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**FOLLOW-UP ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCES AND ESCWA REGIONAL MEETINGS**

- (a) World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women
- (b) Regional Intergovernmental Meeting of the Countries of Western Asia on the United Nations Draft Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations
- (c) First Meeting of the Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region
- (d) ESCWA Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy

Note by the Executive Secretary

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(a) World Conference of the United Nations decade for Women

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 26 July 1985. The objectives of the Conference were: (a) to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace; and (b) to adopt forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women to the year 2000.

2. It may be recalled from the report to the Commission at its twelfth session (E/ECWA/XII/7/Add.1) that ESCWA had undertaken various activities in preparation for the Conference and for the Non-Governmental Forum that overlapped with the Inter-Governmental Conference. Most important of the regional activities were: (a) the Expert Group Meeting on Strategy for the Development of Women till the Year 2000, October 1984; (b) the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (Baghdad 3-6 December 1984), which adopted the Strategy for the Development of Arab Women in Western Asia to the Year 2000 which was submitted to the World Conference as part of the Recommendations of Regional Inter-Governmental preparatory Meeting: Report of the Secretary General (World Conference Document No. A/Conf.116/9); (c) One-day NGO (non-governmental organization) meeting with the NGO Planning Committee held in Baghdad on 2 December 1985; and (d) the "Strategy for Arab women's organizations to the year 2000," which was prepared for the Federation of Arab Women and distributed to the Forum participants by the Federation. In addition a workshop co-sponsored by the Federation and ESCWA was held in Baghdad from 25 June to 2 July 1985 in order to acquaint Arab delegations to the Forum and the Conference with the procedures and issues involved in the conduct of both Forum and Conference.

3. The Nairobi Conference was attended by 157 States Members of the United Nations, including all ESCWA members with the exception of Qatar and Lebanon. Participating as observers were 17 intergovernmental organizations including the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. National liberation movements and organizations, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, also attended as observers.

4. From the United Nations family all the secretariats of the regional commissions with the exception of Europe were represented. United Nations bodies and programmes as well as specialized agencies and related organizations were widely represented.

II. CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT

5. The Conference in its opening session was addressed by the United Nations Secretary General followed by the President of the Republic of Kenya. The Conference elected Miss Margaret Kenyatta as President by acclamation. It also elected 30 Vice-Presidents (Iraq and Syria from the region), a Rapporteur-General and a Presiding Officer for each of the two main Committees.

6. The Conference succeeded in adopting the proposed Forward-Looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women (item 8 of the Conference agenda) mostly on a consensus basis, with a few controversial paragraphs individually voted on. In spite of the continuous series of committee meetings, the Conference could not review any of the more than 100 draft resolutions submitted to it in view of the time shortage and pressure. It was therefore decided that all draft resolutions would be submitted to the General Assembly during its fortieth session.

7. In its deliberations and general climate, the Conference was highly politicized as its substantive issues could not be divested of their political dimension. In fact the political issues pervaded the deliberations of the Conference Preparatory Committee in both Vienna and New York. Technical issues were discussed but amendments or divergences in texts were easily settled by consensus in the two main Conference committees. However, paragraphs with political implications were only negotiated and adopted in the final plenary session, which lasted till 6 o'clock in the morning.

8. One of the problems anticipated during the preparatory meetings was the rules of procedure governing the conduct of the meetings. Some countries has insisted on adopting documents on a consensus basis, while others, led by the Group of 77, had been strongly in favour of adopting the normal rules of procedure in world conferences, as was the case in both the Mexico City and Copenhagen World Conferences on Women. However, in the pre-Conference consultations in Nairobi, a compromise was reached. The Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedures (normal rules) with the following statement made by the President.

"In my capacity as President of the Conference, and with the concurrence of all groups concerned, I wish to make the following statement:

"Without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Conference which have been adopted, in particular rule 34, and without setting a precedent, a general understanding has emerged as a result of consultation whereby all documents of the Conference, in particular the Forward-looking Strategies document under item 8 of the Conference agenda, should be adopted by consensus."

