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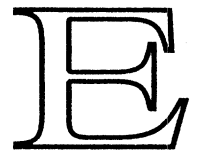
**Seventeenth session**  
**29-31 May 1994**  
**Amman**

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
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12 MAY 1994  
LIBRARY & DOCUMENT SECTION

**DRAFT REVISION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND  
PRIORITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995**

Note by the Executive Secretary



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**DRAFT REVISION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND**  
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Corrigendum

Page 8

Line 18: for Preparations for the first Arab preparatory meeting read Preparations for Arab preparatory meetings

Line 19: for (first quarter, 1994) read (first and third quarters, 1994)

Page 9, line 25

For (second quarter, read (third quarter,

Page 10

Line 12: for (m) Proceedings of the four expert group meetings read (m) Proceedings of the expert group meeting

Line 15: for (n) Proceedings of the Preparatory Committee meeting read (n) Proceedings of the expert group meeting

Lines 36-38 should read: (c) Expert group meeting in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (third quarter, 1994) (RB/XB), in cooperation with LAS (ALO, ALECSO and AFESD), AGFUND, UNDP AND ILO;

Page 11

Line 5: for (f) Regional Preparatory Committee meeting read (f) Regional expert group meeting

Lines 16-18: item (a) should read: (a) Newsletter on human settlements in the Arab world, jointly undertaken with Habitat and the League of Arab States (every four months, starting fourth quarter, 1994);

Line 20: for design methods read design techniques

Page 12, lines 18-19

Delete item (c)

Page 15, lines 14-15

Delete former title of item (h), which should read: (h) Trade policy aspects of environmental measures in countries of Western Asia (fourth quarter, 1995);

## INTRODUCTION

The revised programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 has been streamlined into thematic subprogrammes in an attempt to create a critical mass for ESCWA activities, which is one of the primary concerns that underline the restructuring of ESCWA programmes.

Hence, in the initial programme of work, activities which addressed interrelated issues may have been dispersed among the 15 substantive subprogrammes carried out by ESCWA. In the revised submission, the ESCWA secretariat has endeavoured to regroup activities under the following five thematic subprogrammes, as follows.

### **Thematic Subprogramme 1. Management of Natural Resources and Environment**

Under this subprogramme fall the following activities:

- (a) Most of those of the energy, water and environment activities;
- (b) Some of the agricultural activities related to the management of land and environment;
- (c) Some of the human settlements activities related to energy and environment;
- (d) Some of the industry activities related to environment and energy;
- (e) Statistics on energy and environment.

### **Thematic Subprogramme 2. Improvement of the Quality of Life**

Under this subprogramme fall the following activities:

- (a) All social development, population, women, and human settlements activities;
- (b) Some of the agricultural activities related to rural development;
- (c) Some of the industry activities related to small-scale industries and participation of women in manufacturing industries, and employment opportunities through small-scale industries;
- (d) Statistics on population, labour, women, human development, and social development.

### **Thematic Subprogramme 3. Economic Development and Cooperation**

Under this subprogramme fall the following activities:

- (a) All development issues, and trade, public administration, finance and transnational corporations activities;
- (b) Most of the activities on industry, technology and transport;

- (c) Most of the activities on agriculture;
- (d) Statistics on national accounts, finance and industry.

#### **Thematic Subprogramme 4. Regional Development and Global Changes**

Under this subprogramme fall the following activities:

All those dealing with the impact of the single European market, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), privatization, some of the transnational corporations and relevant global events as well as some activities relating to the quality of life (the social impact of structural adjustments).

#### **Thematic Subprogramme 5. Special Issues**

Under this subprogramme fall the following activities:

All those dealing with Palestine, Yemen as a least developed country (LDC), countries affected by wars, the impact of the peace settlement on the region and other relevant emerging events.

The main objective of this revision was to promote a multidisciplinary approach to the planning and implementation of the majority of activities envisaged by ESCWA, to rationalize resources, and to create greater impact through the consolidation of the multiple facets of numerous activities.

The five thematic subprogrammes will be implemented through specialized task forces/working groups by six substantive ESCWA organizational units (divisions), namely:

- (a) The Economic Development Issues and Policy Analysis Division;
- (b) The Social Development Issues and Policy Analysis Division;
- (c) The Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division;
- (d) The Industry, Technology and Transport Division;
- (e) The Joint FAO/ESCWA Food and Agriculture Division;
- (f) The Statistics and Information Services and Support Division.

The division which is most relevant to a specific core activity will act as the coordinator of the relevant task force or working group.

