

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, particularly its provisions regarding the role of the regional commissions in the promotion of co-ordination at the regional level and regarding their tasks and responsibilities in the programme planning and review process,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 36/228 of 18/12/1981 on Programme Planning, particularly its section (A),

Mindful of ECOSOC resolution 1981/64 of 23 July 1981 which called upon all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to apply the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade as a policy framework in the formulation and implementation of their programmes of work and medium-term plans,

Recalling also its resolution 56(V) on the definition of long-term development objectives and regional development strategy and its resolution 84(VII) of 23 April 1980 by which it established an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee with a view, inter alia, to advising the Commission regarding institutional arrangements, including the creation of technical bodies, for the effective implementation of the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989,

1. Emphasizes the need to ensure that the programme planning and review processes of the Commission reflect more fully and consistently the development priorities and requirements of the States members of the Commission;

2. Adopts the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan and the recommendations contained therein^{2/};

3. Endorses in that context the Commission's Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989^{3/};

^{2/} E/ECWA/142/Rev.1

^{3/} E/ECWA/142/Add.1

4. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council to establish a Standing Committee for the Programme, composed of all member countries of the Commission, as its main subsidiary organ to assist the Commission in the discharge of its responsibilities for programme planning and review;

5. Recommends further that the terms of reference of the Standing Committee will be as follows:

(a) The Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Commission for reviewing, planning, programming, evaluation and co-ordination;

(b) The Committee shall

(i) Review the programmes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia as defined in the Medium-term Plan;

(ii) Review the totality of the work programme(s) of the Commission in the light of the availability of resources;

(iii) Recommend an order of priorities among the programmes and subprogrammes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia as defined in the Medium-term Plan;

(iv) Give guidance to the Executive Secretary on the design of the programme;

(v) Recommend guidelines to the agencies of the United Nations system maintaining programmes and activities in the region taking into account their respective functions and responsibilities and the need for coherence and co-ordination;

(vi) Consider and develop evaluation procedures and their use in the improvement of programme design and implementation;

(c) The Committee, in discharging its responsibilities, shall

Consider the programme of the Commission as a whole or as appropriate on a sector-by-sector basis and may for this purpose convene ad hoc subject-oriented meetings, and

Assist the Commission in achieving compatibility and complementarity of its work programme with those of other regional intergovernmental organizations in the region;

(d) The Committee shall meet annually prior to the regular session of the Commission and whenever it deems it desirable to do so for the proper discharge of its responsibilities. It may invite for this purpose United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to attend its meetings;

(e) The Committee, shall be guided as appropriate by the reports of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and relevant reports of other United Nations bodies;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult with the heads of the United Nations bodies and agencies maintaining programmes in the region with a view to strengthening arrangements aimed at improved co-operation and co-ordination of activities carried out or sponsored by the United Nations system in the region, particularly in the context of the preparation of the respective programmes of work and medium-term plans of the bodies involved;

7. Requests also the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its tenth session on the implementation of this resolution.

8th meeting

12 May 1982