III. POLITICAL ISSUES RELATIVE TO WOMEN'S ISSUES

9. Four other issues of a political nature, imposing constraints and obstacles and adversely affecting development in general and the quality of life of the population as a whole, especially women and their families, were intensely debated in the committees and in the plenary, namely: (a) the urgent need to take measures towards the establishment of a New International Economic Order and problems of international trade and the burden of third world debts; (b) the imposing of economic sanctions on the Government of South Africa for its oppressive policy of apartheid; (c) the threat of the arms race, nuclear weapons and the so-called Star Wars concept; and (d) the issue of zionism and the Israeli occupation of Palestine and other Arab territories as one of the main obstacles to national development and independence and the effective integration of women in the development process.

10. The first three issues were agreed upon in the plenary by voting. However, with regard to the inclusion of the word "zionism" among the political issues (imperialism, colonialism, expansionism, apartheid, racism, etc..) as obstacles to the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, the "Western group" was adamant on its deletion. This group went as far as expressing its intention, if the word remained, to declare its disapproval of the document on forward-looking strategies in toto. The situation was indeed critical and threatened to destroy the main output of the Conference. However, after a long recess of the final meeting, it was agreed, upon the proposal of the delegation of Kenya, to replace "zionism" with the words "and all other forms of racism." The proposal was accepted by the Palestine Liberation Organization, (see paragraph 95 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies contained in the Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women; Equality, Development and Peace (A/CONF.116/28/Rev.1)).

11. This compromise assisted in ensuring the adoption of the amended section on Palestinian women and children (see paragraph 260 of the Strategies). In particular paragraph 260 indicated the need for Palestinian women to recover their rights to "self-determination, and the right to establish an independent State in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions". The Strategies also called for United Nations assistance in identifying the special and immediate needs of Palestinian women and children and for initiating adequate projects in the fields of health, education and vocational training.

IV. TECHNICAL ASPECT OF THE FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES

12. This brief report cannot do justice to the various technical aspects of the forward-looking strategies adopted by the Conference. The document itself included basic strategies and measures of implementation, followed-up and evaluation at the national, regional and international levels. At the regional level it is commensurate in most of the issues with the strategy adopted by the ESCWA members. Comparable emphasis is laid on the need to provide greater opportunities for women's participation in the decision-making process, and for employment in all the economic sectors, eliminating all forms of employment discrimination. Special priorities were accorded to rural women, young women, women workers, particularly in industry, migrant women and to women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention and threats to peace. The objective of the advancement of women is considered to be among the sets of social and economic objectives of overall national and sectoral planning. The importance of mass media is underscored and their role in eliminating stereotyped images of women is also emphasized.

13. Throughout the forward-looking strategies as well as in the ESCWA Regional Strategy the linkages between sustained socio-economic development and the advancement of women are recognized. However, the nature, scope and dynamics of the relationships require further data and analysis for better understanding. The premise that economic development will benefit women cannot be automatically maintained. On the other hand the objective of the advancement of women can no longer be confined to welfare programmes in limited conception. Women's issues have to be conceived in an integral manner within the total context of development at the central, regional and local levels.

14. Special mention must be made of the participation of the ESCWA delegation in the preparation and organization of the honorary ceremony held in recognition of the successful and innovative country projects of the various regional commissions which were supported by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Two projects from the ESCWA region, executed by ESCWA in Bahrain and Oman, were chosen for awards, namely, "Identification of Priority Needs and Services for Women in Bahrain" (BAH/81/W01) and "Women Component in National Community Development in Oman" (Project No. 12).

15. A press conference was held on the occasion of the generous contribution of Sheikha Fatma, spouse of His Royal Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al-Nahyan, ruler of the United Arab Emirates. The contribution was donated to UNIFEM and amounted to 500,000 US dollars, to finance the Fund's projects in the third world.

V. FOLLOW-UP ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

16. It is worth noting here that the objectives of the women's work programmes of ESCWA have been and will continue to be guided by both the Forward-looking Strategies and the ESCWA regional Strategy. In fact, the work programme for the biennium 1986-1987 reflects the objectives and priorities stated therein. Technical assistance activities and projects formulated or to be formulated for the financial assistance of UNIFEM and other funding agencies, especially the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organization (AGFUND), are and will continue to be in line with both strategies.

