

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Aware of the alarmingly increasing trend of food demand in relation to domestic production in the ECWA region, resulting in an ever diminishing food self-sufficiency, especially with regard to cereals which are a staple food in the region,

Believing that there is considerable scope for effectively investing the surplus capital in the region in food security projects in countries affected by food problems and malnutrition,

Further believing that, in the context of regional co-operation, assistance in strengthening food security for the less fortunate countries in the region becomes a binding moral obligation on the part of all the countries of the region, individually and collectively,

Noting with satisfaction the measures being taken by oil-producing countries in the region on a bilateral basis or through regional and international channels to assist poorer countries in improving their food situation and developing their agricultural production,

Recognizing the role of food-sector strategies which emerged from the World Food Council as a means for interested developing countries to adopt an integrated approach for increasing food production, improving consumption and attracting the necessary international resources,

Noting also with appreciation the efforts of the ECWA secretariat in the food security area,

1. Urges all members to consider that regional food security is their common responsibility which should be fully reflected in their national policies;
2. Urges members as well as regional development institutions to further intensify their efforts for the purpose of improving food production and security in the region;
3. Urges Governments and international organizations concerned and in particular Governments in the region and regional development institutions to provide the necessary technical support and food assistance to food security projects in the region, especially in its least developed countries;
4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to strengthen the Commission's activities in food security in its future work programme in agreement and co-ordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in co-ordination with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

8th meeting

12 May 1982