

E/1986/35
E/ESCWA/13/17

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA**

REPORT ON THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
19-24 April 1986

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

API	Arab Planning Institute
DIELI	Direction de l'industrie electronique et de l'informatique
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Habitat	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
UNCSTD	United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period since the twelfth session. It was adopted by the Commission at its 4th meeting, held on 24 April 1986, in the form as amended during the discussion.

I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

2. At its 3rd meeting, held on 24 April 1986, the Commission adopted the following draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action:

Activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

A

Financial status of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution 149(XIII) of 24 April 1986 on the financial status of the Commission,^{1/}

Having taken note of the concern expressed by the members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at any measures aimed at curtailing any of the Commission's mandated activities for the biennium 1986-1987 or at restricting the Commission's ability to supplement the human resources necessary to carry out those activities,

Noting the concern of the members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at the application of the financial measures adopted by the United Nations Secretariat to all of its bodies indiscriminately, without regard for the special and unique situation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, particularly the shortage of the human resources that are a basic necessity for it to carry out its mandated programmes and activities, especially since the Commission has already undertaken, in adopting its budget, to cancel thirty subprogrammes because of the lack of financial and human resources,

Calls upon the General Assembly to strengthen and expand the positive and constructive role assumed by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the economic and social development of the region so as to make a more far-reaching contribution to promoting regional and national development plans and programmes.

B

Request for the relocation of the Economic and Social
Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Having taken note of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution 152(XIII) of 24 April 1986 on the request for the relocation of the Commission from its present headquarters,^{1/}

^{1/} E/1986/35 - E/ESCWA/13/17.

Recalling the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, accepted by the Economic and Social Council, to provide for the establishment of the permanent headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Baghdad together with all the necessary support facilities for the Commission and its staff,

Also recalling the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Iraq relating to the Headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of 13 June 1979 and the Supplementary Agreements concluded pursuant thereto, including the Supplementary Agreement relating to the Premises to be Occupied as the Permanent Headquarters of the Commission of 30 June 1983,

Taking note of the wish of the host country that, for security reasons, the headquarters should relocate to other premises in Baghdad without incurring any cost or loss to the United Nations as a result of such relocation,

Expressing the conviction that the host country, in accordance with the great hospitality and generosity which it has always extended to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, will wish to ensure that in any change of location the highest standards already secured for the Commission and its staff at its present location will be maintained,

Desiring to ensure that any change in location will be carried out without disruption of the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and in full accord with the terms of the Headquarters Agreement and the Supplementary Agreements concluded pursuant thereto,

1. Authorizes the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to enter into discussions with the Government of the host country on matters including the following:

(a) The provision by the host country of the permanent headquarters of the Commission at any new location in Baghdad, on the understanding that it will be provided with all the necessary facilities including equipment to enable the Commission to perform its functions;

(b) A suitable timing of a move to a new permanent headquarters once adequate alternative facilities to those available at the present headquarters have been identified;

(c) The financial arrangements involved in any move, so that it is carried out without cost to the United Nations and without any financial loss resulting from improvements made or equipment installed in the present headquarters at the expense of the United Nations which cannot be transferred to a new location;

(d) The formulation of any revised Supplementary Agreement or Agreements which may be necessary to give effect to the foregoing or to deal with any other matters pending which either party may consider it necessary to resolve.

II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE TWELFTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. The Standing Committee for the Programme was established by Commission resolution 114(IX) of 12 May 1982 as the main subsidiary body of the Commission. It was designated as the Technical Committee and assigned additional terms of reference, including consideration of the items on the agenda of the Commission's session, by Commission resolution 125(XI) of 26 April 1984. The Technical Committee held its fourth session from 19 to 22 April 1986 at the Commission's headquarters in Baghdad.

4. At its fourth session, the Technical Committee considered two issues, the information system at the Commission (E/ESCWA/C.1/13/4/Rev.1) and the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987 (E/ESCWA/C.1/13/5/Rev.1), and then went on to discuss the items included in the agenda of the Commission's thirteenth session. The report of the Technical Committee (E/ESCWA/13/16) was submitted to the Commission and is to be considered as being supplementary to the present report.

B. Other activities

5. The report of the Executive Secretary on progress made in the implementation of the work programme (E/ESCWA/13/4(Parts I-XVI) and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.1-26, and revisions) reviews the various activities of the Commission since its twelfth session.

C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

6. During 1985, the secretariat of the Commission undertook a number of joint activities with various specialized agencies and other organizations. They included the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). These activities are outlined below.

7. Activities undertaken by the Joint ESCWA/FAO Agriculture Division under the programme element on agrarian systems and the alleviation of rural poverty led to the convening of an Expert Consultation on Agrarian Systems and the Socio-Economic Implications of Fragmented Holdings in the Near East in December 1985.

8. The most recent of several joint missions was that undertaken by UNEP/FAO/ESCWA to identify a desertification control project in Yemen. The project document is in the process of being finalized.

9. In addition to the foregoing, UNEP, together with other agencies, financed a conference in Australia on desert land and dry land degradation and rehabilitation. This conference will result in the preparation of operational

and technical guidelines for the economic analysis and evaluation of projects for the rehabilitation of degraded dry lands in the ESCWA region. The documents prepared will help planning agencies properly to prepare projects aimed at combating desertification and promoting rehabilitation.

10. During the period under review, Habitat co-operated in the implementation of the ESCWA human settlements programme by financing two Professional posts and one General Service post in the Human Settlements Division in support of programme activities.

11. The programme also focused on action to strengthen urban environmental management in the ESCWA region. This activity was undertaken jointly with UNEP and consisted of an assessment of urban management in two cities of the region (Alexandria and Amman). Support from UNEP also included the financing of participation in a training workshop on the integrated planning of human settlements, sanitation and waste management to improve environmental conditions (Moscow, 1985).

12. UNEP provided further support by financing one Professional post in the Environmental Co-ordination Unit and a consultancy on strengthening the capabilities of environmental laboratories in the ESCWA region. A first draft on that subject has been completed.

13. UNEP also financed the Workshop on Industrial Pollution in Western Asia held in Baghdad, and co-sponsored a workshop on energy conservation in the ESCWA region, held in Bahrain.

14. In the context of its science and technology programme, ESCWA co-operated closely with UNGSTD in the implementation of programme element 1.3, initiated in 1984, on the promotion of subregional and regional co-operation for the strengthening of national scientific and technological capabilities.

15. UNDP supported various projects, mainly in connection with national household surveys in the ESCWA region. It continued to provide technical assistance to participating governments, and a seminar on household expenditure and income surveys was conducted in Bahrain.