17. The following constitutes the follow-up action to be undertaken up to the year 2000:

(a) Assisting ESCWA member States in formulating national strategies for women, taking into consideration the socio-cultural and economic factors of each member State;

(b) Providing technical assistance for ESCWA member States in identifying, formulating, and implementing projects relevant to the needs of each country within the framework of the recommendations made in the Strategy for the Development of Arab Women in Western Asia to the Year 2000 and in the light of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

(c) Formulating regional projects for training in social and economic skills required for national development and regional co-operation.

These activities will be undertaken upon the request of ESCWA member States for technical assistance and co-operation.

(b) Regional Intergovernmental Meeting of the Countries of Western Asia
on the United Nations Draft Code of Conduct on
Transnational Corporations

Up-date on the Negotiations
relating to the Code of Conduct on
Transnational Corporations

Part I: Outcome of the reconvened special session of the Commission
on Transnational Corporations (20 to 31 January 1986).

Part II: Developments under other Related International Instruments.

PART I

Outcome of the Reconvened Special Session of the
Commission on Transnational Corporations
(20 to 31 January, 1986)

A. Preparations for the reconvened special session of the Commission on transnational corporations

In a declaration adopted on 4 October 1985 at their ninth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 expressed their deep concern that prolonged negotiations on the United Nations code of conduct on transnational corporations had so far not resulted in the completion of the code, and urged developed countries that had not yet done so to demonstrate political will during the reconvened special session of the Commission in January 1986, taking into account the flexibility and political will demonstrated by the Group of 77 so far, to enable the successful completion and adoption of a meaningful code (A/40/762, para. 32).

In a resolution adopted at the Conference of African Ministers of Trade at its eighth session, held at Brazzaville from 28 to 31 October 1985, the Ministers expressed their support for the effort to resolve the outstanding issues in the negotiation of the code of conduct and appealed to members of the Commission to examine seriously the suggestions made by the Chairman of the Commission and the expert advisers in June 1985. The Ministers also urged an expeditious conclusion of the negotiations at the reconvened special session in January 1986 in the light of the promising texts currently available on the outstanding issues.

A series of regional intergovernmental meetings were scheduled by the joint units of the regional commissions and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations to review the status of the negotiations on the code of conduct and to examine the principal outstanding issues in preparation for the January 1986 special session of the Commission. One such meeting was held at Baghdad on 18 and 19 November 1985. A second meeting, co-sponsored by the Government of Argentina, was held at Buenos Aires on 26 and 27 November 1985, and a third meeting at Bangkok from 19 to 23 December 1985. In the recommendations adopted at the Baghdad meeting the progress made in the negotiations on the code was commended, especially the efforts of the expert advisers; the countries of Western Asia were invited to participate actively in the January 1986 special session of the Commission, with a view to reaching a comprehensive solution to the outstanding issues 1/.

The special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations reconvened for the period 20-31 January 1986. Around ninety countries, members of the

1/ See Report of the Regional Intergovernmental Meeting of the Countries of Western Asia on the United Nations' Draft Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations (18-19 November 1985, Baghdad), (E/ESCWA/UNCTC/85/IG.1/2).

United Nations participated in the session, of which six countries from Western Asia, and three countries from North African arab countries.

B. Report on the reconvened special session of the Commission on transnational corporations 1/

During the reconvened special session, the Commission on Transnational Corporations had before it the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1985/193, containing texts and suggestions for the solution of the outstanding issues by the Bureau of the special session and by the Expert advisers to the Commission (E/C.10/1986/S/2). In addition, the report of the Secretary-General on the outstanding issues in the draft code of conduct (E/C.10/1985/S/2) was resubmitted as part of the official documentation. Moreover, it was agreed by all delegations that all texts and proposals submitted formally or informally in previous special sessions of the Commission would also serve as a basis for consideration of the outstanding issues. The Commission was also informed of the discussions at several regional meetings on the code of conduct on transnational corporations.

The discussions of the Commission took place on the basis of the proposals made by Venezuela in 1981 on behalf of the Group of 77, the Chairman and Rapporteur of the 1983 special session, the Bureau of the June 1985 reconvened special session, and also the expert advisers to the Commission, contained in a synoptic table.

All delegations reiterated their commitment to fulfilling the mandate from the Economic and Social Council to conclude the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations and expressed their willingness to co-operate in a constructive manner to facilitate further progress in the negotiations on the code. Some delegations stressed that, in the current economic situation, the need for the code was perhaps more important than ever before as an element in the international arrangements that could improve the financial imbalances faced by many countries.