The area of statistics is considered cross-thematic; thus it will service the statistical needs of all the relevant subprogrammes. The substantive preparations for databases (selection of indicators) will be initiated jointly by the Statistics and Information Services Support Division and by the concerned substantive divisions, with the collection and compilation carried out by the Statistics Division. The analysis of the data will naturally take

place in the substantive divisions. This division of labour will take place in accordance with a work plan adopted by the divisions concerned.

It should be noted that, contrary to previous practice, whereby human and financial resources were allocated to subprogrammes, resources will henceforth be pooled from various substantive subprogrammes to implement activities that fall under the five core themes that constitute the framework for all ESCWA activities.

However, the programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 does not yet reflect the full thrust of the restructuring of ESCWA programmes in terms of the creation of a fully consolidated critical mass of activities. Naturally, the current programme of work still contains former activities whose classification under the designated core themes may seem to be somewhat redundant. This is mainly attributable to the fact that some activities initiated in the programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 need to be completed in the programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995. Thus previous commitments have been made to implement a number of such activities. The current revised programme of work should be viewed as a transitional work programme with vestiges and flaws of the former programming process. However, it is hoped that this transition will lead to a fully coordinated programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 which will be conceived along the designated thematic lines.

Needless to say, this revised programme of work is based on the second revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was also reorganized in line with the thematic subprogrammes outlined herein.

**THEMATIC SUBPROGRAMME 1. MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

The activities to be carried under this subprogramme will focus on promoting regional and subregional cooperation in the development of natural resources. Special emphasis will be placed on establishing statistical databases on energy and environment, assisting in the formulation of policies and measures for the proper management of natural resources (land, water and energy), promoting the application of environmentally sound technologies for the development of water and energy resources in the region and enhancing regional capacities in environment impact assessment.

1. International cooperation

External relations

Activities will be coordinated with the secretariat of the League of Arab States and its affiliated organizations such as the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD); and the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD). Close cooperation and regular contacts will also be maintained with regional and international entities such as the World Bank, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the International Energy Agency, the World Energy Council, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Forum, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the International Institute for System Analysis, the Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe, the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region and other regional and international organizations concerned with the implementation of Agenda 21.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

Reports to the Commission will be submitted on the following:

(a) Introduction of appropriate mechanisms to promote regional cooperation in the water sector (first quarter, 1995);

(b) Regional approach on energy efficiency (first quarter, 1995);

(c) Progress made in the ESCWA plan to implement Agenda 21 in the region, for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development (second quarters, 1994 and 1995);

(d) Report on technical assistance project on an investigative study of shared basalt aquifers in the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan (German Trust Fund) (fourth quarter, 1995).

(b) Substantive services

(a) Participation in the Commission on Sustainable Development (first quarters, 1994 and 1995);

- (b) Participation in the Committee on Natural Resources (1994);
- (c) Participation in the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources (1994 and 1995);
- (d) Participation in the Fifth Arab Energy Conference (1994);
- (e) Participation in the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (1995);
- (f) Participation in the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (1994 and 1995);
- (g) Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment and Ministerial-level Conference on Environment (1994 and 1995);
- (h) Participation in the Committee for Science and Technology for Development (1995);
- (i) Inputs into reports of the Secretary-General, report to the Economic and Social Council and reports of other United Nations organizations as required (continuous).

### 3. Published material

#### (a) Recurrent publications

ESCWA Energy Bulletin (fourth quarter, 1995).

#### (b) Non-recurrent publications

(a) Identification of key indicators for monitoring the sustainability of development (third quarter, 1995);

(b) Environment impact assessment in selected sectors in the ESCWA region (third quarter, 1995);

(c) Formulation of resources conservation strategy in two ESCWA countries (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995);

(d) Wildlife conservation for sustainable development in Arab countries (fourth quarter, 1994);

(e) Assessment of development of the fisheries sector in selected ESCWA countries (third quarters, 1994 and 1995);

(f) Assessment of water quality including formulation of recommendations for tackling issues related to sea water intrusion (third quarter, 1995);

(g) Analytical study of recent projects on the development of oil and natural gas in selected ESCWA countries, including review of training programmes on drilling and assessment of reserves (first quarter, 1995);



(h) Study on promoting the use of cleaner industrial production technologies in selected ESCWA countries with emphasis on oil and gas-related industries (second quarter, 1995);

(i) Techno-economic aspects of the application of new materials in the ESCWA region, with specific relation to composites and ceramics (fourth quarter, 1995);

(j) Report on activities in the ESCWA region related to the protection of the ozone layer (second quarter, 1994).

(c) Technical material

(a) Development of a database on energy (continuous);

(b) Development of a database on environment (continuous).