16. Assistance was also provided by UNDP in the development of statistical services. The objective of the project was to strengthen the technical and administrative capabilities of the Central Statistical Organization of Yemen to meet the growing requirements of planned economic and social development.

17. UNDP also continued to assist the Arab Planning Institute (API) by providing funds for fellowships. ESCWA, as an executing agency, assisted the Institute in administering the fellowship programme.

18. In the implementation of its population programme, ESCWA co-operated closely with UNFPA. The Fund financed three subprogrammes, namely: demographic data collection and analysis; population and development policy; and population education and information. It also co-operated in the preparation of technical publications and of the Population Bulletin of ESCWA and assisted in providing various advisory services in the field of population.

19. At the request of UNFPA, a seminar on population forecasts for urban planning and management is scheduled to be held during the fourth quarter of 1986. The Commission is preparing a consolidated report based on five case-studies (Alexandria, Amman, Baghdad, Manama and Sana'a).

20. Under the industrial development programme, co-operation with UNIDO extended to a number of areas. In connection with the programme element on industrial programming for least developed countries, all of the documentation for the solidarity meeting on assistance to Democratic Yemen was completed. Co-operation with UNIDO and with other regional organizations also covered promotional activities for the development of engineering industries in the region, including capital goods industries. The national and regional projects identified in these areas included the first stage of a feasibility study on pressure vessels, heat exchangers, furnaces and reactors. UNIDO and the Direction de l'industrie electronique et de l'informatique (DIELI) of the French Government also assisted ESCWA in undertaking a technical and economic pre-feasibility study on the establishment of a regional silicon foundry and centres for the design and manufacture of micro-electronic components. An ad hoc expert group meeting was held in January 1986 to discuss and follow up on the study.

21. In addition to these activities, joint field missions to Egypt, Oman, Qatar and Syria were undertaken and resulted in a detailed technical field survey on production and managerial aspects of the iron and steel industry.

22. UNIFEM supported various projects on women and development through research, seminars, training and studies. The programme focused on technical assistance, and projects varied in nature, duration, coverage and in the extent of the substantive support required.

23. In addition to its co-operation with United Nations organizations, the Commission collaborated with other regional organizations in a number of joint activities. For further information on such activities, reference should be made to document E/ESCWA/13/10.

III. THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

24. The thirteenth session of the Commission was held at ministerial level at its headquarters in Baghdad on 23 and 24 April 1986. Its deliberations covered four meetings.

25. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Commission:^{1/} Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

26. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organisation; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Centre for Human Settlements; United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Secretariat; and World Food Programme.

27. Representatives of the following regional and intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers: Arab Industrial Development Organization; Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Arab Iron and Steel Union; Arab Labour Organization; Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization; Arab Telecommunication Union; Council for Mutual Economic Assistance; European Economic Community; Federation of Arab Councils for Scientific Research; Federation of Arab Economists; Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Iraqi Fund for External Development.

28. By virtue of rule 63 of its provisional rules of procedure, the Commission agreed to request from the following States Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies to participate in the work of the session: France; German Democratic Republic; Germany Federal Republic of; Hungary; India; Italy; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Spain; Sudan; Turkey; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United States of America; and Yugoslavia. Switzerland also participated in the meetings in the same capacity.

29. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission unanimously elected the following: His Excellency Mr. Hisham Hassan Tawfiq, Minister of Finance of Iraq, as Chairman of the thirteenth session; His Excellency Mr. Abdallah Nsour, Minister of Planning of Jordan, and His Excellency Mr. Ragaa Rassoul Hassan, Deputy Minister of Planning and Director of the National Planning Institute of Egypt, as Vice-Chairmen; and His Excellency Mr. Sayed Kassem Al-Masri, Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Director of the Department of Economics of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Rapporteur.

^{1/} For the names of participants in the session, see document E/ESCWA/13/INF.3/Rev.1.

30. In accordance with rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission, the officers of the session examined the credentials of delegations and found them to be in order.

31. At its 1st meeting, held on 23 April 1986, the Commission adopted the proposals for the organization of its work contained in document E/ESCWA/13/2.

B. Agenda

32. At its 1st meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/ESCWA/13/1/Rev.1, with the addition of items 14, 15 and 16, as follows:^{1/}

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Invitation to States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the thirteenth session of the Commission.
6. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission:
 - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme;
 - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission:
 - (i) Commission resolution 133(XII) on the designation of the Economic Commission for Western Asia;
 - (ii) Commission resolution 134(XII) on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987;
 - (iii) Commission resolution 135(XII) on progress made in the implementation of the work programme;
 - (iv) Commission resolution 136(XII) on the science and technology programme;
 - (v) Commission resolution 137(XII) on technical co-operation activities and technical assistance projects;
 - (vi) Commission resolution 139(XII) on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation;
 - (vii) Commission resolution 140(XII) on the filling of vacancies in the secretariat;
 - (viii) Commission resolution 141(XII) on the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people.
7. Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings:
 - (a) World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;
 - (b) Regional Intergovernmental Meeting of the Countries of Western Asia on the United Nations Draft Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations;

^{1/} The agenda as adopted was issued in document E/ESCWA/13/1/Rev.2.

- (c) First Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region;
 - (d) ESCWA Preparatory Regional Expert Group Meeting for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy;
8. Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes.
 9. Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region (Commission resolution 119 (X)): Foreign debt: implications for creditor and debtor countries of Western Asia.
 10. Financial status of the Commission's programme.
 11. Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations.
 12. Policy issues affecting the operational activities of the United Nations system for development: 1986 triennial review.
 13. Special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, 27-31 May 1986.
 14. International Year of Peace.
 15. Request for the relocation of the Commission.
 16. Proposed amendment of the provisional rules of procedure.
 17. Report of the Technical Committee.
 18. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirteenth session.

C. Account of proceedings

33. The session was opened by His Excellency Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, First Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq and Member of the Revolution Command Council. He welcomed participants, expressed his wishes for the success of the Commission's work and offered congratulations to the Executive Secretary on his appointment. Significant events had taken place and there had been important developments since the Commission's twelfth session; they were reflected in the agenda before it. He referred, in particular, to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, the Regional Intergovernmental Meeting of the Countries of Western Asia on the United Nations Draft Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations, and the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development and the restructuring of international economic relations.

34. Given the deterioration in the international economic situation, he called upon the Commission, in order to play its part in achieving the goals of the Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Action, to direct its programmes towards balanced, independent Arab development based on endogenous, collective Arab capacities.

