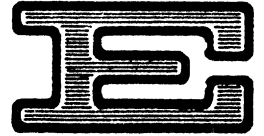
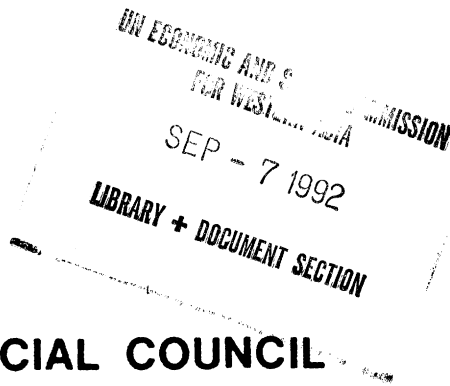




EIA



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Distr.  
GENERAL  
E/ESCWA/16/8  
21 June 1992  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION**

**FOR WESTERN ASIA**

Sixteenth session

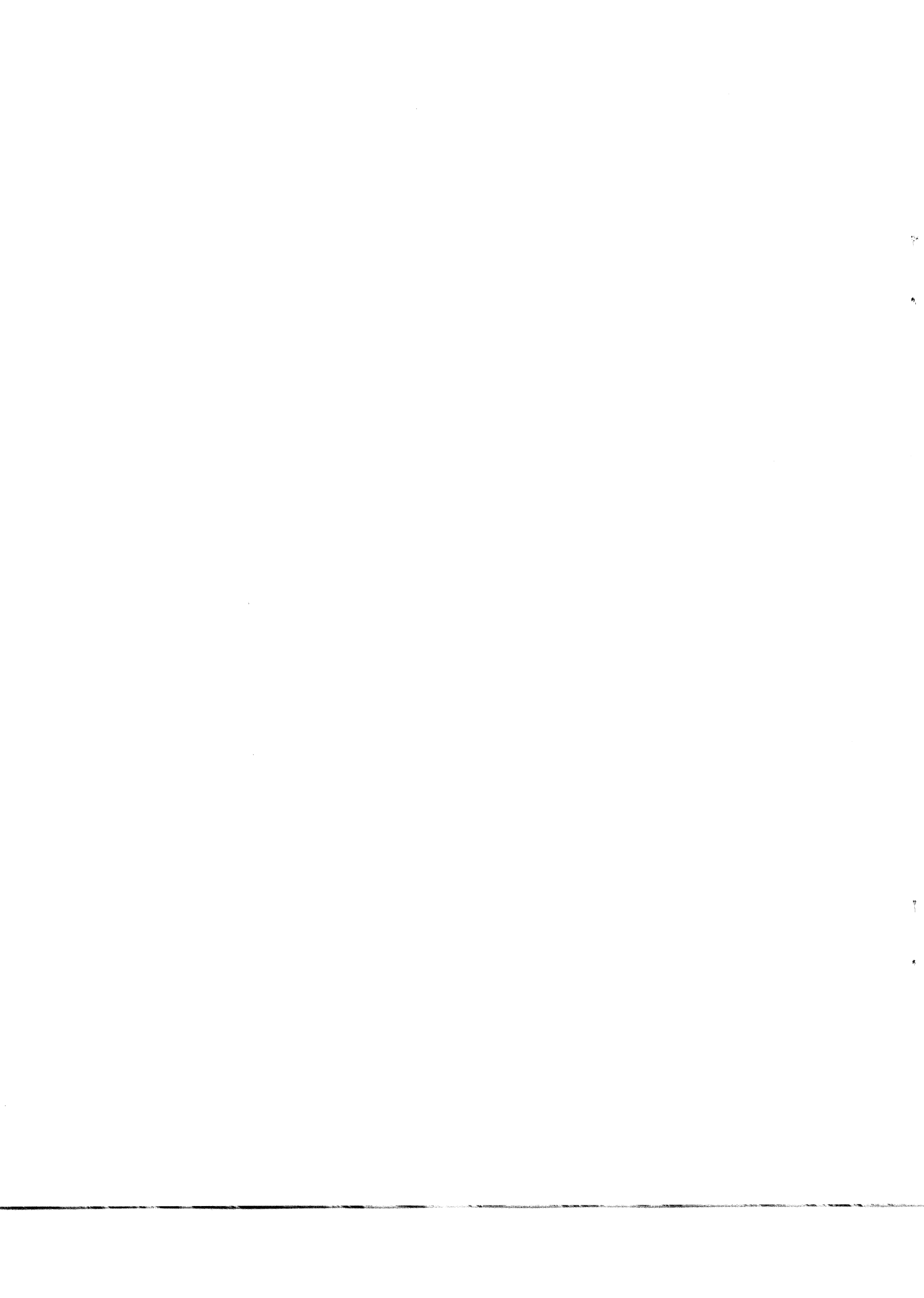
30 August - 3 September 1992

Amman

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993**

Note by the Executive Secretary



The programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 was prepared on the basis of the strategies and objectives outlined in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Continuing activities still relevant to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 were sustained. Other activities were introduced to address such recent major events in the region as the Gulf crisis and other armed conflicts and their effects on social and economic development, the prospects of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement and its implications for various sectors of the economy in the member States concerned, and policy issues arising from the unification of the two Yemens.