It was agreed that, in attempting to resolve the outstanding issues, those issues should not be considered in isolation but in conjunction with other outstanding provisions in the code so as to reflect a balance between the different positions. Many delegations suggested that in order to make progress in the negotiations, they should initially focus the discussions on those areas which offered better prospects for agreement. Some delegations recalled that the proposals made by the Bureau of the 1985 reconvened special session were balanced suggestions which they believed were accepted by many delegations. And other delegations suggested that the text of the expert advisers be taken as basis for further consultations.

One delegation, speaking on behalf of many others (Group of 77) observed that after the reconvened special session in June 1985, further progress on some

1/ The Report of the reconvened special session will be available under symbol number E/C.10/1986/S/3.

issues had become possible in the light of suggestions put forward at that session as to how to bridge difference on a number of important issues. It would be, however, misleading to assume that a consensus was reached on any particular formulation. A great number of countries were ready for consensus on the proposals made by the Chairman and the Rapporteur of 1983. As it proved difficult for other delegations to take the same attitude, the work on the Code took a turn which tended to erode the above mentioned proposals of 1983.

A number of delegations (representing developed countries) thought that for the code to receive widespread support, it should be universally applicable, voluntary, balanced, and set forth in a clear manner standards of conduct for enterprises and their treatment by host countries. Some delegations also indicated that, as host and home countries of transnational corporations, they were equally concerned with both aspects of the code. Such a code would serve the overall objective of stimulating worldwide economic growth and assist in encouraging the flow of foreign direct investment.

A number of other delegations (representing East European countries) pointed out that the ultimate goal of the code was to regulate and control the activities of transnational corporations with a view to eliminating negative effects of those activities which were contrary to the development needs of host countries. They also reiterated their position that the best prospects for an overall compromise solution to the major outstanding issues of the Code continued to be offered by the proposals of the Chairperson and Rapporteur of the 1983 special session of the Commission.

C. Action by the special session of the Commission on transnational corporations

The discussions of the reconvened special session of the Commission were conducted on the basis of the texts contained in a synoptic table. After an extensive exchange of views on the outstanding issues, the Commission was in a position to clarify the views of different delegations and groups of delegations, identifying a possible basis for agreement on some of them. However, in order to facilitate reaching an overall solution on the principal outstanding issues as contained in annex I of the report, the Commission entrusted the Chairman and the Bureau to carry out further informal consultations on the outstanding issues and requested the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1986 to convene a one-day session of the reconvened special session of the Commission on 14 April 1986, in order to receive the results of those consultations.

PART II

Developments under other related international instruments 1/

A few recent developments relating to other international instruments deserve special mention, in view of their significance for the ongoing negotiations on the code of conduct. Previous reports have examined some of these instruments in greater detail (see, e.g., E/C.10/1984/8 and E/C.10/1985/6).

A. Consumer protection

After two years of negotiations in the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly adopted by consensus on 9 April 1985 a set of international guidelines for consumer protection (resolution 39/248, annex). These guidelines are meant to provide a framework for countries, particularly developing countries, that wish to elaborate and strengthen policies and legislation to protect consumers. They are also aimed at encouraging international co-operation in the field of consumer protection.

B. Multilateral investment guarantee agency

A proposal for the establishment of a Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), prepared by the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank, was approved by the Bank's Board of Governors on 11 October 1985 at its annual meeting, held at Seoul, for submission to member Governments of the Bank and the Government of Switzerland. The objective of the proposed Agency is to encourage the flow of investments for productive purposes among member countries, in particular to developing member countries, by issuing guarantees, including the provision of co-insurance and reinsurance coverage against non-commercial risks associated with such investments 2/. The Agency is also to carry out various complementary activities, such as research and the dissemination of information on investment opportunities in developing member countries, with a view to improving the environment for foreign direct investment flows to those countries, and the provision of technical assistance to member Governments 3/.

The possible ratification of the Convention establishing MIGA raises a question about the relationship between the investment guarantee operations of MIGA

1/ Part II consists of extracts from a larger report of the Secretary General entitled "Solutions to principal outstanding issues in the draft code of conduct on Transnational Corporations" (E/C.10/1986/S/2, 11 December 1985).

