

105(VIII). Defining and strengthening the functions of the Commission within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, and in particular section IV of the annex thereto relating to structures for regional and interregional co-operation,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and 34/206 of 19 December 1979 and Commission resolution 69(VI) concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, as well as Commission resolution 80(VII) on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Taking note of General Assembly decision 35/440 of 16 December 1980, in which the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to "invite the regional commissions to consider further at their plenary sessions in 1981 the implications for their role and functions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 32/202",

Taking further note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions",<sup>1/</sup> and in particular the observations contained in paragraphs 13 to 20 and 76 to 79 thereof, and also of the secretariat's report,<sup>2/</sup> which further assesses the implications of the decentralization of economic and social activities to ECWA,

Affirming the responsibility of the regional commissions for exercising team leadership for co-operation and co-ordination at the regional level and for the promotion of regional co-operation,

Emphasizing that the necessary authority should be delegated to the regional commissions to discharge effectively their enhanced responsibilities and that adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made available to them for their activities,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme in support of the role of the Commission as executing agency for operational activities,

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<sup>1/</sup> A/35/546.

<sup>2/</sup> E/ECWA/125.

1. Endorses the views expressed in the secretariat's report, particularly concerning those priority areas identified as a result of expanded responsibilities regarding the role and functions of the Commission within the process of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system;

2. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to request the General Assembly, having due regard to the observations contained in the Secretary-General's report and taking into account the role of the regional commissions as the main economic and social developing centres in their regions as well as the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, to provide for the effective participation of the regional commissions, within their respective regions and in the context of their inputs into the over-all policy-making processes of the competent global organs of the United Nations, and without prejudice to the respective functions of those organs, in:

- (a) The formulation of the objectives of global programmes in the execution of which the regional commissions are expected to participate;
- (b) The preparations for negotiations at the global and the regional levels, taking due account of the pressing needs of the developing countries members of the regional commissions and in accordance with established United Nations practices in these matters;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue consultations with heads of organizations of the United Nations system maintaining regional programmes, with a view to investigating the possibility of setting up appropriate interagency arrangements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197;

4. Calls also upon the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to provide as expeditiously as possible the resources required for carrying out the activities identified by the ECWA secretariat and resulting from the increased responsibilities of the Commission in the light of General Assembly resolution 32/197;

5. Requests further the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in deciding on arrangements for the planning and co-ordination of global and regional programmes, including the distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the global and regional bodies, to take fully into account the priorities established for their respective regions by the regional commissions at their intergovernmental sessions;

6. Requests further the Executive Secretary to:

- (a) Intensify and expand his efforts to promote regional co-operation and integration;
- (b) Pursue consultations with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions, with a view to strengthening economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the interregional level;

7. Calls also upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its ninth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting  
6 May 1981