35. He pointed to the Iraq-Iran war, racist Zionist practices directed against the Palestinian Arab people, the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories and the annexation of Arab territories and the absorption of their economies into that of Israel as serious obstacles to the development of the region. He called for concerted efforts for the development of the region and the enhancement of its level of economic activity.

36. His Excellency Mr. Ali Ahmad Al-Ansari, Chairman of the Commission's twelfth session, welcomed representatives and congratulated the Executive

Secretary on his appointment. He commended the former Executive Secretary and the Commission's efforts in the various development fields.

37. Reviewing the achievements of the Commission since its twelfth session, he pointed out the importance of social aspects, as reflected in the Commission's new name, and stressed the significance of social development, which was, in fact, the obverse of economic development.
38. Turning to the current economic circumstances of the region, he called for an expansion of the fields in which the Commission was involved and for a stepping-up of its activities and programmes in all countries of the region. The Commission, together with the countries of the region, would assuredly be capable of overcoming current difficulties through joint effort, understanding and co-operation.
39. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was read out. In 1985, economic growth had slowed after the upsurge of 1984, a trend that would probably continue in the current year. Unemployment rates remained high in many industrialized and developing countries, and the external indebtedness situation of the developing countries was worsening, presenting a serious challenge to their economic growth. New approaches were being put forward to alleviate the debt situation in the long term through vigorous expansion in economic activity in the developing countries. Greater efforts and a greater commitment on the part of both industrialized and developing countries would, however, be required.
40. The Secretary-General stressed the important role of the United Nations in the maintenance of world peace, in disarmament, in the alleviation of poverty and hunger, and in the resolution of disputes and the promotion of social justice and human rights.
41. Referring to the financial crisis of the United Nations, he called for the support and co-operation of Member States in arriving at a solution. In conclusion, he wished the Commission success in its work.
42. The Executive Secretary, after welcoming delegations, referred to the adverse economic situation experienced by all countries of the region and affecting the growth of gross domestic product and of a number of economic sectors, particularly mining and construction where growth had been negative.
43. The balance of payments of the oil-producing countries of the region had continued to register a deficit since 1983, in contrast to the large surplus of the 1970s. The value of the exports of those countries had fallen while that of their imports had continued to rise until 1983, when it had begun to fall as a result of the reduction in income from exports, the depletion of foreign exchange reserves and economic contraction. The indications were that the poor economic situation would continue in 1986.
44. Turning to the current financial crisis of the United Nations resulting from the withholding by certain States of their assessed contributions, he called attention to the economy measures introduced by the Secretary-General, which, particularly because of a freeze on recruitment at a time when the Commission had a high vacancy rate, would have a direct impact on the Commission's programme of work for 1986.

45. The Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities should thus be strengthened, and the secretariat was prepared to submit proposals for specific programmes and projects in that regard.

46. He spoke of reorganizing the structure of the secretariat in the interests of rationalization, improving effectiveness and consolidating a number of related programmes under a single administrative unit. ESCWA had reviewed the programmes adopted for the biennium 1986-1987 with a view to making the necessary adjustments to bring them into line with the requirements of the region and recent developments at the regional level. He commended the responsiveness of member countries to the need to achieve the Commission's goals, improve its level of performance and implementation and fulfil the desires and aspirations of its members.

47. He referred to the Commission's efforts to expand its co-operation with regional and Arab organizations, which included the special agreement reached with the League of Arab States, the beginning made on co-ordination with the secretariat of the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council and a number of joint activities undertaken with various regional organizations and funds.

48. In conclusion, he pointed out that the General Assembly had proclaimed 1986 the International Year of Peace and recalled in that connection the distress caused to members by the regional conflicts with which they were afflicted and which highlighted the extreme importance of peace for their peoples.

1. Report of the Technical Committee (agenda item 17)
(E/ESCWA/13/16)

49. Since it embraced most of the items on its agenda, the Commission began its deliberations with consideration of this item. The report of the Technical Committee on the work of its fourth session was adopted.

50. The Commission then considered the draft resolutions referred to it by the Technical Committee. There follows hereunder an account of the Commission's consideration of these draft resolutions and of other draft resolutions submitted to it directly, in the order of the relevant agenda items.

51. In its review of the report of the Executive Secretary on its activities, the Commission noted the material and technical difficulties encountered by ESCWA in the implementation of its work programme, chief among them being the high vacancy rate. The Commission expressed the fear that the budgetary constraints imposed by the financial crisis of the United Nations would affect programme implementation and the hope that, in view of its recent establishment, the incomplete build-up of its Professional staff and the extent to which it was needed by the countries of the region, it would benefit from special treatment within the United Nations.

52. In that connection, two draft resolutions, on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987 and on activities in the telecommunications sector respectively, were introduced and adopted by the Commission after thorough discussion (see chapter IV below, resolutions 142(XIII) and 143(XIII)).

2. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: progress made in the implementation of the work programme (agenda item 6(a))
- (i) Food and agriculture (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part I) and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.1-4)
 - (ii) Development issues and policies (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part II))
 - (iii) Energy (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part III) and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.8-12, Add.15 and Corr.1, Add.16 and Corr.1, and Add.26)
 - (iv) Environment (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part IV) and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.6 and Add.22)
 - (v) Human settlements (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part V) and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.7)
 - (vi) Industrial development (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part VI)/Rev.1 and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.17, Add.18/Rev.1, Add.19/Rev.1, Add.20/Rev.1 and Add.21/Rev.1)
 - (vii) International trade and development finance (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part VII)/Rev.1 and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.5)
 - (viii) Natural resources (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part VIII) and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.13 and 14)
 - (ix) Population (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part IX) and Corr.1)
 - (x) Science and technology (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part X) and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.15)
 - (xi) Statistics (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part XI))
 - (xii) Transport and communications (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part XII)/Rev.1 and E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.23, Add.24 and Add.25.
 - (xiii) Transnational corporations (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part XIII) and E/ESCWA/13/6)
 - (xiv) Public finance and administration (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part XIV))
 - (xv) Social development (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part XV) and Corr.1, E/ESCWA/13/7)
 - (xvi) Technical co-operation activities and technical assistance projects (E/ESCWA/13/4(Part XVI) and Corr.1)
3. Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission (agenda item 6(b))
(E/ESCWA/13/5 and Add.1-6, Add.6/Rev.1 and Add.7-8)

53. Representatives considered the relevant deliberations of the Technical Committee, as contained in its report to the Commission. Three draft resolutions were introduced and, after consideration, adopted (see chapter IV below, resolutions 144(XIII), 145(XIII) and 146(XIII)).

4. Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings (agenda item 7)
(E/ESCWA/13/6)

54. Under this item, the session considered the draft resolution, referred to it by the Technical Committee, on the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The draft resolution was adopted, as amended by delegations (see chapter IV below, resolution 147(XIII)).

5. Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes (agenda item 8)
(E/ESCWA/13/7)

55. A draft resolution sponsored by Saudi Arabia and referred to the session by the Technical Committee was introduced. The draft resolution was adopted (see chapter IV below, resolution 148(XIII)).

6. Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region (Commission resolution 119(X)): Foreign debt: implications for creditor and debtor countries of Western Asia (agenda item 9)
(E/ESCWA/13/8/Rev.1)

56. The topic was discussed in considerable detail and delegations made observations on the study prepared by the secretariat. They agreed on the importance of the study in shedding light on the debt problem and it was proposed that it should be referred to a technical meeting devoted to the subject.

7. Financial status of the Commission's programmes (agenda item 10)
(E/ESCWA/13/9 and E/ESCWA/13/9/Add.1/Rev.1, Add.2 and 3)

57. The Chief of the ESCWA Division of Administration called attention to document E/ESCWA/13/9/Add.3, containing a summary of the effects on the Commission of the economy measures taken by the Secretary-General. Those measures would have serious repercussions on the functioning of the secretariat. There would be a reduction of 28,000 dollars in the funds available for the hiring of consultants by all programmes. While that might seem a small amount, the secretariat relied greatly on consultants in programme implementation in view of the vacancy rate. Funds available for overtime would be reduced by 16,000 dollars and funds for travel by 26,000 dollars.

58. There had been a reduction of 5,200 dollars in expenditure on ad hoc expert groups and a total reduction of 590,000 dollars in non-staff costs. The most important reduction, estimated at about 950,000 dollars or 7 per cent of the 1986 budget, resulted from the deferment of programme elements constituting 135 work-months or the equivalent of about 12 vacant posts.

59. Since a number of programme elements would have had to be deferred in the light of the vacancy situation, it was of greater concern that the recruitment freeze applicable to 28 posts at ESCWA would imply the need for a much larger number to be deferred. The freeze would realize savings of 2.4 million

dollars or 17.1 per cent of the 1986 budget, almost double the 10 per cent saving that had been proposed by the secretariat from a partial freeze in recruitment. The Secretary-General had undertaken to set up a system to reduce such imbalances.

60. He drew the attention of the Commission to the Secretary-General's call to Member States to pay their assessed contributions early in 1986, to advance contributions for 1987 and to make voluntary contributions.

61. He urged members of the Commission to contribute to the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities in order to help the Commission to provide more services to the region.

62. The Commission considered and adopted the draft resolution on the item referred to it by the Technical Committee (see chapter IV below, resolution 149(XIII)).

8. Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations (agenda item 11)
(E/ESCWA/13/10)

63. The Commission took note of the debate that had taken place on the item in the Technical Committee.

9. Policy issues affecting the operational activities of the United Nations system for development: 1986 triennial review (agenda item 12)
(E/ESCWA/13/11)

64. A draft resolution on the item was introduced and adopted (see chapter IV below, resolution 150(XIII)).

10. Special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, 27-31 May 1986 (agenda item 13)
(E/ESCWA/13/12)

65. The Commission took note of the deliberations of the Technical Committee on the item and of the recommendation it had made.

11. International Year of Peace (agenda item 14)

66. The item was discussed in the light of the conditions of political struggle and armed conflict prevailing in the region and of the proclamation by the General Assembly of 1986 as the International Year of Peace. The Commission issued the proclamation contained in its resolution 151(XIII) (see chapter IV below).

12. Request for the relocation of the Commission (agenda item 15)

67. The Commission considered the request of the Government of Iraq that it should move from its current premises. The Executive Secretary reviewed the discussions that he had had with the host country in that regard. Agreement was reached on the draft resolution adopted by the Commission as its resolution 152(XIII) (see chapter IV below).

13. Proposed amendment to the Commission's provisional rules of procedure (agenda item 16)

68. The secretariat proposed that the feasibility of holding the Commission's session on a biennial basis should be considered, and delegations requested that a report on the subject should be submitted to the Commission at its fourteenth session (see chapter IV below, resolution 153(XIII)).

14. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirteenth session (agenda item 18)

69. At its 4th meeting, held on 24 April 1986, the Commission adopted its report to the Economic and Social Council and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it as appropriate.

15. Date and place of meeting of the next session

70. In the light of the resolution adopted by the session on 24 April 1986 on the amendment of the provisional rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (see chapter IV below, resolution 153(XIII)) and of the provision of paragraph 2 of that resolution that, at each session, a date should be agreed in advance for the convening of the next session, the following dates were agreed for the convening of the Commission's fourteenth session:

(a) The Technical Committee would hold its fifth session from 31 March to 2 April 1987;

(b) The fourteenth session of the Commission would be held, at the ministerial level, on 4 and 5 April 1987.

16. Statements of observers

71. Statements were made at the session by the representatives of the following States and organizations: France, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America; Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, European Economic Community, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Environment Programme.

D. Programme of work and priorities

72. By its resolution 40/253, the General Assembly approved the Commission's programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987 as part of the programme budget for the biennium. A report on the programme of work and priorities was submitted to the Commission at its thirteenth session under agenda item 6(a)(ii). On 24 April 1986, the session adopted its resolution 142(XIII) endorsing the changes in the programme of work and priorities proposed by the secretariat on the basis of the observations made by delegations at the third session of the Technical Committee, held in 1985 (see chapter IV below and document E/ESCWA/C.1/13/5/Rev.1).

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS
THIRTEENTH SESSION

142 (XIII) Programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolutions 114(IX) of 12 May 1982 and 125(XI) of 26 April 1984 specifying the terms of reference of the Technical Committee,

Noting with appreciation the changes in the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987 as proposed in the report of the Executive Secretary^{1/} submitted in compliance with Commission resolution 134(XII) of 24 April 1985,

Further recalling the observations and comments made by the Technical Committee on the proposed changes in the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987,

1. Endorses the proposed changes in the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987 as contained in the Executive Secretary's report and adopts the report of the Technical Committee^{2/} and the recommendations contained therein, as amended in the light of the observations made by representatives;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to assign priority, within existing resources, to matters concerning the impact of changing conditions in the oil market and in currency exchange markets on economic policies and development prospects, on expatriate labour and on international financial and banking systems in the region, within the context of the related activities carried out under the energy, public administration and finance and manpower programmes which are reflected in the report of the Technical Committee and the recommendations included therein, as amended in the light of the observations made by delegations;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Technical Committee at its fifth session a report on the implementation of the recommendations, particularly those relating to the priorities established, taking into account the observations made by representatives concerning the programme of work.