4. Ad hoc expert groups

(a) Solar thermal and photovoltaic systems (fourth quarter, 1994);

(b) Application of remote sensing and isotope technology for water resources exploration and development in the ESCWA region (third quarter, 1995);

(c) Environmental impact assessment (fourth quarter, 1995);

(d) Techno-economic aspects of the application of composites and ceramics in the ESCWA region (fourth quarter, 1995).

5. Operational activities

(a) Group training

Training workshop on remote sensing techniques (third quarter, 1995).

(b) Field project

Investigation study on shared basalt aquifers in the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan (German Trust Fund) (fourth quarter, 1995) (XB).

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Coordination of activities is envisaged with the other regional commissions, the Department of Development Support and Management Services, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), especially the Committee for Science and Technology, the Food and Agriculture Organization

of the United Nations (FAO), and its affiliated organizations, especially the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the United Nations University, and United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Natural Resources and Renewable Sources of Energy, the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, and other regional and international organizations concerned with regional and global environmental issues and the implementation of Agenda 21.

## THEMATIC SUBPROGRAMME 2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE

The interdisciplinary and intersectoral activities to be carried under this subprogramme will focus on different aspects that would lead to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of the region. Special emphasis will be placed on the development of statistical databases on population, women, labour, human development and social conditions. In addition, textual databases will be introduced for the first time in order to monitor policies and measures related to population, human development, social progress, women and human settlements. This subprogramme will also address for the first time issues related to human development and the implementation of its concepts in national development. It will focus on preparation for the International Year of the Family (1994), the World Summit for Social Development (1995), the Fourth World Conference for Women (1995) and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (1996). The subprogramme will also focus on the three core themes of the World Summit for Social Development: alleviation and reduction of poverty, expansion of productive employment and enhancement of social integration in addition to the fourth core theme adopted for the ESCWA region, the cultural dimension of development as well as the core themes of Habitat II, namely, urbanization and adequate shelter. Community development, with particular emphasis on rural development, will be addressed through research and operational activities. Finally, dissemination of information to end-users on trends, data and indicators to monitor improvements in the quality of life will be a continuous activity in this subprogramme.

### 1. International Cooperation

#### External relations

Coordination will be strengthened with the relevant bodies of the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies, especially the Arab Labour Organization, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), and the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing and Reconstruction, and other regional organizations such as the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND); the Arab Women's Center for Training and Research at Tunis (AWCTAR); the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Welfare Association and other relevant regional and international non-governmental organizations.

### 2. Parliamentary services

#### (a) Parliamentary documentation

Reports to the Commission on:

(a) Technical assistance activities on the improvement of the quality of life in the areas of (fourth quarter, 1995):

- (i) Human development;
- (ii) Women and development;
- (iii) Human settlements development.

(b) Preparations for regional preparatory meetings for world conferences, as follows (fourth quarter, 1994):

- (i) The Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit for Social Development;
- (ii) The Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women;
- (iii) The regional preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(c) Follow-up action on the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995).

(b) Substantive services

(a) Preparations for the Arab Declaration for Social Development, to be presented to the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs (fourth quarter, 1994);

(b) Preparations for the first Arab preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (first quarter, 1995);

(c) Participation in the 1994 ad hoc expert group meeting on demographic estimates and projections;

(d) Participation in the preparatory meetings for the following international conferences:

- (i) World Summit for Social Development;
- (ii) Fourth World Conference on Women;
- (iii) Habitat II;

(e) Participation in the United Nations Commissions on Population, Social Development, Status of Women and Human Settlements;

(f) Participation in the ACC Task Force on Rural Development and Desertification (1994 and 1995);

(g) Inputs into reports of the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations organizations as required (continuous).

3. Published material

(a) Recurrent publications

(a) Analysis of demographic and related socio-economic indicators (fourth quarter, 1995) (biennial);

(b) Population and social development bulletin (third quarters, 1994 and 1995) (annual);

(c) Survey of the social situation in Western Asia (third quarter, 1995) (biennial);

(d) Studies on human development in the Arab world (third quarter, 1994 and 1995, in collaboration with UNDP) (XB);

(e) Studies on Arab women and development (third quarters, 1994 and 1995);

(f) Directory of Arab professional women in the field of technical cooperation among developing countries: update (fourth quarter, 1995);

(g) Arab women: trends and statistics (fourth quarter, 1995).

