

6091

E/1987/35
E/ESCWA/14/12

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA**

REPORT ON THE FOURTEENTH SESSION
31 March-5 April 1987

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: 1987

SUPPLEMENT No. 15



UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1987

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.

E/1987/35
E/ESCWA/14/12

87-0549

United Nations Publications

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Introduction.	1	1
<u>Chapter</u>		
I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	2-3	2
II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE THIRTEENTH SESSION	4-5	4
A. Activities of subsidiary bodies	4	4
B. Other activities.	5	4
C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations	6-7	4
III. FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION.	6-66	5
A. Attendance and organization of work	6-17	5
B. Agenda.	18	6
C. Account of proceedings.	19-66	7
IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION.		14

ANNEXES

I. Report of the Technical Committee on its fifth session.		24
II. List of documents submitted to the Commission at its fourteenth session.		28
III. List of principal publications and documents issued by the Commission since its thirteenth session		30

INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period since the thirteenth session. It was adopted by the Commission at its 3rd meeting, held on 5 April 1987, in the form as amended during the discussion.

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

A. Issues calling for action by the Council

2. At its 3rd meeting, held on 5 April 1987, 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

Human and financial resources: vacancies in the Secretariat

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1984/81 of 27 July 1984 on staff and administrative questions of the Economic Commission for Western Asia^{1/} and 1986/59 of 22 July 1986 on the financial status of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution 161(XIV) of 5 April 1987 on human and financial resources: vacancies in the secretariat,^{2/}

Noting the concern of the members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at the fact that, since the Commission was created only thirteen years ago and as a result of its relocation, the onset of zero-growth budgets and the financial crisis of 1986 which continues into 1987, it has not had the opportunity to reach the substantive capacity necessary to have a major impact on the development of the region,

Requests the General Assembly to recognize the Commission's special situation and to recommend to the United Nations Secretariat that it grant the Commission relief from current restrictions so as to enable it to obtain the human and financial resources necessary to perform its duties effectively.

B. Issues brought to the attention of the Council

3. At its fourteenth session, held on 4 and 5 April 1987, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia unanimously adopted the following resolutions:^{3/}

154(XIV). Progress made in the implementation of the work programme for the period 1986-1987; whereby it adopted the proposed modifications to the work programme;

^{1/} The Economic Commission for Western Asia was redesignated the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia by Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985.

^{2/} For the text of the report thereon, see document E/ESCWA/C.1/14/5/Add.4/ Rev.1.

^{3/} For the text of the resolutions, see chapter IV of this report.

155(XIV). Strengthening of national household survey capabilities; whereby international organizations, the funding agencies and the Arab funds were urged to provide financial and technical support to the members of the Commission in the implementation of their national household survey programmes;

156(XIV). Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989; whereby the Executive Secretary was requested to submit to the Technical Committee at its sixth session a report on any modifications that might be made to the work programme in the light of the observations made in the Technical Committee;

157(XIV). Medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1990-1995; whereby the Executive Secretary was requested to ensure, in the formulation of the medium-term plan, that the priorities observed would be in keeping with the distinctive features and characteristics of the region;

158(XIV). Holding of the sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on a biennial basis; whereby it was decided to hold the sessions of the Commission in April of every other year at a time to be determined by members;

159(XIV). Quorum for the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; whereby it was decided to amend the rules of procedure so that the Chairman might declare meetings open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the members were present, while the presence of a majority would be required for any decision to be taken;

160(XIV). Economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people; whereby the Executive Secretary was asked to pay particular attention to economic and social conditions in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, while continuing to take action on all resolutions relating to the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people previously adopted by the Commission;

161(XIV). Human and financial resources: vacancies in the secretariat (see section A above);

162(XIV). In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social sectors; whereby the Economic and Social Council was requested to take the Commission's observations^{1/} into account in considering the in-depth study.

^{1/} See the annex to resolution 162(XIV) in chapter IV of this report.

II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE THIRTEENTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

4. The Technical Committee is the only intergovernmental body which reports to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. The Committee held its fifth session from 31 March to 2 April 1987 at the Commission's headquarters in Baghdad, and a summary of the report of the Committee is contained in annex I to this report.

B. Other activities

5. The report of the Executive Secretary on progress made in the implementation of the work programme (E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4(Part I)/Rev.1, Rev.1/Corr.1 and 2 and Rev.1/Add.1; E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4(Part II)/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1; E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4/Add.1/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1; E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4/Add. 2-3) reviews the various activities of the Commission since its thirteenth session. The activities of the Commission supported by resources outside the regular budget of the United Nations are further reviewed in the notes of the Executive Secretary concerning the financial status of the Commission's programmes (E/ESCWA/14/9/Add.1 and 2).

C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

6. During 1986, the secretariat of the Commission undertook many joint activities with specialized agencies and other organizations of the the United Nations system. These included the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the World Health Organization. The activities are described in the report and the notes of the Executive Secretary referred to in section B above.

7. Since the thirteenth session of the Commission, a great number of contacts have taken place with national and international entities outside the United Nations system. Among the latter, reference is made to the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States addressed by the Executive Secretary during its meeting in Riyadh on 12 February 1987. Mention is appropriate furthermore of the memorandum of understanding signed with the Gulf Co-operation Council on 14 March 1987 and the agreement signed with the Islamic Development Bank on 29 March 1987, both for purposes of co-operation. Co-operation was also the subject of high-level discussions with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations, the Arab Industrial Development Organization, the Arab Labour Organization and the Arab Monetary Fund during the period under review.

III. FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

8. The fourteenth session of the Commission was held at ministerial level at its headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 and 5 April 1987. Its deliberations covered three meetings.

9. 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, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

10. By virtue of rule 63 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission, the following States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission participated in a consultative capacity in the work of the session: China; Czechoslovakia; Djibouti; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Poland; Republic of Korea; Romania; Sudan; Switzerland; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United States of America; and Yugoslavia.