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* See paragraphs 51 and 52 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ESCWA/C.1/13/5/Rev.1.

^{2/} E/ESCWA/13/16.

143 (XIII) Activities in the telecommunications sector*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 138(XII) of 24 April 1985 concerning the participation of the region of Western Asia in the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering the International Telecommunication Union's activities in the field of telecommunications development,

Taking note of the report of the Independent Commission for World Wide Telecommunications Development,^{1/} as well as of the Arusha Declaration on World Telecommunications Development^{2/} adopted by the First Telecommunications Development Conference convened by the International Telecommunication Union at Arusha, Tanzania, from 27 to 30 May 1985,

Recognizing the role and the importance of telecommunications in the socio-economic development process in the region,

1. Invites member States to accord, in their respective national development plans and programmes, sufficiently high priority to the telecommunications sector;
2. Calls upon Governments of member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to take concerted action for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Commission for World Wide Telecommunications Development;
3. Urges relevant international and regional organizations and institutions, particularly the International Telecommunication Union and the Arab Telecommunication Union, to support and contribute to the implementation of regional and national telecommunications programmes and projects in the region, in particular within the framework of the plans and programmes of action for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific;
4. Requests the Commission secretariat to give adequate priority to the telecommunications sector in its future work programmes according to the availability of financial resources.

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* See paragraphs 51 and 52 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} The Missing Link: Report of the Independent Commission for World Wide Telecommunications Development (Geneva, International Telecommunication Union, 1985).

^{2/} Proceedings of the World Telecommunications Development Conference (Geneva, International Telecommunication Union, 1985), pp. 3-7.

144 (XIII) The filling of vacancies in the secretariat*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/243 of 18 December 1984 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/81 of 27 July 1984, both on staff and administrative questions of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, and Commission resolution 140 (XII) of 25 April 1985 on the same subject,

Expressing its concern at the impossibility of filling the vacancies in the secretariat because of certain measures adopted by the United Nations Secretariat,

1. Emphasizes the need to fill such vacancies in order to enable the secretariat to perform its role in the required manner;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take action on the said resolutions and to expedite the filling of vacancies;
3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to approach the United Nations Secretariat with a view to its acting in the spirit of resolutions granting the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia an exceptional prerogative with regard to the filling of the said vacancies.

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145 (XIII) Economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people under occupation*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 30(III) of 14 May 1976 in which it appealed to the Economic and Social Council for prompt action to take practical measures to ensure the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people in their homeland, its resolution 108(IX) of 11 May 1982 on assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization, and its resolution 132(XI) of 26 April 1984 calling for special attention to be devoted to social and economic studies on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories,

Further recalling its resolution 139(XII) of 24 April 1985 in which it called upon the Executive Secretary to ensure that all available data and information relating to the occupied Palestinian territories are included in all studies and statistical abstracts issued by the Commission at the regional level and to include in the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987 studies, in co-operation with the concerned Arab and international organizations, on economic and social conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories,

* See paragraph 53 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1. Stresses its deep appreciation of the efforts of the secretariat in this connection;

2. Requests the secretariat to continue such efforts.

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24 April 1986

146 (XIII) General study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian people*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 27(III) of 14 May 1976 deciding on the preparation of a general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people,

Recalling also its resolutions 123(X) of 11 May 1983 and 124(XI) of 26 April 1984,

Noting with satisfaction the follow-up on its resolution 141(XII) of 24 April 1985,

1. Decides to adopt the "Economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia: Summary"^{1/} and those individual parts of the general study revised and approved by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the General Study of the Economic and Social Situation and Potential of the Palestinian Arab People in the region of Western Asia, held at Baghdad from 28 to 31 October 1985, together with the recommendations contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting;^{2/}

2. Further decides to publish the summary and those individual parts of the general study revised and approved by the Intergovernmental Meeting in stages, in accordance with the capacities of the Commission, provided that publication shall be completed no later than the end of 1987;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its fourteenth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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* See paragraph 53 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1/ E/ESCWA/85/IG.1/WP.1/Rev.1.

2/ E/ESCWA/85/IG.1/4.

147(XIII) United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International
Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Considering the significance of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the social and economic development of the countries of the region,

Bearing in mind that its members, with due respect for the principle of the full and permanent sovereignty of each State over its national resources and its economic and scientific activities, have reiterated their desire to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the service of economic and social development,

Recognizing that the countries of the region, within the limits of their capabilities, are striving to overcome the difficulties facing them in their efforts to acquire the technology, equipment and materials needed for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Recalling that the international community has entrusted the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy with the task of investigating ways and means of achieving international co-operation in this field,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 35/112 of 5 December 1980, on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development, and reiterating that the aim of the Conference is to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and, to this end, to establish universally acceptable principles for such co-operation in accordance with the objectives contained in General Assembly resolution 32/50 of 8 December 1977 and to respect and observe the principles set forth in that resolution,

Taking into account the proceedings and findings of the Preparatory Regional Expert Group Meeting for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy held at Baghdad from 13 to 16 May 1985 under the auspices of the Commission,

Noting the report of the Preparatory Regional Expert Group Meeting for the Conference^{1/} and sharing its concern over the persistent threats by Israel against any attempt by the countries in the region to develop the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as evidenced by the Israeli attack on the Tammuz research reactor in Baghdad in 1981,

Considering with appreciation the additional ideas presented by the secretariat in support of regional co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,^{2/}

* See paragraph 54 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1/ E/ESCWA/NR/85/WG.4/18.

2/ See E/ESCWA/13/6, pp. 24-25.

1. Calls upon the countries of the region to send representatives of the highest level to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy;
2. Urges regional and national funding institutions and international and regional organizations to provide financial and technical support to the countries of the region which are striving to develop peaceful applications of nuclear energy, particularly those relating to the use of nuclear power to generate electricity in the region;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary, together with the members of the Commission, to co-operate with Arab, regional and international organizations for the purpose of co-ordinating applications of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and ensuring complementarity, co-operation and joint implementation of such applications in the region;
4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the members of the Commission, within existing resources and in the framework of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, to formulate detailed proposals for the achievement of interregional co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
5. Further requests the Executive Secretary to endeavour to obtain additional resources outside the regular budget of the secretariat for the proper implementation at the regional level of any programme of action stemming from the Conference, as well as for any other functions in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy which may be entrusted to it subsequent to the Conference;
6. Calls upon the members of the Commission and upon the Executive Secretary to redouble their efforts in the General Assembly, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned, with the aim of establishing an international system reinforcing the principles that proscribe armed aggression against nuclear installations dedicated to peaceful purposes, particularly those subject to the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, with a view to preventing a repetition of armed Israeli aggression against Iraqi or other nuclear installations;
7. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fourteenth session on the measures taken to implement the present resolution.

