The project on “Networking of expertise on foreign direct investment in the countries of the ESCWA region” was successfully completed in 2005. The main accomplishment was in establishing and strengthening the capacity of ESCWA member countries in terms of applying internationally accepted methodology and standards to the data compilation of foreign direct investment (FDI). A total of 150 national statistics officers from Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Syrian Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia were trained on FDI data collection and analysis. Using the skills acquired during the workshops, these statistics officers carried out four surveys on enterprises with FDI participation in their respective countries. Moreover, databases for FDI statistics were established in the participating countries. The project had the desired multiplier effect, as three more countries from the region, namely, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, decided to participate in the project in 2005 on a self-financed basis. Another 100 statisticians from these three countries were trained in workshops on FDI data compilation and analysis.

#### SUBPROGRAMME 5. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**Expected accomplishment 4:** Improved promotion of the role of ICT in increasing the competitiveness of enterprises, and improved access to information and communication technology of the poor strata of the population in the region in order to reduce the digital divide.

81. The project on “Promoting new technologies for employment and poverty alleviation in ESCWA member countries” introduces new technologies for the development of remote towns and villages at the local level. Employment creation in such remote locations is promoted through the establishment of pilot facilities that are aimed at meeting competition in regional and global markets and at enhancing community involvement. Specifically, an agro-food production unit and a multi-purpose technology community centre were established in 2005 in two villages in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and are expected to become fully operational and self-sustained by end 2006. Within that context, 12 members of the communities were prepared as trainers for the new technologies. Operators for the new facilities were also selected, thereby ensuring that the ownership of this project remains with the respective communities after completion of the project.

82. A new interregional project, entitled “Knowledge networks through information and communication technology access points in disadvantaged communities”, which is set to start in 2006, is aimed at empowering poor and disadvantaged communities in the region by transforming selected existing ICT access points into knowledge hubs of global knowledge networks. These networks will provide, develop, organize, share and disseminate knowledge pertinent to the selected communities. The project will be implemented jointly with the other regional commissions and will focus on experience and knowledge sharing for SMEs. Empowerment of women and youth will be at the centre of this initiative.

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

**Expected accomplishment 3:** Improved capacity of member countries for the production and utilization of sectoral statistics and indicators to measure productivity and efficiency and to monitor development policies in these sectors and, in particular, sustainable development indicators and statistics in new areas such as gender and poverty.

83. A new project on “Strengthening the development of international merchandise trade statistics and e-commerce in member countries of ESCWA” will be initiated in 2006. ESCWA is set to work closely with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) to ensure that capacity-building activities use the most up-to-date methodology for the collection, processing, analysis, use and dissemination of trade data. The project aims to improve the coverage and quality of international trade statistics in the ESCWA region and to enhance national and regional coordination in the field of data processing.

## II. GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

84. Development Account projects have already registered several successful outcomes. As an example of good practice, the success of the project on FDI statistics in attracting more countries to join was reviewed above. On the strength of results achieved in participating ESCWA countries, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates decided to participate in the project in 2005 on a self-financed basis. Increased FDI inflows is a strategic aim of most Governments in the Arab region given that foreign investment can bolster development, introduce new technologies to the region and refine management skills. Projects that address these regional needs are set to receive increased support from member Governments, which must guide future programme planning and project selection within ESCWA and among donors.

85. During the first months of implementation of the project on “Capacity-building in trade and environment”, important partnerships with various regional entities were established. The Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR), CAMRE and the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROWA) committed themselves to contributing or participating in capacity-building activities in trade and environment. This commitment will ensure that the impact of the project is multiplied within the region and that human and technical resources are combined for more effective project management.

86. Moreover, the project on “Capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages” provides an important lesson, namely, that objectives and expected outcomes must be clear and realistic. The very ambitious scope of this project, both in terms of geography and substance, poses some challenges, including, for example, the relation between and integration of the analytical activities under the regular programme of work and the project activities, the common understanding of project aims, the different stages of progress among regions, and the timeliness of delivery of services and outputs. Realistic expected accomplishments can facilitate the evaluation of impact within the time frame of the project. In the case of multiregional and interregional projects, in particular, detailed planning at the project outset, the association of all partners, and systematic information sharing and monitoring are a prerequisite.

87. Development Account projects need to be innovative and, therefore, occasional revision must be expected. It is acceptable to adjust activities and even the expected accomplishments if such modifications can facilitate implementation. In the case of ICT projects led by ESCWA, several revisions and adjustments have taken place, both at the stage of drafting the project documents and during implementation. Careful revision is encouraged to ensure timely attainment of objectives and improve standards.

88. It is a comparative advantage of ESCWA to work at the interregional level. However, cooperation between and among regional commissions across the world can be challenging. While modern technology offers various tools for coordination, including, among others, e-mail, and video- and teleconferences, there is no substitute for face-to-face consultations. Difficulties in communication and effective negotiations have been encountered by interregional Development Account projects. Nevertheless, this global approach is an essential and positive feature of Development Account projects given that it offers opportunities for south-south cooperation and encourages a broad sharing of experiences and of ownership of the projects.