11. 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 (Habitat); United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; World Food Programme; and World Meteorological Organization.

12. Representatives of the following governmental and non-governmental regional organizations also attended the session as observers: Arab Federation for Engineering Industries; Arab Federation for Food Industries; Arab Federation of Shipping; Arab Industrial Development Organization; Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Arab Labour Organization; Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization; Arab Literacy and Adult Education Organization; Arab Monetary Fund; Arab Planning Institute - Kuwait; Arab Standardization and Metrology Organization; Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils; and Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

13. Representatives of the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Iraqi Fund for External Development and the Saudi Fund for Development also attended the session as observers.

14. A representative of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance also attended the session as an observer.

^{1/} For the names of participants in the session, see document E/ESCWA/14/INF.3/Rev.1.

15. At its 1st meeting, the Commission unanimously elected the following: His Excellency Mr. Hisham Hassan Tawfiq (Iraq), as Chairman of the fourteenth session; His Excellency Mr. Ali Ahmad Ansari (Qatar), and His Excellency Mr. Qasim Muhammad Miqdad (Syrian Arab Republic), as Vice-Chairmen; and His Excellency Mr. Sayed Kassem Al-Masri (Egypt), as Rapporteur.

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

17. At its 1st meeting, the Commission adopted the proposals for the organization of its work contained in document E/ESCWA/14/2/Rev.1.

B. Agenda

18. At its 1st meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/ESCWA/14/1.^{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 fourteenth session of the Commission.
6. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission.
7. Report of the Technical Committee:
 - (a) Draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995;
 - (b) Developmental social welfare issues:
 - (i) Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes;
 - (ii) United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

^{1/} The agenda as adopted was issued in document E/ESCWA/14/1/Rev.1.

8. Financial status of the Commission's programmes.
9. Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region (Commission resolution 119(X)): Impact of return migration on selected labour-sending countries in the ESCWA region.
10. In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social sectors.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourteenth session.

C. Account of proceedings

19. The session was opened by His Excellency Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq and Member of the Revolution Command Council, who welcomed the participants, wished the Commission success in its work and expressed his confidence that the discussions at the meeting would help the Commission's programmes to achieve balanced and independent Arab development based on collective Arab capabilities.
20. He referred to the urgent financial problems facing the organizations and agencies of the United Nations and called for the adoption of measures to enhance their performance and increase the effectiveness of their programmes.
21. He affirmed Iraq's support for the role that was being played by the United Nations, as well as his country's determination to endeavour to strengthen international institutions, including the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, with a view to enabling it to achieve its noble humanitarian objectives.
22. He spoke of the deteriorating international political and economic situation and the increasing dangers and challenges throughout the world and emphasized that the achievement of real and lasting solutions to the problems of the world economy required a strengthening of confidence in international economic relations, application of the principles and rules laid down in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, achievement of the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and implementation of the United Nations resolutions concerning the establishment of the new international economic order.
23. He referred to the Iraq-Iran war and stressed that its continuation, together with the Zionist entity's destructive role in the region and the deterioration in the international economic environment, were seriously impeding the Commission in its discharge of the important tasks assigned to it by the Economic and Social Council. Consequently, diligent and concerted efforts were needed to overcome all those obstacles and enable the Commission to fulfil its obligations and implement its programmes of work.

24. The Chairman of the Commission's thirteenth session made a statement in which he welcomed participants and expressed the hope that the Commission's fourteenth session would realize the common aspirations of its members.

25. He reviewed the international and regional economic situation and expressed concern at the increasing erosion of the multilateral approach which was being replaced by bilateral arrangements that were narrower in conception.

26. He stressed the need to adopt a new international approach in order to solve the current economic crisis and to expand international economic relations on a basis of equality and mutual interest with a view to furthering the goals of growth and development in such a way as to ensure a better life for coming generations.

27. He referred to the numerous achievements of the Commission during the period between the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions and expressed his gratification that the Commission was concerning itself with social development affairs in view of the fact that social development was just as important as economic development.

28. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was read out. In his message, the Secretary-General referred to the world economic situation and noted that circumstances remained difficult, especially for the developing countries. Most of them had been compelled to take measures that had taken a heavy toll on investment levels and had had a negative impact on the welfare of their peoples.

29. He referred to the decline in oil revenues and the depreciation of the dollar, which had forced the countries of the ESCWA region to cut government expenditure, thereby intensifying the prevailing recessionary conditions in the region.

30. He said that the United Nations had also been confronted by a severe financial crisis in 1986, which had necessitated the adoption of economy measures to deal with the resulting liquidity problems. He indicated that those measures had had an adverse impact on all United Nations entities, including ESCWA.

31. He was encouraged, however, by the fact that the forty-first session of the General Assembly had adopted a resolution that modified budgeting procedures and introduced administrative reforms which, hopefully, would restore the Organization's financial stability.

32. He said that, in order to face the challenges of the future, it was necessary to find solutions to the problems of the Middle East. He indicated that the stalemate in the peace process encouraged extremism and risked the recurrence of wider violence. He stressed the need to find a way to initiate negotiations involving all the parties concerned and mentioned that, in that connection, he was making a special effort to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

33. He referred to the prolonged war between Iran and Iraq, which had caused untold suffering and was a source of perilous tensions in the region, and said that the United Nations had been able to lessen to some extent the cruellest aspects of that conflict. Unfortunately, the United Nations had not so far found the means to bring the war to an end.

34. In conclusion, he expressed his confidence that the Commission, with the strong support of member States, would be able to meet the crucial economic and social challenges facing the region.

35. The Executive Secretary made a statement in which he welcomed participants and commended the support that the Commission was receiving from the Government and valiant people of Iraq.