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148(XIII) Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/22 of 26 May 1983 on the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General^{1/} concerning steps taken with a view to convening an interregional consultation on developmental and social welfare policies and programmes,

Affirming the importance of social welfare policies and programmes for raising the standard of living of the neediest classes and integrating those classes in the overall development process as an objective of human resource development in the region of Western Asia, particularly in the present circumstances affecting it as a result of the reduction in financial resources,

Aware that the members of the Commission have made considerable progress in developing their policies, programmes and institutions for developmental social welfare in order to render them instrumental in strengthening the constituent elements of endogenous development at the country and regional levels,

Recalling the declaration adopted by the Pan-Arab Regional Conference on Social Welfare Policies, organized by the secretariat of the League of Arab States and held at Tunis in October 1985,

1. Expresses its gratification at the efforts made by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to convene the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes in November 1987;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure that the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will prepare a report reviewing the present situation of social welfare policies and programmes in the region of Western Asia and the future strategies of the countries of the region in that regard so that the report will be a document of the interregional consultation;
3. Calls upon members to participate in the said interregional consultation and to contribute their experience and strategies for the future relating to the topic of the meeting within the framework of other regional experiences.

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* See paragraph 55 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/CN.5/1985/7 and Add.1.

149(XII) Financial status of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Having reviewed the reports of the Executive Secretary on the financial status of the Commission's programme: regular programme budget of the Commission,^{1/} on the extrabudgetary resources supporting the Commission's programme,^{2/} and on economy measures,^{3/}

Having heard the supplementary information provided by the secretariat on the financial crisis from which the United Nations is currently suffering and on the far-reaching measures adopted by the United Nations Secretariat in order to limit expenditure on its various bodies, which have had repercussions on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia by seriously reducing the allocations made to it, whether for administrative purposes or for the financing of its programmes and activities, thereby creating the danger of curtailing the tasks and activities entrusted to the Commission for the biennium 1986-1987,

1. Expresses its deep concern at any financial measures aimed at reducing the Commission's mandated activities for the biennium 1986-1987 and at any measures aimed at limiting the ability of the Commission to supplement the human resources necessary to carry out those activities;

2. Further expresses its particular concern at the application of the financial measures adopted by the United Nations Secretariat to all of its bodies indiscriminately, without regard for the special and unique situation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, particularly the shortage of the human resources that are a basic necessity for it to carry out its mandated programmes and activities, especially since the Commission has already undertaken, in adopting its budget, to cancel thirty subprogrammes because of the lack of sufficient financial and human resources;

3. Reaffirms its strong desire that the Commission should receive support, in all possible ways and by all possible means, in the task of pursuing its work and continuing to assume and to consolidate its constructive role;

4. Invites the Economic and Social Council to call upon the General Assembly to strengthen and expand the positive and constructive role assumed by the Commission in the economic and social development of the region so as to make a more far-reaching contribution to promoting regional and national development plans and programmes.

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* See paragraphs 57 to 62 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

- ^{1/} E/ESCWA/13/9.
^{2/} E/ESCWA/13/9/Add.1/Rev.1.
^{3/} E/ESCWA/13/9/Add.3.

150 (XIII) Policy issues affecting operational activities of the United Nations system for development: 1986 triennial review*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 38/151 of 19 December 1983 and 40/211 of 17 December 1985 concerning operational activities for development,

Further recalling the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, particularly paragraphs 19 and 20, which accord a leading co-ordinative role to the regional commissions in this field,

Taking account with appreciation of the note by the Executive Secretary,^{1/}

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Technical Committee at its fifth session a report on the conclusions of the triennial review to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1986;
2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Technical Committee at its fifth session an evaluation report on the activity of the Commission during the past two years.

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151 (XIII) International Year of Peace**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/16 of 16 November 1982 and 40/3 of 24 October 1985,

Recognizing that the promotion and achievement of the ideals of peace by all possible means constitutes a fundamental purpose of the Charter of the United Nations,

Inspired by the proclamation by the United Nations of the International Year of Peace, which states that international peace and security constitute a universal ideal and that their promotion requires continuing and positive action by States and peoples aimed at the prevention of war, removal of various threats to peace - including the nuclear threat - respect for the principle of non-use of force, the resolution of conflicts and peaceful settlement of disputes,

* See paragraph 64 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ESCWA/13/11.

** See paragraph 66 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

Proceeding from the principles of the Islamic religion and of those revealed religions which call for peace and good-neighbourliness,

Recalling its terms of reference, whose objective it is to raise the level of economic activity, to maintain and strengthen economic relations and to deal with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors,

Expressing the belief that aggression in all its forms, the woes of war suffered by the region of Western Asia and the cumulative devastating effects of continuing hostilities cause aggravated material, human, economic and social damage where, instead, the full potential of the countries concerned should be made available for effective participation in development efforts and the promotion of the interests of their peoples,

Proclaims:

(a) Its determination to work for peace in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Its affirmation of the need to find a just solution to the Palestine question, by means of the full application of United Nations resolutions, in order that the Palestinian people may be enabled to exercise its legitimate right to self-determination under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization;

(c) Its affirmation that the prolongation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq constitutes a violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations with respect to peace and depletes the human and material capacities of the two parties and of the countries of the region, thus threatening the interests of the peoples of the region in regard to economic and social development, particularly in view of the fact that Iraq has adopted a positive attitude towards United Nations resolutions calling for an end to the war and for the establishment of peace;

(d) Its affirmation that the continuation of the current situation in Lebanon has posed a threat to that country's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and caused a deterioration in its economic and social situation;

(e) Calls upon the Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the international community to provide further support for efforts to solve these issues in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and in keeping with the spirit of the International Year of Peace.

