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**UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
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**FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMMES  
TRUST FUND FOR ESCWA REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Note by the Executive Secretary



### Background

1. In its review of the programme of work at its second session, the Commission noted that the level of resources provided by the regular programme budget was inadequate to meet the programme needs; particularly for the great number of projects requested for the region, the provision of extrabudgetary resources was therefore necessary to a successful implementation of the Commission's programme of work. In resolution 11 (II), "Voluntary Fund" of 9 May 1975, the Commission requested a report on the most efficient and effective mode for establishing a fund financed from voluntary contributions to be used for extrabudgetary financing of the work programme, and for meeting requests by member States for studies and advisory services.

2. In paragraphs 1 and 2 of its resolution 33(III), "Establishment of a voluntary fund" of 14 May 1976, the Commission established a voluntary fund and requested that the resources of the fund be utilized to finance services in fields of economic and social development in favour of the least developed States members of the Commission.

3. At its fourth session, the Commission, in resolution 45(IV), "The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund" of 28 April 1977, *inter alia*, urged member States to make voluntary contributions towards the general financing of the work programme or the financing of specific projects. In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Commission called upon the Executive Secretary to submit a financial statement of the Fund at each session; the present report is in response to that request.

### I. CONTRIBUTIONS

4. In response to the above-mentioned Commission resolution 33(III), the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities was established by the Secretary-General in 1976. The status of contributions received from 1976 to 31 December 1988 is presented below:

<u>Donors</u>	<u>Year of contribution</u>	<u>Amount contributed (United States dollar equivalent)</u>
The Government of Iraq	1975	300 000
The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development	1975	144 000
The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	1975	144 000

<u>Donors</u>	<u>Year of contribution</u>	<u>Amount contributed (United States dollar equivalent)</u>
The Government of Saudi Arabia	1979	300 000
The Government of Yemen	1980	5 864
The Iraqi Fund for External Development	1982	15 000
The Government of Qatar	1983	<u>100 000</u>
Total contributions received since the establishment of the Fund		1 008 864

5. Paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned Commission resolution 45(IV) requests the Executive Secretary to invite member States of the Commission six months before the date of each session, to determine the amount of their contributions towards the resources of the Fund.

6. In accordance with the procedure established by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly, an annual pledging conference is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, during which all States Members of the United Nations are requested to announce their contributions to all programmes and funds established in the United Nations. The aims and objectives of the ESCWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities, together with the activities undertaken, are listed in the document (E/ESCWA/15/6/Add.1) containing background information on programmes and funds, and made available to all member States before the conference.

7. Based on information received from the Conference, no contribution was pledged and/or received for the Fund at the pledging conferences in 1986, 1987 and 1988.

## II. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FINANCED FROM THE FUND

8. At its second session, the Commission, in its resolution 11(II), set out the objective of the Fund as a source of revenue for the extrabudgetary financing of the work programme and for meeting requests by member States for studies and advisory services. At its third session, the Commission, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 33(III), circumscribed the utilization of the resources of the Fund to the various fields of economic and social development in favour of the least developed States members of the Commission. At its seventh session, by its resolution 79(VII) "Strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account of the Economic Commission for Western Asia" of 22 April 1980, the Commission expanded the area of activities to be financed from the resources of the Fund to include surveys and statistical research, analytical studies, training, consultants' services, and all economic and social sectors and subsectors.

9. In accordance with the above objectives, the activities financed from the Fund, from its inception in 1976 to 31 December 1988, are as follows:

Projects	Amount utilized (United States dollars)
1. ESCWA Regional Documentation Centre	66 219
2. ESCWA Science and Technology work programme	73 559
3. Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	288 382
4. Consultancy services to the Government of Democratic Yemen	3 309
5. Studies on the Arab "brain drain"	22 810
6. Geological survey in Yemen	1 604
7. Workshop on commodity balances and input-output analysis at current prices	30 297
8. Joint meeting on food security	5 700
9. Regional adviser in agricultural projects identification, formulation and evaluation	66 594
10. Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology	18 678
11. ESCWA Regional Water Meeting	33 736
12. Study of an integrated transport and communications network in the ESCWA region	34 105
13. Completion of a Directory of Information Facilities in the Arab Countries	2 336
14. Study on economic co-operation and integration in Western Asia	28 575
15. Study on the establishment of subsidiary bodies of ESCWA	1 842
16. Identification of industrial regional projects	2 197
17. Study of an organizational framework for regional co-operation and co-ordination	3 690
18. Project on the management, conservation and development of agricultural resources	51 348