The major aspects of the first two issues will be addressed during three multidisciplinary meetings comprising several ESCWA subprogrammes. The first meeting will consider the regional implications of a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question; the second will cover the reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-damaged countries in the region; and the third will discuss the implications of return migration caused by the recent crisis in the region, with special reference to unemployment.

Several aspects of the Gulf crisis and its implications will be explored further through in-depth studies to be undertaken by various subprogrammes -- mainly, industrial development, population, social development and welfare, and women and development. The development issues and policies subprogramme will tackle the conceptual framework and guidelines for activities relating to wealth, poverty, and income distribution, all of which are issues requiring attention after the recent events in the region.

Other emerging issues, such as the prospects for economic cooperation in the region in the light of recent dramatic developments, will be studied under the international trade and development finance programme.

Finally, some of the effects of the protracted civil war in Lebanon and those of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the agricultural sectors in both Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories will be studied by the food and agriculture subprogramme, which will focus on certain aspects of rehabilitation in the area of agriculture.

Other programme activities in the 1992-1993 programme budget were included as a result of the interdisciplinary and pragmatic approach taken in the preparation of the said budget; approximately 45 meetings, seminars, symposiums, regular workshops and training workshops have been planned. The main purpose behind arranging a large spectrum of meetings was to highlight the practical aspect of the work programme instead of concentrating on purely academic work. These meetings, workshops, etc., have been designed to serve as a platform for dialogue and for proposals for action, and should further encourage the linking of research results with more concrete steps.

Another salient feature of the 1992-1993 programme budget is the addition of a new subprogramme, women and development, whose activities were formerly conducted under the social development and welfare subprogramme. The separate status granted to this subprogramme is attributable to the growing importance

of the role of women in society, especially in the trouble-ridden ESCWA region, where the family is facing ever-increasing pressures triggered by unstable conditions.

Another addition to the 1992-1993 programme budget is the reinstatement of mineral resources development activities. These activities were stopped in the early 1980s, but have now been resumed, owing to the significance of mineral resources to the region. Regional and subregional cooperation in this area will be highlighted, along with promoting, exploring and exploiting mineral resources, and improving management and introducing new techniques in the mining sector.

Maximum restraint was exercised in the allocation of financial resources; the total rate of real growth over the revalued base in 1991 did not exceed two per cent. In the area of human resources, the following redeployment of posts among subprogrammes was proposed to strengthen priority areas or priority activities that warrant additional resources:

(a) One Professional at a P-4 level from the science and technology subprogramme to the natural resources subprogramme, to undertake activities connected with the newly reinstated activities related to mineral resources development;

(b) One Professional at a P-3 level from the transport and communications subprogramme to the environment subprogramme (which has only one Professional), owing to the mounting significance of environmental issues in the region and in the world at large;

(c) One Professional at a P-2 level from Programme Support to the population subprogramme, to assist in studying issues related to population movements in the region and their implications for labour, migration, unemployment and human resources development. This has been necessitated by the drastic consequences of military conflicts and protracted wars, which have given rise to considerable demographic movement within and among several countries of the region;

(d) One regional adviser from the food and agriculture subprogramme to the development issues and policies subprogramme, since the promotion of economic development, in cooperation with member States, is one of the seminal activities of the secretariat, and since issues relating to development, reconstruction and planning are carried out under this subprogramme;

(e) Four General Service posts from Programme Support to substantive divisions.

The format and presentation of the 1992-1993 programme budget differs from previous ones. A new, streamlined format has been adopted system-wide, whereby the subprogrammes are categorized into types of activities, not outputs. Further, delivery dates for activities are no longer expressed in term quarters. The new format is more comprehensive in its coverage of activities undertaken, which is likely to facilitate thorough reporting on progress made in the implementation of these activities.

Finally, it is worth noting that, owing to the circumstances in the ESCWA region, the preparation of the 1992-1993 programme budget was delayed for one year; it had to be reviewed by the pertinent bodies at United Nations Headquarters in New York before being approved by the Commission's legislative body (i.e., ESCWA's sixteenth session), since convening the session had to be postponed until 1992. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee therefore took note of the programme budget, which is now subject to review by member States.