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152(XIII) Request for the relocation of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, accepted by the Economic and Social Council, to provide for the establishment of the permanent headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Baghdad together with all the necessary support facilities for the Commission and its staff,

Also recalling the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Iraq relating to the Headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of 13 June 1979 and the Supplementary Agreements concluded pursuant thereto, including the Supplementary Agreement relating to the Premises to be Occupied as the Permanent Headquarters of the Commission of 30 June 1983,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the permanent headquarters of the Commission^{1/} and of the wish of the host country that, for security reasons, the headquarters should relocate to other premises in Baghdad without incurring any cost or loss to the United Nations as a result of such relocation,

Expressing the conviction that the host country, in accordance with the great hospitality and generosity which it has always extended to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, will wish to ensure that in any change of location the highest standards already secured for the Commission and its staff at its present location will be maintained,

Desiring to ensure that any change in location will be carried out without disruption of the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and in full accord with the terms of the Headquarters Agreement and the Supplementary Agreements concluded pursuant thereto,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Executive Secretary of the Commission be authorized to enter into discussions with the Government of the host country on matters including the following:

(a) The provision by the host country of the permanent headquarters of the Commission at any new location in Baghdad, on the understanding that it will be provided with all the necessary facilities including equipment to enable the Commission to perform its functions;

(b) A suitable timing of a move to a new permanent headquarters once adequate alternative facilities to those available at the present headquarters have been identified;

* See paragraph 67 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ESCWA/13/13.

(c) The financial arrangements involved in any move, so that it is carried out without cost to the United Nations and without any financial loss resulting from improvements made or equipment installed in the present headquarters at the expense of the United Nations which cannot be transferred to a new location;

(d) The formulation of any revised Supplementary Agreement or Agreements which may be necessary to give effect to the foregoing or to deal with any other matters pending which either party may consider it necessary to resolve;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission and its members and to the Economic and Social Council, as and when he considers necessary, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and, in any event, not later than the fourteenth session of the Commission.

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24 April 1986

153(XIII) Amendment of the provisional rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia^{*}

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling paragraphs 2 and 3 of its resolution 125(XI) on the general policy-making structure of the Commission,

Noting the Commission's experience since the adoption of that resolution and the difficulties that have ensued from its application,

Desirous of providing more time for its members and for the secretariat of the Commission to prepare for meetings at the ministerial level, thereby ensuring optimum performance,

1. Requests the secretariat to carry out a study on the possibility of amending rule 1(a) of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure so that the session shall normally be held every two years, provided that the said study shall include details of the consequences of such an amendment for the activities and work of the Commission;

2. Decides to amend rule 1(a) to state that the Commission shall hold its sessions in April of each year, on a date to be agreed upon in advance by the members of the Commission;

3. Further decides to consider the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, as amended in accordance with the present resolution, as its permanent rules of procedure.

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* See paragraph 68 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS
THIRTEENTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/13/1/Rev.2	3	Agenda
E/ESCWA/13/1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/13/2	4	Organization of work
E/ESCWA/13/3/Rev.3	5	Invitation to States Members of the United Nations or of specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the thirteenth session of the Commission
E/ESCWA/13/4(Parts I-XVI)	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: progress made in the implementation of the work programme
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.1	6(a)	Progress made in the implementation of the work programme: The situation and outlook for meat, poultry and eggs in the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.2	6(a)	Agricultural planning assistance and training
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.3	6(a)	Main issues and conditions with regard to agriculture and food in Western Asia
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.4	6(a)	Agrarian systems and the alleviation of rural poverty
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.5	6(a)	Expansion and diversification of exports of manufactures and semi-manufactures in selected countries of Western Asia
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.6	6(a)	Urban environmental management in selected countries of the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.7	6(a)	Status of the building materials and construction industries in the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.8	6(a)	Integrated energy planning in selected ESCWA countries

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.9	6(a)	Establishment of a permanent network on new and renewable sources of energy in the ESCWA region and its programme of action
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.10	6(a)	The role of the regional network in the dissemination of information in the areas of new and renewable sources of energy
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.11	6(a)	Energy conservation in the cement industry in the ESCWA countries (Iraq, Jordan)
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.12	6(a)	Energy conservaton in the household sector in the Syrian Arab Republic
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.13	6(a)	Promotion of manpower training and education programmes in the water sector within the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.14	6(a)	The activities of governments and international agencies in the field of water resources within the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.15	6(a)	Promotion of subregional and regional co-operation for the strengthening of national scientific and technological capabilities
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.16	6(a)	Electric power generation and distribution: opportunities for co-operation in the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.17		The integrated development of manufacturing facilities for automotives: a framework for regional co-operation
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.18/Rev.1	6(a)	Micro-electronics and informatics in the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.19/Rev.1	6(a)	Promotion activities of the Joint ESCWA/UNIDO Industry Division

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.20/Rev.1	6(a)	Masterplan for the development of technological capabilities in the oil refining, petrochemical and fertilizer industry: a framework
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.21/Rev.1	6(a)	Masterplan for the development of technology capabilities in capital goods industries: a framework
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.22	6(a)	Urbanization in Western Asia: environmental consequences
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.23	6(a)	The possibilities of expanding the bulk fleets in Western Asia
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.24	6(a)	The development of land transport links in Western Asia
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.25	6(a)	Regional transport development strategy
E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.26	6(a)	Dissemination of mature solar and wind technologies in selected ESCWA countries, with special reference to least developed countries
E/ESCWA/13/5	6(b)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission
E/ESCWA/13/5/Add.1	6(b)	Commission resolution 133 (XII) on the designation of the Economic Commission for Western Asia
E/ESCWA/13/5/Add.2	6(b)	Commission resolution 134 (XII) on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987
E/ESCWA/13/5/Add.3	6(b)	Commission resolution 135(XII) on progress made in the implementation of the work programme
E/ESCWA/13/5/Add.4	6(b)	Commission resolution 136(XII) on the science and technology programme

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/13/5/Add.5	6(b)	Commission resolution 137(XII) on technical co-operation activities and technical assistance projects
E/ESCWA/13/5/Add.6/Rev.1	6(b)	Commission resolution 139(XII) on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation
E/ESCWA/13/5/Add.7	6(b)	Commission resolution 140(XII) on the filling of vacancies in the secretariat
E/ESCWA/13/5/Add.8	6(b)	Commission resolution 141(XII) on the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian people
E/ESCWA/13/6	7	Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings
E/ESCWA/13/7	8	Interregional consultation on social development welfare policies and programmes
E/ESCWA/13/8/Rev.1	9	Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region (Commission resolution 119(XII)): Foreign debt: implications for creditor and debtor countries of Western Asia
E/ESCWA/13/9	10	Financial status of the Commission's programme: regular programme budget of the Commission
E/ESCWA/13/9/Add.1/Rev.1	10	Financial status of the Commission's programme: extra-budgetary resources supporting the Commission's programme
E/ESCWA/13/9/Add.2	10	Financial status of the Commission's programme: Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/13/9/Add.3	10	Financial status of the Commission's programme: economy measures
E/ESCWA/13/10	11	Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations
E/ESCWA/13/11	12	Policy issues affecting operational activities of the United Nations system for development: 1986 triennial review
E/ESCWA/13/12	13	Special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, 27-31 May 1986
E/ESCWA/13/13	15	Permanent headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
E/ESCWA/13/14	16	Amendment of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
E/ESCWA/C.1/13/7 - E/ESCWA/13/16	17	Report of the Technical Committee on the work of its fourth session
E/ESCWA/13/17	18	Report on the thirteenth session
E/ESCWA/13/INF.1	-	Information for participants
E/ESCWA/13/INF.2/Rev.1	-	List of documents
E/ESCWA/13/INF.3/Rev.1	-	List of participants