Annex I

TOTAL NUMBER OF MISSIONS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES UNDER THE REGULAR PROGRAMME  
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN 2004-2005  
(By Subprogramme)

	Subprogramme 1		Subprogramme 2		Subprogramme 3		Subprogramme 4		Subprogramme 5		Subprogramme 6		Total	
	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days	Missions	Days
Bahrain	2	5	7	39			3	11	2	6			14	61
Egypt	7	32	14	59			4	15	2	10	1	7	28	123
Iraq			12	109			2	2	29	75			43	186
Jordan	4	41	5	74					1	2			10	117
Kuwait	7	61			1	14	6	17	3	14			17	106
Lebanon	2	2	4	8			8	16	11	14			25	40
Oman	3	14			1	4	3	14	5	27			12	59
Palestine	8	95	4	128									12	223
Qatar	3	24			3	15			6	17			12	56
Saudi Arabia	4	24	13	85			7	30	16	87			40	226
Syrian Arab Republic	19	123	13	61	3	18	12	55	34	83	1	7	82	347
United Arab Emirates	3	13	1	3	4	31	6	22	4	19			18	88
Yemen	9	55	1	13	2	28	3	21	2	10	1	12	18	139
Others	13	73					6	30	6	27			25	130
Total	84	562	74	579	14	110	60	233	121	391	3	26	356	1 901

Annex II

OVERVIEW OF ADVISORY SERVICES RENDERED IN 2004-2005  
(By ESCWA member)

ESCWA member	Number of advisory services
Bahrain	7
Egypt	4
Iraq	9
Jordan	5
Kuwait	9
Lebanon	3
Oman	7
Palestine	8
Qatar	7
Saudi Arabia	18
Syrian Arab Republic	34
United Arab Emirates	11
Yemen	11
Total	133

Annex III

**FEEDBACK FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES**

ANNEX TABLE 1. PERCENTAGE RESPONSE FROM ESCWA MEMBERS ON THE EVALUATION OF THE REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

	Number of requests submitted to ESCWA members	Number of responses received from ESCWA members	Percentage
Bahrain	5	4	80
Egypt	5	1	20
Iraq	1	0	0
Jordan	4	3	75
Kuwait	6	5	83
Lebanon	4	2	50
Palestine	4	2	50
Oman	5	4	80
Qatar	3	3	100
Saudi Arabia	8	5	63
Syrian Arab Republic	24	18	75
United Arab Emirates	7	7	100
Yemen	6	6	100
Total	82	60	73

ANNEX TABLE 2. STATISTICAL RATING OF RESPONSES FROM ESCWA MEMBERS ON THE EVALUATION OF THE REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Quality and quantity	Good	Fair	Not good	No response	Total
	56	1	2	1	60
	93%	2%	3%	2%	100%
Timeliness	On time	Not on time	Acceptable	No response	Total
	49	2	5	4	60
	82%	3%	8%	7%	100%
Recommendations	Useful	Acceptable	Suitable	No response	Total
	30	14	10	6	60
	50%	23%	17%	10%	100%
Achievements	Made	Made partially	Not made	No response	Total
	47	6	0	7	60
	78%	10%	0%	12%	100%
Working relationship with ESCWA	Good	Average	No response		Total
	43	3	14		60
	72%	5%	23%		100%
Most useful services <sup>a/</sup>	Policy advice	Training	Projects	No response	Total
	46	44	10	1	101
	46%	44%	10%	1%	100%

Note: <sup>a/</sup> More than one answer was provided by the 60 respondents.

Annex IV

DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECTS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ESCWA  
 AS LEADING AGENCY OR AS PARTNER

Leading agency	Project title	Start year	End year	Budget	Status
Second tranche (2000-2001)					
DESA	Capacity-building to improve water management and accelerate investments in the water sector	2000	2005	\$1,650,000	Completed
Third tranche (2002-2003)					
ESCWA	Capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages	2002	2006	\$1,250,000	Ongoing
DESA	Strengthening statistical capacity in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia <sup>a/</sup>	2002	2004	\$820,000	Completed
ECE	Capacity-building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean	2002	2005	\$600,000	Completed
ESCWA	Networking of expertise on foreign direct investment in the countries of ESCWA regional States	2002	2005	\$480,000	Completed
Fourth tranche (2004-2005)					
ESCAP	Capacity-building in trade and environment	2004	2006	\$1,025,000	Ongoing
ECLAC	Interregional partnership for promoting trade as an engine of growth through knowledge management and taking advantage of information and communication technology	2004	2006	\$920,000	Ongoing
DESA	Capacity-building on ICT policymaking	2004	2006	\$640,000	Ongoing
ESCWA	Promoting new technologies for employment and poverty alleviation in the ESCWA member countries	2004	2006	\$360,000	Ongoing
ESCWA	Capacity-building for sustainable utilization, management and protection of international shared groundwater in the Mediterranean region	2004	2007	\$360,000	Ongoing
Fifth tranche (2006-2007)					
ESCWA	Knowledge networks through information and communication technology access points in disadvantaged communities	2006	2008	\$970,000	Starting
ESCAP	Interregional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the Millennium Development Goal process	2006	2007	\$855,000	Starting
ESCAP	Interregional cooperation on the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment	2006	2007	\$800,000	Starting
DESA	Capacity-building to integrate older persons in development goals and frameworks through the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	2006	2008	\$510,000	Starting
ESCWA	Strengthening the development of international merchandise trade statistics and e-commerce in member countries of ESCWA	2006	2008	\$460,000	Starting
ECLAC	Strengthening the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by sharing information about successful initiatives through a regional network	2006	2007	\$410,000	Starting
ECA	Sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation in Africa	2006	2008	\$410,000	Starting

Note: a/ This project was completed in 2004. Additional information can be found in "Implementation of projects financed from the Development Account: third progress report" (A/58/404). The fourth progress report is available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/documents/Supplementary%20Info%20for%20ACABO.31%205%2005.DOC>.

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