36. The economies of the region of Western Asia were still suffering from the interactive effects of a number of exceptional and critical factors in the political and economic spheres. They included, in particular, the decline in petroleum prices, which had had an adverse effect on economic activity and growth rates in most countries of the region. Account must also be taken of the destructive political circumstances prevailing in the region, which were having serious and far-reaching effects not only on its social development potential but also on the security and destinies of its peoples. He welcomed the sincere peace initiatives that were being taken in Iraq, occupied Palestine and Lebanon.

37. Under those extremely difficult circumstances, the countries of the region had made diligent efforts to recover from the economic recession by adopting a series of measures to deal with that situation and overcome its consequences. Most countries of the region had continued to pursue policies based on the rationalization of public spending by making cut-backs in some fields of current expenditure and channelling investment towards high-priority projects in their development plans. The oil-producing countries of the region, acting in collaboration with other oil-exporting countries, had succeeded in stabilizing petroleum prices and halting the downward trend witnessed towards the end of 1985 and in the first half of 1986. Most countries of the region were endeavouring, within the context of their strategy, to develop and improve the utilization of local resources, to use their latent resources and to give full scope to their potential under difficult conditions.

38. ESCWA had closely monitored those crucial economic and social developments in the region. Since his assumption of office, he had been striving to increase the effectiveness of the Commission's work with a view to making full use of its capabilities and potential and enabling the Commission to play its role as a regional development centre within the United Nations system. ESCWA had intensified its endeavours to operate in a manner ever more in keeping with the region's requirements and had developed its activities and services in conformity with the wishes of member States and the region's socio-economic priorities. He had undertaken numerous visits to member States for consultations with the responsible authorities concerning the enhancement of ESCWA activities.

39. In order to increase the Commission's effectiveness, it was proposed that concentration should be focused on a limited number of priority programmes and fields of activity in a manner consistent with available resources. Those selected priorities could be combined in a limited number of basic fields which, through a process of integration, would comprise a number of socio-economic disciplines and sectors in such a way as to facilitate an overall approach to specific issues with a view to benefiting from the relative advantage enjoyed by ESCWA as an institution actively engaged in both economic and social aspects of development.

40. The preparation of the medium-term plan coincided with the crisis facing the United Nations. Accordingly, the Commission had intensified its endeavours to increase the availability of extrabudgetary resources through contacts which he and his colleagues had made in member countries and in donor countries outside the region. He expressed his gratitude to the Governments of France, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany for their understanding and support for ESCWA in the crucial period through which the Commission was passing.

41. Since its last session, ESCWA had intensified its efforts to develop its relations and expand the scope of its co-operation and co-ordination with Arab and regional organizations and funds. The Commission's relations with a number of Arab and Islamic organizations and institutions operating in the field of socio-economic development had also been strengthened through the conclusion of co-operation agreements or the exchange of memoranda of understanding.

42. The United Nations was still passing through a crucial period and the measures and steps taken by the Secretary-General one year ago, including the freeze on recruitment, were still in effect and were having adverse repercussions on the Commission's work and activities. While expressing his full support for the internal reform measures that were being taken by the United Nations, he hoped that the outcome of those measures would further the development efforts of the United Nations and strengthen those of its institutions and organs engaged in that field. It was also to be hoped that those endeavours would complement, and be concerted with, the well-intentioned endeavours of member States.

1. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities
of the Commission
(Agenda item 6)

43. The Executive Secretary informed the ministerial meeting that the Technical Committee had considered the Commission's activities during 1986 on the basis of the following documents and the revisions thereto: E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4/(Part I)/Rev.1, Rev.1/Corr.1 and 2 and Rev.1/Add.1; E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4/(Part II)/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1; E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4/Add.1/ Rev.1 and Corr.1; and E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4/Add.2-3.

44. Those documents set out the technical activities that the Commission had undertaken within the context of each programme in accordance with the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987, as well as the ancillary technical activities that it had carried out for member States.

45. He explained that 37 out of the total of 43 programme outputs for the year 1986 had been completed, and considerable progress had been made in 61 others. Accordingly, the Commission had completed about 40 per cent of its programme for the biennium 1986-1987 in spite of the constantly high vacancy rate in the substantive divisions.

46. He indicated that, in view of the high vacancy rate, which exceeded one third of professional posts, and the continuing freeze on recruitment due to the financial crisis, the Technical Committee had approved the secretariat's proposal to make various modifications, not exceeding 18 per cent of the total outputs, to the programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987.

47. The Commission approved the report of the Executive Secretary in the context of its adoption of the report of the Technical Committee.

2. Report of the Technical Committee
(Agenda item 7)
(E/ESCWA/14/5/Rev.1)

48. The session discussed and approved the report of the Technical Committee after the incorporation of various amendments proposed by members of delegations (see the summary of the report in annex I).

(a) Draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995
(E/ESCWA/C.1/9/Rev.1)

49. During its discussion of the report of the Technical Committee, the session adopted the draft resolution approved by the Technical Committee concerning the draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995: general framework and priorities, after amending paragraph 2 (see the text of resolution 157(XIV) in chapter IV of this report).

50. The session called upon the Executive Secretary to transmit a memorandum to member States requesting their comments on the medium-term plan in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution.

(b) Developmental social welfare issues

(i) Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes
(E/ESCWA/14/7)

(ii) United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons
(E/ESCWA/14/8 and Corr.1)

51. The Executive Secretary briefly reviewed the documentation on the item. He recalled that the Technical Committee had approved the first part of the document on the interregional consultation and had requested the secretariat to revise the study and the summary thereof contained in the second part. The document on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons covered the Decade activities of the various organs of the United Nations at the international and regional levels which had led to the issue of disabled persons being addressed in the Commission's work programme for the biennium 1988-1989 and in its medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.

52. The Commission agreed that the study should be circulated to member countries for their comments and suggestions before submission to the interregional consultation. It approved the two documents on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons without debate.

3. Financial status of the Commission's programmes
(Agenda item 8)
(E/ESCWA/14/9 and Add.1-2)

53. The Executive Secretary reviewed the financial status of the Commission's programmes with regard to the regular programme budget of the Commission, extrabudgetary resources supporting the Commission's programmes and the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities.