Annex II

LIST OF PRINCIPAL PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE
COMMISSION SINCE ITS TWELFTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/AGR/WG.18/3	Agrarian Systems and the Alleviation of Poverty, with Special Reference to the Near East. November 1985
E/ESCWA/AGR/WG.18/11	The Impact of the World Economic Crisis on Poverty and Rural Development in Western Asia. December 1985
E/ESCWA/AGR/WG.18/12	Dynamics of Rural Poverty and Measures for its Alleviation, with Special Reference to the Near East. November 1985
E/ESCWA/AGR/WG.17/2	Uncertainty and Risks in Wheat Production and Distribution. November 1985
E/ESCWA/AGR/WG.17/5	Some Alternative Modes of Regional Co-operation in Regard to Food Security, with Special Reference to Wheat. December 1985
E/ESCWA/AGR/WG.1/2	Report of the Seminar on Methods of Agricultural Data Collection. 1985
E/ESCWA/AGR/85/4	Food Security in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. October 1985
E/ESCWA/AGR/85/7	Report of the National Training Workshop on the Use of the Computer for Project Analysis. March 1986
	<u>Agriculture and Development in Western Asia</u> . Annual Bulletin No. 7. November 1984
E/ESCWA/DPD/85/6	Recent Developments in Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia. April 1984
E/ESCWA/DPD/85/9	Review of Fiscal and Monetary Issues and Development in the ECWA Region. July 1985
E/ESCWA/DPD/85/12	External Debt: Implication for Debtor and Creditor Countries in Western Asia. December 1985
E/ESCWA/UNCTC/85/IG.1/2	Report of the Regional Intergovernmental Meeting of the Countries of Western Asia on the United Nations Draft Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations. November 1985
E/ESCWA/UNCTC/85/6	Operations of Transnational Banks in Bahrain. November 1985
E/ESCWA/UNCTC/85/7	Operations of Transnational Corporations in the Industrial Sector in Bahrain. November 1985

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/ECU/86/WG.1/2	Workshop on Industrial Pollution Control in Western Asia. March 1986
E/ESCWA/ECU/85/5	Strengthening Urban Environmental Management in the ECWA Region. August 1985
E/ESCWA/ECU/85/8	Management of Industrial Hazardous Wastes: Proceeding of the Third International Symposium. December 1985
E/ESCWA/ECU/85/9	Urbanization in Western Asia: Environmental Consequences. December 1985
E/ESCWA/HS/85/2	Strengthening Urban Environmental Management in the ESCWA Region: Environmental Management Scheme for Amman. October 1985
E/ESCWA/HS/85/3	The Human Settlements Situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Country Profile. October 1985
E/ESCWA/ID/85/WG.1/2	Regional Co-operation in the Development of the Capital Goods and Engineering Industries in the ESCWA Region: Working Papers. November 1985
E/ESCWA/ID/85/WG.1/3	Final Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries. November 1985
E/ESCWA/ID/85/WG.7/20	Symposium on Plastics Technologies and Applications: Proceedings (Development of Selected Industrial Branches, No. 3). 1985
E/ESCWA/ID/84/10	Study on the Integrated Development of Manufacturing Facilities for Automotives: a Framework for Regional Co-operation. April 1986
E/ESCWA/ID/85/15	Studies on Regional Co-operation in the Development of Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries, (Development of Selected Industrial Branches, No. 2). November 1985
E/ESCWA/ID/85/16	Workshop on Technology and Process Design Update: Petrochemicals, Fertilizers and Oil and Gas (Development of Selected Industrial Branches, No. 4). 1986
E/ESCWA/NR/85/WG.7/12	Final Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Integrated Energy Planning. April 1985
E/ESCWA/NR/85/WG.6/7	Final Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Scientific and Technological Co-operation among Western Asian Countries. February 1985

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/NR/85/WG.5/7	Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the Technical Meeting for Participating Institutions in the New and Renewable Sources of Energy Information Network. September 1985
E/ESCWA/NR/85/WG.4/18	Final Report of the Preparatory Regional Expert Group Meeting for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. July 1985
E/ESCWA/NR/85/WG.3/13	Final Regional Report of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Expert Group Meeting on the Mid-Decade Review of the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. August 1985
E/ESCWA/NR/85/5	Report on the Establishment of a Permanent Network on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the ESCWA Region and its Programme of Action. May 1985
E/ESCWA/NR/85/8	Electric Power Generation and Distribution and Opportunities for Co-operation in the ESCWA Region. October 1985
E/ESCWA/POP/85	<u>Population Bulletin of ESCWA</u> . No. 26, June 1985
E/ESCWA/POP/85	<u>Population Bulletin of ESCWA</u> . No. 27, December 1985
E/ESCWA/SDP/85/16	Demographic and Related Socio-Economic Data Sheets. No. 4, June 1985
E/ESCWA/STAT/85/WG.1/2	Final Report and Recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Population and Housing Censuses in the ESCWA Region. January 1986
E/ESCWA/STAT/85/25	Statistical Abstracts of the Region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 1974-1983. 1985
E/ESCWA/STAT/85/28	<u>External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region</u> , No. 3, December 1985
E/ESCWA/STAT/85/29	Gross Domestic Product and National Disposable Income in the ESCWA Region, <u>National Accounts Studies</u> , Bulletin No. 7, December 1985
E/ESCWA/STAT/85/30	Studies on Prices and Index Numbers in the ESCWA Region 1975-1984. No. 7, December 1985
E/ESCWA/STAT/85/32	Compendium of Social Statistics. No. 1, December 1985
E/ESCWA/TCT/85/8	Development of Land Transport Links in Western Asia. July 1985
E/ESCWA/TCT/85/9	Strategy for the Development of Integrated Transport in Western Asia. October 1985
E/ESCWA/TCT/85/12	<u>Transport Bulletin</u> . No. 1, December 1985