2/ Article 2 of proposed Convention Establishing the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

3/ Article 23 of proposed Convention.

and the code of conduct on transnational corporations. It appears that this relationship is analogous to that between accident insurance and traffic regulations. In fact, the clearer the rules of the road, and the better these rules are observed, the less likely it is that accidents occur and that insurance claims are raised. Similarly, the investment risks that are to be insured under MIGA would tend to be minimized if, through the code of conduct on transnational corporations, the rights and responsibilities of both transnational corporations and countries are specified in such a manner that the positive effects of transnational corporations are maximized and the negative ones are minimized, thus reducing the risk of conflicts between transnational corporations and host countries, while increasing stability and predictability.

C. Restrictive business practices

The United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices was held at Geneva from 4 to 15 November 1985. The main issues for consideration by the Conference were a review of experiences in the application and implementation of the Set of Principles and Rules since its adoption by the General Assembly in 1980 (resolution 35/63), and proposals for the improvement and further development of its provisions. The principal proposals included further improvements in the exchange of information, notification by enterprises, and consultations among States; a strengthening of the international institutional machinery by establishing special committees in place of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices; effective implementation of technical assistance on restrictive business practices; work towards a legally binding instrument for the control of such practices; and the convening of a further review conference in 1990. Since the Conference could not reach agreement on these issues, it decided to request the General Assembly to consider convening a further review conference in 1986.

D. Transfer of technology

Negotiations on the draft international code of conduct on the transfer of technology remain to be completed within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Although substantial progress had been made so far, outstanding issues remain in the areas of the concept of an international transfer of technology (para. 1.4 of the draft code); the treatment of restrictive practices in transfer-of-technology transactions (chap. 4); and applicable law (chap. 9). ^{1/} At the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on an International Code on the Transfer of Technology, held at Geneva from 13 May to 5 June 1985, agreement was close on the outstanding issues on restrictive practices in transfer-of-technology transactions, but no satisfactory solution could be found to the issue of the treatment of practices between related enterprises. As the work was not completed at that session, the Confer-

^{1/} For the text of the draft code of conduct as at 5 June 1984, see TD/CODETOT/47.

ence decided to request the General Assembly at its fortieth session to take the measures necessary for further work, including the possibility of reconvening further negotiations on the code.

E. Trade negotiations

Discussions are under way within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on the launching of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Within that context, considerable attention has been given to trade in services. In view of the close relationship between trade and investment issues in international service transactions, the discussion is touching on such investment-related issues as "right of presence", "right of establishment", "non-discrimination" and "national treatment" for service industries. Attention has also been given to trade-related investment issues. Performance requirements in host countries, in particular, are seen by some countries as barriers to trade while one-sided investment incentives are seen as distortive of trade flows, and are to be considered in the framework of GATT 1/.

F. Industrial safety

This question has also featured prominently in recent international discussion. In his address at the seventy-first session of the International Labour Conference, at Geneva, on 17 June 1985, the Prime Minister of India observed in reference to the Bhopal disaster of December 1984: "larger questions of the social responsibility of transnational corporations arise and have to be tackled nationally and internationally, in organizations such as the ILO. It is more urgent than ever before that such corporations abide by a well-defined code of conduct. The risks facing the developing countries in the area of higher technology have increased manifold but international procedures of surveillance of policies and practices of transnational corporations have yet to acquire form and content" 2/. At the same session, the Conference adopted a resolution calling upon all Governments to adopt "integrated and comprehensive policies for hazard prevention in connection with the use of dangerous processes as well as the production, transport, storage, handling and disposal of hazardous substances" 3/. Member States were also called upon to re-examine the possibilities for a wider and more effective application of the provisions of the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, and of other international instruments dealing with the economic and social responsibilities of transnational corporations. In addition, the ILO is

1/ The United States Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, for instance, contains as one U.S. negotiating objective the development of internationally agreed rules which reduce or eliminate what are seen to be trade distortive effects of certain measures related to direct investment.

2/ International Labour Conference, seventy-first session, Provisional Record No. 20 (Geneva, 1985), p.3.

3/ International Labour Conference, seventy-first session, Provisional Record No. 34 (Geneva, 1985), P. 49.

to continue its collaboration with other international organizations, such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, in the International Programme on Chemical Safety, among other activities.