54. The Commission took note of the Executive Secretary's review without debate.

4. Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region (Commission resolution 119(X)): Impact of return migration on selected labour-sending countries in the ESCWA region
(Agenda item 9)
(E/ESCWA/14/10)

55. The Executive Secretary gave a brief outline of the study and recalled that the purpose of its presentation was to stimulate discussion and dialogue and to solicit the views of members on the topic under consideration.

56. Some representatives commended the study and the pains taken in its preparation and addressed some of its aspects in detail. A number of observations were made on its methodology, the sources of information used and the general validity of the recommendations made. It was pointed out that some of the estimates of return migration were exaggerated and that the study did not deal with its positive impact in a precise manner.

57. The representative of Iraq said that the decree promulgated by his Government reducing the maximum amount of the salaries of expatriate workers in the private sector that could be transferred abroad had been a regulatory measure restricted to the marginal or informal sector alone and did not affect workers in the civil service or the socialist sector or contractual employees in the private sector.

58. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should be provided with any comments member countries wished to make on the study so that they could be taken into account in its revision.

5. In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social sectors
(Agenda item 10)
(E/ESCWA/14/11)

59. The Executive Secretary explained that the questions addressed under the item formed part of the continuing process of reform in the United Nations system. The Economic and Social Council had established a Special Commission

of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields and had solicited the views of ESCWA on three matters: the simplification and rationalization of the ESCWA intergovernmental structure and the effectiveness of the channels through which the recommendations of the Commission flowed; the frequency and duration of intergovernmental meetings; and the experience of the regional commissions since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on decentralization in 1977.

60. The Commission adopted the draft resolution on this matter contained in chapter IV below (see resolution 162(XIV)).

6. Other matters
(Agenda item 11)

61. The following draft resolutions were discussed under this item:

(a) Draft resolution on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people

62. The draft resolution was submitted by the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The representative of Lebanon requested that his delegation's reservation be placed on record since the draft did not identify the body responsible for the blockade, destruction, starvation and expulsion of the population of the camps in Lebanon to which reference was made in the third paragraph of the preamble. He did not wish the situation to be misinterpreted and did not have any official information in connection therewith.

63. The head of the Syrian delegation affirmed his delegation's approval of the resolution, subject to the incorporation of an additional phrase in the same paragraph which would read "and appreciating the endeavours made to restore security and stability in those camps". He emphasized that his country endorsed all resolutions, at all levels, in favour of the Palestinian Arab people provided that they served the cause of its liberation and return.

64. After discussion, the draft resolution was adopted without amendment (see chapter IV below, resolution 160(XIV)).

(b) Draft resolution on human and financial resources and vacancies in the secretariat

65. The draft resolution, as contained in chapter IV, was adopted (see resolution 161(XIV)).

7. Statements of observers

66. Statements were made by the representatives of the following States and organizations: Bulgaria; France; Germany, Federal Republic of; Poland; Turkey; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United States of America; Yugoslavia; Arab Industrial Development Organization; International Civil Aviation Organization; Council for Mutual Economic Assistance; and World Meteorological Organization.

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS
FOURTEENTH SESSION

154(XIV). Progress made in the implementation of the work programme
for the period 1986-1987

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking note of the modifications to the work programme for the period 1986-1987, as proposed in the report of the Executive Secretary^{1/} pursuant to Commission resolution 142(XIII) of 24 April 1986,

Noting the financial crisis affecting the United Nations system and its impact on the Commission's programmes and on proper programme performance,

1. Notes with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the work programme for the period 1986-1987;

2. Adopts the proposed modifications to the work programme for the period 1986-1987, as contained in the report of the Executive Secretary,^{1/}

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

155(XIV). Strengthening of national household survey capabilities

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on technical co-operation activities and technical assistance projects,^{2/} particularly as it relates to the strengthening of national household survey capabilities,

Recalling that the National Household Survey Capability Programme was established to assist members of the Commission to obtain, by means of household surveys, the constant flow of statistical information necessary for the preparation and adoption of development plans and policies and to develop their national capabilities in the conduct of such surveys,

Recalling the reports of the Second Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region^{3/} and the Tripartite Review Meeting on regional household survey project RAB/80/009, as well as the recommendations made by them with regard to the importance of continuing the project to the end of 1991,

^{1/} E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4(Part I)/Rev.1/Add.1.

^{2/} E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4(Part II)/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

^{3/} E/ESCWA/C.1/14/6/Add.1.

Further recalling the contribution of the Commission to the inputs to the regional project and its future plans to increase its support to the project in the light of the budget proposed by the Tripartite Review Meeting held in March 1987,

Expressing its gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme for its interest in the National Household Survey Capability Programme and its contribution to the financing of the regional project,

Noting that a number of member countries which have prepared detailed household survey programmes have as yet been unable to achieve self-reliance owing to the lack of technical and financial resources and because of the obstacles indicated in the recommendations of the Tripartite Review Meeting,^{1/}

Further noting that the completion of household surveys within the framework of country programmes is largely dependent on the technical services provided by the regional project,

1. Stresses the importance of continuing the project to the end of 1991, while calling upon the United Nations Development Programme to continue to contribute to the project and to provide funding at a level no lower than that of its present contribution and requesting the International Labour Organisation to appoint a regional adviser within the framework of the project,

2. Urges international organizations, the funding agencies and the Arab funds to provide financial and technical support to the members of the Commission in the implementation of their national household survey programmes.

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

156(XIV). Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolutions 114(IX) of 13 May 1982 and 125(XI) of 26 April 1984 establishing the terms of reference of the Technical Committee,

Noting with appreciation the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989 proposed by the secretariat,^{2/}

Taking account of the financial crisis of the United Nations and its impact on the programme,

^{1/} See document E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4(part II)/Rev.1/Add.1

^{2/} E/ESCWA/C.1/14/8 and Corr.1 and 2.

