



UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
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Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE
COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION**

- (xi) Resolution 176(XV) on international assistance
to the flood-stricken areas of Democratic Yemen*

* on 22 May 1990, the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen merged to form a single sovereign state called the Republic of Yemen.

On 3 April 1989, the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen made a request for urgent aid to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) through its ambassador in Iraq. ESCWA responded by immediately organizing a four-day mission to Aden for a social affairs officer to consult with the UNDP resident Representative and the concerned government officials, in order to make a preliminary assessment of the situation resulting from the floods and heavy rains. The representative of ESCWA arrived in Aden on 20 April 1989 and held discussions with a large number of relevant government officials and with the UNDP Representative. From these discussions and on the basis of available information, a brief report (E/ESCWA/C.1/15/12) was drafted and presented to the fifteenth session of ESCWA, which was convened in Baghdad from 13 to 18 May 1989. This report showed that the torrential rains were unprecedented, even compared with those of 1982, and asked that resolution 107(IX) of 11 May 1982 entitled "International Assistance to the Flood-Stricken Areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen" be reactivated, and that an appeal to intensified efforts from the international community be urgently made.

Following these recommendations, a resolution entitled "International Assistance to the Flood-Stricken Areas of Democratic Yemen", resolution 176(XV), was adopted during the fifteenth session of ESCWA. This resolution requests the Executive Secretary of ESCWA to formulate a programme, in accordance with available resources, with a view to assisting in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas in Democratic Yemen, and to seek financing for this programme from the concerned funding agencies.

ESCWA planned in 1990 to set up a joint multi-disciplinary team composed of professionals from various relevant divisions. This team was scheduled to spend a period of two weeks in Democratic Yemen, during which time it was to make a thorough assessment of the situation resulting from the floods and rains. The assessment was to include a review of the damage caused to humans, dwellings as well as private and public buildings, livestock, irrigation works, crops, water-wheels and other rural infrastructure, canals, roads, dams, etc.. The team was required to estimate precisely the needs of the country in terms of both immediate financial aid and long-term assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the devastated areas. Furthermore, the team was also requested to suggest further action to be undertaken by ESCWA in order to participate in this rehabilitation process. Unfortunately, due to the Gulf crisis and subsequent temporary repatriation of ESCWA staff members, the planned team was never sent to the country.