G. Environment

Environmental issues have featured prominently in recent discussion of the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In the 1984 review report of the OECD Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises (CIME), it was recognized that some environmental problems - such as transborder pollution and the export of hazardous chemicals and waste - cannot be dealt with adequately within a national context only but rather require international co-operation and agreement ^{1/}. Thus, while the Guidelines called on transnational corporations to give due consideration to the environmental policies of host countries (para. 2 of the general policies section), CIME also recognized that additional issues may arise which may require further clarification. Taking into account proposals made by the OECD Environment Committee, CIME accordingly decided, in October 1985, to issue a clarification indicating to corporations a range of expectations that they are meant to meet in the environment area. Also within the framework of OECD, the Committee on Consumer Policies is undertaking work on the export of dangerous products, as well as on the 1979 recommendation of the OECD Council on the safety of consumer products.

H. Accounting

Attention has also been given to the development of clarifications of the accounting terms in the OECD Guidelines, and to the promotion of international harmonization of accounting standards in that context. A comprehensive survey on consolidation policies in OECD member States has indicated a generalized move towards greater harmony in this area, which is of crucial importance to reporting by transnational corporations under the terms of the OECD Guidelines. In addition, an international forum on the harmonization of accounting standards, held at OECD headquarters in April 1985 under the auspices of the Working Group on Accounting Standards, brought together senior government officials, representative of national and international bodies, business executives, trade union representatives, and accountants in a discussion of a range of issues, including the role of OECD and the United Nations in the international harmonization of accounting standards.

The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting of the Commission on Transnational Corporations held its third session from 11 to 22 March 1985 (see E/C.10/1985/12). The Group continues to serve as the principal forum for multilateral consultations on issues affecting accounting and reporting by transnational corporations. The efforts of

^{1/} OECD International Investment and Multinational Enterprises: 1984 Review of the 1976 Declaration and Decisions (Paris, 1984), Para. 57.

the Group are aimed at promoting international harmonization of accounting and reporting standards dealing with, for example, foreign direct investment, foreign currency transactions, research and development activities, transfer of technology, related party transactions, subsidies granted by Governments, and property, plant, and equipment.

I. Pesticides

There have also been extensive discussions within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on a code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides, which is based on internationally agreed technical guidelines and is intended to provide a practical framework for the handling, trade and safe use of pesticides, especially in countries that do not have adequate pesticide registration and control schemes. The code was adopted by the Conference of FAO in November 1985.

(c) First Meeting of the Heads of Central Statistical
Organizations in the ESCWA Region

First Meeting of the Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region was convened at the Commission's permanent headquarters in Baghdad from 3 to 5 December 1985.

Representatives of 12 members of the Commission, seven Arab organizations and four international organizations participated in this meeting.

The Meeting made the following recommendations:^{1/}

I. The Medium Term Plan, the statistics programme for the biennium 1986-1987 and work accomplished by the Statistics Section at ESCWA

The participants examined the Medium Term Plan presented in document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/4, the statistics programme contained in document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/5 and work accomplished by the Statistics Division and presented in document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/6. The participants expressed their appreciation of the efforts exerted by the Statistics Division at the Commission and recommended that those efforts be continued and reported on at the next meeting.

II. Draft agreement between the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the secretariat of the League of Arab States

1. The participants endorse the contents of the draft agreement between ESCWA and the secretariat of the League of Arab States contained in document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/12.

2. They also called upon the relevant specialized Arab organizations to co-operate in the implementation of all projects contained in the said agreement, especially the Unified Arab Statistical Abstract, and to utilize statistical data made available by these organizations in order to arrive at standardized statistical data. They recommended the setting up of a timetable for implementation.

III. Income distribution statistics

The participants examined the recommendations contained in document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/3 emanating from the Expert Group Meeting on Income Distribution Statistics in the Arab Countries held in Baghdad from 5 to 8 December 1983 and endorsed them.

IV. Agricultural statistics

The participants considered the recommendations presented in document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/10 emanating from the Seminar on Methods of Agricultural Data Collection held in Baghdad from 1 to 4 December 1984 and endorsed them.

^{1/} For the report of the Meeting, see document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/14.