1. Adopts, on the recommendation of its Technical Committee, the programme of work and priorities for the period 1988-1989, while taking into consideration the limited resources available and the United Nations programming regulations in effect;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Technical Committee at its sixth session a report on any modifications that may be made to the work programme in the light of the observations made in the Technical Committee at its fifth session.

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

157(XIV). Medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1990-1995

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and particularly those of its provisions that relate to the regional commissions in developing co-ordination at the regional level and to the functions and responsibilities of the commissions in the programme planning and review process,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 36/228 of 18 December 1981 on programme planning, and part A of that resolution in particular,

Taking account of the final report^{1/} of the Meeting of Eminent Persons on Programme Priorities for the Medium-Term Plan for the Period 1990-1995,

1. Stresses the need to ensure that the plan fully and harmoniously reflects the development priorities and requirements of the States members of the Commission in the light of recent developments in the region and the world;

2. Approves, in that connection, the draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995: general framework and priorities^{2/} in the light of the priorities set forth hereunder and subject to the detailed observations on the plan to be submitted by members within the next two months;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To ensure, in the formulation of the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995, that the priorities should be in keeping with the distinctive features and characteristics of the region and that the intensification of efforts in those programmes concerned with the agricultural

^{1/} E/ESCWA/MTP/86/3.

^{2/} E/ESCWA/C.1/14/9/Rev.1

and industrial sectors and in activities relating to food security, water and mineral resources, new and renewable sources of energy, science and technology (particularly advanced technology, information technology and informatics), social development and the development of human resources and administrative capabilities are among the priorities to be observed by the Commission in the formulation and implementation of its programmes within the limits of available resources, while taking action to realize the relative advantage of the Commission as a multi-disciplinary institution and to increase its effectiveness in the region so that it will be able to combine such priorities into a limited number of major focal points and apply to them an integrated approach;

(b) To submit to the Technical Committee at its sixth session a report on the implementation of the present recommendations.

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

158(XIV). Holding of the sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on a biennial basis

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling paragraph 1 of its resolution 153(XIII) of 24 April 1986 requesting the secretariat to carry out a study on the possibility of amending rule 1(a) of the Commission's rules of procedure so that the session, meeting at the ministerial level, should normally be held every two years, provided that the said study should include details of the consequences of such an amendment for the activities and work of the Commission,

Recalling further the agreement reached by the members of the Commission in the light of that resolution that the fourteenth session should be held in 1987 and that sessions should subsequently be held on a biennial basis,

Aware of the importance of the new measures taken by the United Nations to improve the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization, to economize on financial resources and to curb expenditures because of the current financial crisis,

Desirous of committing itself to working within such a framework in order to promote the positive and constructive role to which it aspires in the economic and social development fields in the region of Western Asia,

Satisfied that holding the sessions of the Commission at the ministerial level on a biennial basis would coincide with the period of time covered by the Commission's programme of work and priorities, thereby providing both secretariat and members with greater opportunity to consider the outcome of a complete work programme,

1. Decides to amend paragraph 1(a) of the Commission's rules of procedure to read as follows:

"Dates of sessions

"Rule 1

"Sessions of the Commission shall be held:

"(a) Normally in April every other year, at a time to be determined by the members of the Commission;

" ... ";

2. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To prepare in those years when no session is held a detailed report on the activities, plans and programmes of the Commission, including those of its subsidiary bodies, for submission to the Economic and Social Council so that the Council may remain fully informed;

(b) To communicate the said report to the Chairman of the Commission's session at the ministerial level and to the members of the Commission prior to its submission to the Economic and Social Council so that they may propose whatever amendments or additions they may deem necessary.

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

159(XIV). Quorum for meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling rule 36 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which provides that "A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum",

Further recalling rule 19 of the Commission's rules of procedure, which provides that "Unless the Commission decides otherwise, these rules shall apply to subsidiary bodies as far as appropriate",

Desiring to ensure that the meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies are held as scheduled and in a convenient and effective manner, as is the custom in the other regional commissions and the main organs of the United Nations,

Decides to amend the rules of procedure of the Commission so that rule 36 will read as follows:

"Quorum

"Rule 36

"The Chairman may declare a meeting of the Commission or any of its subsidiary bodies open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the members are present. The presence of a majority of the members shall be required for any decision to be taken."

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

160(XIV). Economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling all the resolutions relating to the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people adopted by the Commission at its previous sessions,

Deeply concerned by the continuing serious deterioration in the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people as a result of the continued Zionist occupation of Palestinian territory and racist practices,

Taking into consideration the blockade, destruction, starvation and expulsion of population to which the Palestinian camps in Lebanon are being subjected,

Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to take action on the contents of the said resolutions, paying particular attention to the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, while studying economic and social conditions in the camps in the light of their current troubles and ways of finding appropriate solutions thereto.

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

161(XIV). Human and financial resources: vacancies in the secretariat

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/243 of 18 December 1984, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/81 of 27 July 1984 and 1986/59 of 22 July 1986 and Commission resolutions 126(XI) of 26 April 1984, 140(XII) of 25 April 1985 and 144(XIII) of 24 April 1986, all dealing with staff and administrative questions, a subject of great importance to the Commission,

Drawing attention to the fact that the Commission was created only thirteen years ago and, as a result of relocations, the onset of zero-growth budgets and the financial crisis of 1986 which continues into 1987, has not had the opportunity to reach the substantive capacity necessary to have a major impact on the development of the region,

1. Calls on the Economic and Social Council to request the General Assembly to recognize the Commission's special situation and to recommend to the United Nations Secretariat that it grant the Commission relief from current restrictions so as to enable it to obtain the human and financial resources necessary to perform its duties effectively,

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in view of the above, to approach the United Nations Secretariat with concrete proposals on, and justification for, the need to limit the applicability of both the restrictions on filling vacancies and the reduction of established posts as far as the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is concerned, to permit it to reach its minimum substantive capacity in terms of human resources.

