

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Considering the note by the Executive Secretary on the retrospect and perspective of the Commission's work contained in document E/ECWA/161,

Agreeing with the content of that note concerning the administrative constraints encountered by the secretariat in dealing with issues which limit or impede the discharge of its functions,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the role of ECWA as an instrument for co-operation and regional integration in a manner consistent with General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Emphasizing that the discharge by the secretariat of its functions of preparing and servicing meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, carrying out research in connection with economic problems in the ECWA region, preparing studies and reports requested by the Commission and maintaining contacts with the Governments of member countries requires a full staffing level appropriate to the needs and circumstances of the region in which the Commission is functioning,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Executive Secretary to ensure that competent staff members from all members of the Commission are appointed to the ECWA secretariat,

1. Recommends that vacant posts be filled by qualified and experienced staff thoroughly acquainted with the situation and circumstances of the region in which the Commission is functioning;

2. Recommends further that at least 75 per cent of the vacant posts be filled by nationals of its member States, as applied in other regional economic commissions;