V. Migration statistics

Having considered the report presented by the ESCWA secretariat (see document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/2), and bearing in mind the special significance of the issue of migration in the States of the region, the participants recommended the following:

1. Approval of the project proposed by the secretariat with regard to the issuance of a methodological manual for the region of Western Asia containing the definitions, classifications, references and methodologies relevant to migration statistics.
2. Presentation of a report thereon to the next meeting.

VI. National Household Survey Capability Programme

The participants

1. Affirmed the importance of the National Household Survey Capability Programme at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and its avowed objectives through an integrated programme;
2. Commended the positive role of the Programme in developing household surveys, in providing technical assistance thereto and in facilitating the exchange of expertise among Arab States;
3. Expressed gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for having financed the Household Survey Regional Programme and called upon UNDP to continue providing the necessary financial support for completing the second phase so as to ensure the implementation of the Programme until 1987 at least;
4. Called upon the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the United Nations Development Programme to co-operate in finding financial resources that would secure the continuity of the project until 1990;
5. Called upon Arab States members of the Commission and the ESCWA secretariat to contact Arab funds and concerned private institutions to participate in funding household survey programmes at both the national and regional levels;
6. Called upon the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to participate in supporting the household survey programmes by providing experts or financial support in view of what the project offers in terms of technical assistance in the areas of operation of these organizations;
7. Called upon the statistical organs in States members of the Commission to voice their needs for such services through the official channels in their respective states or to communicate through their permanent representatives at the United Nations with the sponsors at the United Nations Development Programme in order to give the highest priority to financing the regional Household Survey Programme.

8. Affirmed the need to establish a link between the National Household Survey Capability Programme and other Statistical Programmes, especially those of population and housing censuses, and to strengthen this link.

VII. Methodology of real income comparison in States of the region

The participants examined the study related to the ESCWA initiative with regard to participation in the fifth phase of the International Comparison Programme (IPC) (see document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/11). The participants expressed their awareness of the significance of the study and made the following recommendations:

1. The above-mentioned study in addition to previous studies published by ESCWA in this field, should be disseminated to members of the Commission, and the relevant Arab and international organizations.

2. A joint seminar should be convened with the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research, the secretariat of the League of Arab States, for specialists in this field with the objective of studying the proposed techniques and methods and their stages of implementation in member States.

3. Members of the Commission are called upon to participate in the fifth phase of the International Comparison Programme.

VIII. National accounts statistics in States of the region

The participants examined the document on the status of national accounts in the countries of the region and prospects for their development (E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/9), affirmed the importance of that issue and recommended the following:

1. Assistance to States that are preparing national income estimates should be continued.

2. A workshop on national accounts should be convened and member States should be urged to deal with problems in accordance with the unified Arab system for national accounts.

3. A specialized seminar should be convened for dealing with problems related to national accounts, especially depletable resources and calculation of income at fixed prices.

IX. Environment statistics

The participants reviewed document E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.2/13 on environment statistics and recommended initiating and compilation of environment statistics in States of the region from their various sources, and benefiting from the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi and the United Nations Statistical Office in New York.

X. Final report of the Seminar on population and housing censuses

The participants considered the final report on the Regional Seminar on Population and Housing Censuses in the region of Western Asia and the recommendations of the Seminar (E/ESCWA/STAT/85/L.2) in a joint session with participants in the said seminar. The participants recommended endorsing the recommendations contained in the report as amended during the debate in the joint session.

XI. Date and organization of meetings

1. Heads of statistical organizations of States members of ESCWA shall meet once every two years.

2. The date of the second meeting shall be determined in co-ordination with the meeting of the board of trustees of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics which will be convened in April and May 1987.

3. It is important to dispatch the documents of the Meeting at least six weeks before the set date.

XII. Training

1. The participants affirmed the importance of statistical training at all levels and in all fields and the importance of co-ordinating between international and Arab organizations based in the region with a view to developing statistical systems and upgrading the level of performance and accomplishments in statistical work including the computerization of data. The participants also affirmed the need for assisting national training centres in developing their activities and making arrangements for holding workshops in co-operation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics.

2. The participants allotted special importance to involving the end-users of the data and the statistics in the process of planning, designing and analysing the results of surveys so as to ensure and enhance the benefits accrued from statistical efforts exerted in the area to policy formulation and decision making bodies.

3. The participants recommended that workshops for high-level statisticians be held in the States of the region in order to develop and enhance their skills and that international specialized experts be invited to attend them.