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

162(XIV). In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social sectors

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and Commission resolutions 69(VI) of 1 May 1979, 80(VII) of 22 April 1980, and 105(VIII) of 6 May 1981, all dealing with the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations and the definition and strengthening of the functions of the regional commissions within a framework of decentralized delivery of the Organization's social and economic programmes,

Noting recommendations 2, 8 and 27 of the report of 15 August 1986 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 dealing with the Group's report and decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987 of the Economic and Social Council calling for the establishment of a Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields,

Having considered the item and made its observations thereon,

Requests the Economic and Social Council, in endorsing the in-depth study, to take into consideration the Commission's observations contained in the annex to the present resolution.

3rd plenary meeting
5 April 1987

ANNEX

In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social sectors

1. The ministerial meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia supports the efforts made in the ongoing process of reform in the United Nations system and for the rationalization of its machinery with a view to increasing its effectiveness in the service of Member States. In response to the request of the Economic and Social Council for concerted efforts to be made in line with that endeavour, the fourteenth session of the Commission, meeting at the ministerial level on 4 and 5 April 1987, addressed the following three topics and expressed the views thereon set forth hereunder.
2. By its decision 1987/112, the Economic and Social Council established a Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields and decided:

"To request... all subsidiary bodies of... the Council to submit to the Special Commission, within thirty days of the conclusion of their forthcoming sessions, their views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts regarding their functioning and that of their subsidiary machinery".^{1/}
3. By the same decision, the Economic and Social Council decided:

"To request the Special Commission to consider, in the context of the in-depth study, the relevant provisions of recommendation 2 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations".^{1/}
4. The third topic, because of its close relation to the ongoing process of reform in the United Nations system, is that of the experience of the regional commissions since 1977 with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on decentralization.

^{1/} See Report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

A. Recommendation 8: the intergovernmental machinery

5. With regard to the simplification and rationalization of the ESCWA intergovernmental machinery, the ministerial meeting of the Commission sees no need for modification of its present structure. The ESCWA intergovernmental machinery consists only of its annually held ministerial meeting and that of its Technical Committee. This structure meets the present needs of the Commission and the two bodies in question provide the necessary guidance for the work of the secretariat, the role and structure of which is in direct conformity with the programme of work and priorities determined by member States.

6. With regard to the channels through which its recommendations are communicated to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the ministerial meeting is of the view that they function in a satisfactory manner, at least in so far as the Economic and Social Council is concerned. Often, however, the submission of Economic and Social Council resolutions to the General Assembly and its Main Committees leads to the exclusion of key elements from recommendations adopted by the Assembly, particularly as they relate to matters falling within the purview of the Fifth Committee. The Commission's ministerial meeting proposes that the authority of the regional commissions to take decisions at the intergovernmental level should be reinforced and that their involvement in the key programme and budget planning processes of the United Nations should be systematically increased.

B. Recommendation 2: frequency and duration of meetings of intergovernmental bodies

7. The fourteenth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, meeting at the ministerial level, addressed this topic and decided that the regular sessions of the Commission and the meetings of its Technical Committee should be held on a biennial basis instead of every year.

C. General Assembly resolution 32/197 (the "restructuring resolution") and the matter of decentralization

8. While there have clearly been major changes in the last 10 years in economic and social conditions in each of the regions served by the regional commissions, the ministerial meeting considers that there is ample evidence to support the continuing validity of the decentralization provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197. In the case of the ESCWA region, the Commission's programmes have constantly evolved in response to the needs of member States and changing circumstances. The increasing multi-disciplinary and intersectoral nature of the Commission's work programme, as exemplified in its draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995, will enable it to play a more relevant and more integrative role in economic development and co-operation in the region. Like the other regional commissions, ESCWA works in close day-to-day co-operation with the countries of the region. This close relationship has, over the years, endowed the Commission with a unique knowledge of the countries of the region and of their problems and priorities, and it has become a depository of information and experience which enable it to provide rapid and appropriate assistance to those countries.

9. In the light of the foregoing, the ministerial meeting reaffirms the principles embodied in General Assembly resolution 32/197 as they relate to the increasing potential of the United Nations system to act at the regional level.

10. The ministerial meeting further considers that there is every reason to promote the necessary concomitant of any successful decentralization, namely the proper delegation of authority from Headquarters to the regional centres, subject to the required controls, in order to enable them to administer and manage their operations and support activities with the greatest possible efficiency.

11. The current financial crisis has highlighted the fact that an unacceptably high percentage of the Organization's resources has, for many years, been spent on management and support services. It is the experience of the Commission that this is partly due to the fact that decentralization has not resulted in the creation of core bureaucracies in the new offices with a concomitant reduction in central administrative staff, but has instead led to the creation of parallel bureaucracies whose principal function is to provide checks and balances on each other.

12. It is the judgement of the ministerial meeting that this situation is not the result of too much delegation of authority but, on the contrary, of insufficient or incomplete delegation of such authority and of the failure to develop the controls and procedures that would ensure its judicious exercise. It therefore also believes that, in an era of expanded communications, it will be only when the United Nations begins to operate as a genuine global institution and takes advantage of technologies that allow organizations of a universal character to function efficiently that it will be able to simplify its administrative machinery and reduce the cost of its operations without losing control of them.

Annex I

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF ITS FIFTH SESSION

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The Committee considered the agenda before it in document E/ESCWA/C.1/14/1 and reached the following conclusions:

Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission:
progress made in the implementation of the work programme
(Agenda item 6(a))

2. The Committee took note of the progress made in 1986 in the implementation of the work programme for the biennium 1986-1987 and expressed its satisfaction at the performance rate achieved despite the high vacancy rate. It approved the modifications to the work programme proposed by the Executive Secretary and expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by the secretariat in that regard. It recommended that there should be increased co-operation between the Commission and regional and subregional organizations with a view to avoiding duplication.

Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission:
follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission
(Agenda item 6(b))

3. The Committee took note of the follow-up action taken by the secretariat on the resolutions of the Commission and made the recommendations contained in paragraphs 4 to 7 below.

(iv) Commission resolution 144(XIII) on the filling
of vacancies in the secretariat

4. The Committee gave renewed emphasis to Commission resolution 144(XIII), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1986/59, expressed its support for the measures taken by ESCWA with a view to filling vacancies, and continued to stress the need to exempt ESCWA from the recruitment freeze, given that it cannot be accorded the same treatment as other United Nations offices and departments since it has yet to obtain the full staffing required if it is to implement its programmes effectively and make its impact felt on the development of the region.

(v) Commission resolution 145(XIII) on the economic and social conditions
of the Palestinian Arab people under occupation

5. The Committee recommended continued action in the spirit of this resolution, and provision to members and interested bodies of the studies and publications issued on the matter.

(vi) Commission resolution 146(XIII) on the general study of
the economic and social situation and potential
of the Palestinian people

6. The Committee endorsed the publication in 1987, in an economic series and a social series, of the individual parts of the study already approved.

(viii) Commission resolution 148(XIII) on the interregional
consultation on developmental social welfare
policies and programmes

7. The Committee approved the introduction to document E/ESCWA/C.1/14/5/Add.8, setting out the general framework for developmental social welfare policies and programmes, and reconsideration of the full study and the summary thereof contained in the annex to that document and its revision by the secretariat after soliciting the views of member countries in order to take account of the interests of labour-receiving and labour-sending countries in an objective, scientific and balanced manner.

(xi) Commission resolution 152(XIII) on the request for
the relocation of the Commission

8. The Committee took note of the ongoing negotiations between the secretariat and the Government of the host country and expressed the hope that they would facilitate the task of the relocation of the secretariat to other premises without incurring any cost to the United Nations as a result and without disrupting the work of the Commission. There will be consultation between the Government of the host country and the secretariat on the relocation of the Baghdad International School to a suitable new site. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Iraqi Government for the facilities it continued to provide to the Commission.

(xii) Commission resolution 153(XIII) on the amendment
of the provisional rules of procedure
of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

9. The Committee approved the amendment of rule 1(a) of the Commission's rules of procedure so that the Commission would normally hold its session on a biennial basis, instead of every year, at a time to be determined by the members of the Commission.

Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world
conferences and ESCWA regional meetings
(Agenda item 7)

10. The Committee approved all of the recommendations made by the intergovernmental meetings organized by ESCWA at the regional level, namely:

(a) The Intergovernmental Technical Meeting on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;

(b) The Second Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region;

(c) The Intergovernmental Technical Meeting on Food Security.

It made the following recommendations:

(a) That an expert group meeting should be convened on an information network relating to new and renewable sources of energy, which the Government of Iraq was prepared to host;

(b) That the draft resolution introduced by certain members on the strengthening of national household survey capabilities should be approved;

(c) That ESCWA should endeavour to secure the necessary funding for the preparation of a methodological handbook on external migration statistics in the region;

(d) That there should be increased co-ordination with all international and inter-Arab organizations on the matter of radioactively or otherwise contaminated foodstuffs in order to prevent their delivery to consumers in the region.

Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations
(Agenda item 8)

11. The Committee took note of the endeavours and activities of the secretariat to promote co-operation among developing countries and international and regional organizations, expressed its great appreciation for the efforts made by ESCWA in that domain and recommended that co-operation with regional organizations should be reinforced and action taken to ensure its continuance.

Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989
(Agenda item 9)

12. The Committee discussed the document in question and a number of representatives made detailed observations and suggestions with regard to the items contained in the work programme. The Executive Secretary expressed his appreciation for their remarks and suggestions and stated that the secretariat would endeavour to give them practical application within the limits of the restrictions imposed upon it. The Committee commended the efforts made by the secretariat in the preparation of the draft programme of work and priorities and adopted it subject to the observations made by members.

13. The Committee noted with appreciation the institutional support provided in the past to the Commission's Environment programme by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and took note of the move on the part of UNEP to discontinue that support, which represented the total amount of the resources available to the Commission's Environmental Co-ordination Unit at a time when the United Nations was undergoing a financial crisis that would prevent it from providing such support in the immediate future. It recommended that the Executive Secretary should strive to ensure the continuation of the institutional support of UNEP to the Unit during the biennium 1988-1989.

Draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995
(Agenda item 10)

14. The Committee considered the draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995: general framework and priorities, and representatives made preliminary observations thereon, as reflected in part II of the present report, commended the efforts made in its preparation and called for the plan to be brought into line with the economic situation of the region and its development potential. They made the following provisos:

(a) That the introduction should contain a brief analysis of the progress made and of the inherent potential and the efforts made by member countries to utilize it, while acknowledging that the present situation falls short of aspirations in that petroleum continues to play a fundamental role in the development process in most of the countries of the region;

(b) That it should take account of the need to embody a greater degree of complementarity with the plans of individual countries on the one hand and to be in harmony with the aspirations of the countries of the region for economic integration on the other;

(c) That it should stress the significance of the exceptional circumstances of the countries of the region and their impact on economic activity and development programmes, particularly those stemming from continuing Israeli aggression and Israeli occupation of Arab territory, the continuation of the war between Iran and Iraq and events in Lebanon.

15. The Committee approved the plan in principle and requested its submission to member countries so that they might, within two months, express their views thereon and on the manner in which it might complement the plans of individual countries.

16. The Committee adopted a draft resolution on the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.

Discussion of the items on the provisional agenda of the
ministerial meeting of the fourteenth session
of the Commission
(Agenda item 11)

17. The Committee approved the draft agenda contained in document E/ESCWA/14/L.1 as the provisional agenda for the ministerial meeting of the fourteenth session of the Commission.