Projects	Amount utilized (United States dollars)
19. Regional Co-operation Strategy for Industrial Development Scenarios	10 260
20. Expert Meeting on the Arab Brain Drain	45 530
21. <u>Ad Hoc</u> Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan	4 081
22. <u>Ad Hoc</u> Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Petrochemicals and Fertilizers	16 159
23. <u>Ad Hoc</u> Expert Group Meeting on Identification of Projects for Regional Co-operation in Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries	14 163
24. Panel meetings on capital goods and the petrochemical industry	17 445
25. Seminar on technology policies in the Arab States	5 666
26. Preparation of a study on the potential and the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian Arab people	156 375
27. Demonstration and Training Centre on Simple Solar Applications	811
28. Alternative architectural design for schools	3 803
29. Computer listing of well data	11 440
30. Energy planning	3 797
31. Micro-electronics for the ESCWA region	6 597
32. Non-baked bricks technology	7 461
33. Seminar on technology policies in Arab States	39 296
34. ESCWA Statistical Abstract and National Accounts Studies	67 245
35. <u>Ad Hoc</u> Expert Group Meeting for the Review of National Experiences with Development Projects in Selected Countries of Western Asia	11 300

Projects	Amount utilized (United States dollars)
36. Alternative scenarios for industrial development in the countries of the ESCWA region	10 916
37. Workshop on Computer Processing and Transmission of the Arabic Language	18 079
38. Ministerial Solidarity Meeting for Co-operation in Industrial Development in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen	16 950
39. Intergovernmental meeting on the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people	10 836
40. New and renewable sources of energy	12 483
41. Second Baghdad International Conference on Computer Technology and Applications	8 168
42. Development of financial structures and activities in the occupied Palestinian territories	19 209
43. Education and training of high-level scientific and technological manpower	9 177
44. Patterns of technology transfer in the ESCWA region	14 659
45. Social welfare policies and programmes in the ESCWA region with special emphasis on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons	15 824
46. Social institutions for rural development in the ESCWA region with special emphasis on popular participation	9 494
47. Vocational and technical training in the Arab world: present situation and priority needs	30 835
48. Assessment of existing environmental statistics in selected countries of the ESCWA region	7 703
49. The Arab Unified Abstract	10 451

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Projects	Amount utilized (United States dollars)
50. <u>Ad Hoc</u> High-Level Expert Group Meeting on the Medium Term Plan and Programme Priorities for 1990-1995	39 470
51. Workshop on marketing issues related to petrochemicals and fertilizers produced in the ESCWA region	11 575
52. First meeting of the inter-organizational task force on human resources development and rehabilitation programmes for disabled persons	12 684
53. Development of ports in Western Asia	14 690
54. Development of air transport in Western Asia	2 588
55. Environmental management in the petroleum refining industry	10 242
56. Technical assistance on cement, textile and engineering industries	12 053
57. Expert group meeting on identification of priority projects for the occupied Palestinian territories	13 560
58. Seminar on the role of the public and private sector in structural adjustment	41 810
59. Preparation of four country background papers on industrial development	<u>13 560</u>
Total	<u>1 523 426</u>

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III. STATEMENT FOR THE 1986-1987 BIENNIUM

A. Statement of income and expenditure for the  
biennium 1986-1987 ended 31 December 1987

(United States dollars)

<u>Income</u>	
Interest income	61 613
Miscellaneous income	<u>3 076</u>
Total income	<u>64 689</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Staff and other personnel costs	176 710
Travel	34 552
Contractual services	7 500
Operating expenses	<u>6 316</u>
Subtotal	225 078
Programme support costs	<u>28 860</u>
Total expenditure	<u>253 938</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>(189 249)</u>

B. Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 1987

(United States dollars)

<u>Assets</u>	
Cash	322 815
Accounts receivable	<u>3 756</u>
Total assets	<u>326 571</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Unliquidated obligations	51 726
Due to United Nations General Fund	<u>4 847</u>
Total liabilities	<u>56 573</u>
<u>Fund balance</u>	
Balance available 1 January 1986	459 247
Add: excess of income over expenditure	<u>(189 249)</u>
Balance available 31 December 1987	<u>269 998</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>326 571</u>

IV. STATEMENT FOR THE 1988-1989 BIENNIUM

A. Statement of income and expenditure for the twelve-month period of the biennium 1988-1989 ended 31 December 1988

(United States dollars)

Income	
Miscellaneous income	<u>8 802</u>
Total income	<u>8 802</u>
Expenditure	
Staff and other personnel costs	24 929
Travel	7 995
Operating expenses	2 000
Fellowships, grants, other	<u>35 000</u>
Subtotal	<u>69 924</u>
Programme support costs	9 090
Total expenditure	79 014
Excess of income over expenditure	(70 212)

B. Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 1988

(United States dollars)

Assets	
Cash	264 781
Due from United Nations General Fund	<u>1 704</u>
Total assets	<u>266 485</u>
Liabilities	
Unliquidated obligations	66 699
Fund balance	
Balance available 1 January 1988	269 998
Add: excess of income over expenditure	(70 212)
Balance available 31 December 1988	199 786
Total liabilities and fund balance	266 485