XIII. Other recommendations

1. The time lapse between data preparation and publication should be shortened, in so far as possible, and the statistical organizations should be urged to provide data the publication of which may be delayed.

2. The importance of unifying statistical concepts and terminology, and arabizing them should be stressed. A list of statistical manuals proposed

for translation should be prepared into Arabic and the participation of Arab organs and organizations should be solicited in addition to the possible contribution of the United Nations in this respect.

3. The establishment of statistical data bases and the exchange of expertise among those responsible for their establishment should be given highest priority so as to ensure the unification of concepts and terminology.

4. Preference should be given to the selection of those United Nations experts and consultants in the region who have a mastery of the Arabic language, both written and oral.

5. Benefit should be made of the expertise of those working in Arab statistical organizations; exchange of expertise should be promoted among States in the design, implementation and analysis of statistical operations.

- (d) ESCWA Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference
for the Promotion of International Co-operation
in the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 32/50 adopted at its thirty second session in 1977, affirmed the importance of nuclear energy in economic development, especially its crucial role in promoting development in developing countries, and their right to acquire technology, equipment and materials for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In the same resolution, the General Assembly invited all States to consider convening an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations system, aimed at promoting international co-operation in this area.

At its thirty ninth session in 1984, the General Assembly adopted resolution 39/74 whereby it was decided that the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy should be held from 10 to 28 November 1986. The date for convening the Conference was subsequently postponed from 23 March to 10 April 1987 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/95 adopted at its fortieth session.

Preparations for this Conference were initiated at the various regional commissions and specialized agencies within the United Nations system. Within the context of these preparations at all levels, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia convened a Preparatory Regional Expert Group Meeting for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The meeting was held in Baghdad during the period 13 to 16 May 1985. The Meeting considered a number of issues pertaining to the present status and projected developments in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy in the ESCWA region; and the existing and foreseeable constraints in the introduction and development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the region, with special reference to safeguarding such projects against any foreign aggression.

The Meeting also proposed a number of means and measures for promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as detailed in the final report of the Meeting which is presented to the Commission^{1/}.

Considering the special significance of the area of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and its impact on economic and social development in the area, the Secretariat presents to the Commission a summary of the ideas and orientations arrived at by the experts and contained in the final report of the Meeting. The Secretariat further believes that it would be useful to enrich the discussion on this crucial issue at the level of the Commission by presenting some ideas in addition to those contained in the final report of the Expert Group Meeting. These ideas are summarized below.

1. It is important that the participation of the countries of the region in the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy should be positive in view of the importance of the expected results of this Conference in terms of prospects of economic development of these countries in both the long-term and the medium-term;

^{1/} E/ESCWA/NR/85/WG.4/18

2. It is recognized that stages of development in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy varies from one country to another. Some states in the region have acquired expertise in the utilization of isotopes in the areas of food and agriculture, health and medicine, and industry and mineral prospection. Some have actually invited bids for the construction of nuclear power stations. Other states in the area are planning to use isotopes in some applications while some countries have not reached this stage as yet. Owing to this disparity, the Secretariat of the Commission sees a wide latitude for co-operation among countries of the region and for the exchange of acquired expertise and know-how in this area. This could be effected through the exchange of experts, holding technical and scientific meetings, exchanging visits among nuclear energy research and development centres and attempting to establish joint projects among countries of the region in the area of nuclear power generation and its various areas of application. On this occasion, the Commission may wish to consider in the future the activities of the Regional Centre for Isotopes and the extent of their conformity with the needs and the requirement of the States in the region and to entrust the Secretariat with the preparation of a detailed report thereon.

3. Some developing countries in Asia and Latin America have reached an advanced stage in nuclear research and the peaceful application of nuclear energy. The Secretariat believes that it would be useful to investigate the possibilities of co-operation between the countries of Western Asia and those countries through the various modalities and forms of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries, especially through the institutions of the United Nations system. In this connection, the Commission is prepared to partake in such an orientation within the limits of its capabilities and resources.

4. Considering that investments in research, development and equipment in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy are extremely costly, which may burden the budgets of many states in the region, the Secretariat believes that it would be useful to consider searching for a possible means to obtain the support of international, regional and national financing institutions with regard to regional activities for projects pertaining to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, especially those related to nuclear energy generators.