Other matters
(Agenda item 12)

(a) Quorum for the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

18. The Committee approved the proposal of the secretariat contained in document E/ESCWA/C.1/14/10/Rev.1 that debate at intergovernmental meetings should be allowed to proceed when one third of the members were present but that the presence of a majority would be required for any decision to be taken.

(b) In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social sectors

19. The Committee took note of the contents of document E/ESCWA/C.1/14/11.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS
FOURTEENTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/14/1/Rev.1	3	Agenda
E/ESCWA/14/L.1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/14/2/Rev.1	4	Organization of work
E/ESCWA/14/3/Rev.1	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 fourteenth session of the Commission Note by the Executive Secretary
E/ESCWA/14/4	6	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission
E/ESCWA/14/5/Rev.1 E/ESCWA/C.1/14/12/Rev.1	7	Report of the Technical Committee on the work of its fifth session
E/ESCWA/14/6/Rev.1	8	Draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995
E/ESCWA/14/7	9	Developmental social welfare issues: (a) Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes: Note by the Executive Secretary
E/ESCWA/14/8 and Corr.1	9	(b) United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons: Note by the Executive Secretary
E/ESCWA/14/9	10	Financial status of the Commission's programmes: Regular programme budget of the Commission: Note by the Executive Secretary
E/ESCWA/14/9/Add.1	10	Financial status of the Commission's programmes: Extrabudgetary resources supporting the Commission's programme
E/ESCWA/14/9/Add.2	10	Financial status of the Commission's programmes: Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/14/10	11	Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region (Commission resolution 119(X)): Impact of return migration on selected labour-sending countries in the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/14/12	13	Report on the fourteenth session
E/ESCWA/14/INF.1 and Corr.1	-	Information for participants
E/ESCWA/14/INF.2/Rev.1	-	List of documents
E/ESCWA/14/INF.3/Rev.1	-	List of participants

Annex III

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

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/AGR/85/5	Assessment of Trained Manpower Needs in Agricultural Planning and Project Analysis in Iraq.
E/ESCWA/AGR/85/8	Red Meat, Poultry Meat and Eggs: Situation and Outlook in the ESCWA Region.
E/ESCWA/AGR/86/1	Resource Conservation and Watershed Management in Wadi Manshiyah, Magrib Ans District, Yemen Arab Republic.
E/ESCWA/AGR/86/4	National Rangelands Development Project in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
E/ESCWA/DPD/85/11	Exports of Manufactures and Semi-manufactures from the Syrian Arab Republic: Trends, Problems and Prospects.
E/ESCWA/DPD/85/11/Supp.1	Exports of Manufactures and Semi-manufactures from the Syrian Arab Republic: Performance of General Industrial Organizations in the Syrian Arab Republic.
E/ESCWA/DPD/86/1	Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1985.
E/ESCWA/DPD/86/2	Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1985 (Summary).
E/ESCWA/DPD/86/3	Trade and Economic Co-operation between the ESCWA Countries and the Socialist Countries of Eastern Europe, with Particular Reference to Bulgaria, 1975 to 1984.
E/ESCWA/DPD/86/4	Statistical Developments in the External Sector of the ESCWA Region: Intraregional Trade and Trade with Other Developing Regions, 1975 - 1985.
E/ESCWA/DPD/86/6	Growth of Development Finance Institutions and Financial Resource Needs in Selected ESCWA Countries (Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen).
E/ESCWA/DPD/86/7	Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia, 1984 - 1985.
E/ESCWA/DPD/86/8	Review of Fiscal, Monetary and Banking Developments and Trends in the ESCWA Region, 1985.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/ECU/86/2	Strengthening the Capabilities of Environmental Laboratories in the ESCWA Region.
E/ESCWA/ECU/87/2	Report on Industrial Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Asia
E/ESCWA/HS/86/1	The Human Settlements Situation in Kuwait: Country Profile.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/WG.1/18	Seminar on Small-scale Solar and Wind Technologies for Remote Rural Areas in the ESCWA Region, Amman, 29 November - 3 December 1986: Final Report.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/5	Report on the Infrastructure Required to Disseminate Mature Solar and Wind Technologies in Selected Countries: Part I: The State of the Art.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/5/Add.1	Report on the Infrastructure Required to Disseminate Mature Solar and Wind Technologies in Selected Countries: Part II: Solar and Wind Technologies for the ESCWA Region.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/5/Add.2	Report on the Infrastructure Required to Disseminate Mature Solar and Wind Technologies in Selected Countries: Part III: The Potential Market for Solar Water Heaters in the ESCWA Region: The Case of Egypt.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/5/Add.3	Report on the Infrastructure Required to Disseminate Mature Solar and Wind Technologies in Selected Countries: Part IV: The Potential Market for Solar Water Heaters in the ESCWA Region: The Case of Jordan.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/5/Add.4	Report on the Infrastructure Required to Disseminate Mature Solar and Wind Technologies in Selected Countries: Part V: Wind Energy in Jordan.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/7	Report on the Activities of United Nations Organs, Organizations and Bodies in the Field of Science and Technology for Development in Jordan, 1982 - 1985.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/9	Technology Policies in the Arab States: Proceedings of a Seminar Organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Co-operation with UNESCO, Paris, 14 - 18 December 1981.
E/ESCWA/NR/86/10	Energy Conservation in the Housing Sector of the ESCWA Region.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
_____	<u>Agriculture and Development in Western Asia, No. 9, 1986.</u>
_____	<u>Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1986.</u>
_____	<u>External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWEA Region, 4th issue, 1986.</u>
_____	<u>Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 1975 - 1984, 9th issue, 1986.</u>
_____	<u>National Accounts Studies, bulletin No. 8, 1986 (Gross Domestic Product and National Disposable Income in the ESCWA Countries).</u>
_____	<u>Population Bulletin of ESCWA, No. 28, 1986.</u>