(b) Non-recurrent publications

(a) Poverty in Western Asia: extent and measures for its alleviation (fourth quarter, 1995), including:

(i) Population dynamics and poverty;

(ii) Poverty; unemployment and underemployment;

(iii) Impact of emergency situations and crises in the region on Arab women: the feminization of poverty;

(iv) Crises, poverty and shelter;

(v) Policies and measures to reduce income disparities and alleviate poverty in selected ESCWA countries;

(b) Population policies: assessment of national population policies in the ESCWA region (third quarter, 1995) (RB/XB), in cooperation with the United Nations Population fund (UNFPA);

(c) Regional plan of action for women and development (second quarter, 1994);

(d) Participation of women in manufacturing industries: patterns, determinants and future trends in the ESCWA region in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women (fourth quarter, 1994);

(e) Disabled women in the ESCWA region: present situation and prospects for social integration (third quarter, 1994);

(f) Regional human settlements profile (fourth quarter, 1995);

(g) Technological and social aspects of upgrading and revitalizing settlements (fourth quarter, 1994);

(h) Assessment of institutional structures for planning and implementation of rural policies and programmes in two ESCWA countries (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995);

(i) Assessment and evaluation of agricultural extension/rural financial institutions in two ESCWA countries (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995) (two);

(j) Preparation of training material on rural finance and agricultural credit (first quarter, 1995);

(k) Proceedings of the Meeting of Experts on Unemployment in ESCWA Countries (second quarter, 1994) (XB);

(l) Proceedings of the expert group meeting on human development in the Arab world (fourth quarter, 1994);

(m) Proceedings of the four expert group meetings in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (second quarter, 1995), in collaboration with the League of Arab States, AFESD, UNDP and AGFUND;

(n) Proceedings of the Preparatory Committee meeting in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (third quarter, 1995);

(o) Proceedings of the expert group meeting on creation of indigenous entrepreneurship and opportunities for small and medium-scale industrial investment.

(c) Technical material

(a) Development and maintenance of databases on a continuous basis of:

- (i) Demographic estimates and projections;
- (ii) Bulletin on social statistics;
- (iii) Human development;
- (iv) Labour force;
- (v) Arab women: trends and statistics;

(b) Database on policies and measures covering population, human development, women and human settlements (on a continuous basis).

4. Ad hoc expert groups

(a) Demographic estimates and projection (second quarter, 1995);

(b) Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ninth World Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (second quarter, 1994) (in collaboration with the United Nations Office at Vienna);

(c) Four expert group meetings in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (third quarter, 1994) (RB/XB), in cooperation with AFESD;

(d) Policies and measures to reduce income disparities and alleviate poverty in selected ESCWA countries (fourth quarter, 1995);

(e) Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (fourth quarter, 1994);

(f) Regional Preparatory Committee meeting in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (fourth quarter, 1994);

(g) Expert Group Meeting on the Arab Family in a Changing Society (third quarter, 1994) (RB/XB);

(h) Women and development (third quarter, 1994) (RB/XB);

(i) Sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Arab world (fourth quarter, 1994) (RB/XB);

(j) Entrepreneurial and managerial skills under changing conditions (fourth quarter, 1995) (RB/XB).

#### 5. Information material and services

(a) Quarterly newsletter on human settlements in the Arab world, jointly undertaken with Habitat and the League of Arab States (starting from third quarter, 1994);

(b) Second phase of the competition on the theme of "The Autonomous Village, alternative human settlements planning and design methods": a meeting of jurors and selection of alternative human settlements planning and design (second quarter, 1994);

(c) Exhibition on environmentally sustainable settlement planning and design techniques (second quarter, 1995).

#### 6. Operational activities

##### (a) Advisory services

(a) Assisting Governments in preparing national human development reports (continuous), in collaboration with UNDP (XB);

(b) Backstopping of advisory services in social statistics and household surveys (continuous) (RB/XB);

(c) Strengthening planning and programming capabilities of relevant ministries, women's organizations and non-governmental organizations (continuous);

(d) Human settlements development, with particular reference to upgrading and revitalizing secondary settlements and deteriorated urban areas, and promotion of non-handicapping environment for disabled people (continuous).

(b) Group training

(a) Seminar on the role of the family in integrating disabled women into society (fourth quarter, 1994) (XB);

(b) Seminar on environmentally sustainable settlements (second quarter, 1995) (XB);

(c) Pilot workshop in Jordan on upgrading entrepreneurial skills of managers of small and medium industries under conditions of change (third quarter, 1994) (XB);

(d) Enhancing entrepreneurship capabilities of small and medium-size enterprises and efficient links with transnational corporations;

(e) Workshops on monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects (third quarters, 1994 and 1995) (XB) (two).

(c) Field projects

(a) Rural community development project (in coordination with ESCWA/FAO Agriculture Division and AGFUND) (XB);

(b) Women in community development (in cooperation with ESCWA/FAO Agriculture Division and AGFUND (fourth quarter, 1995);

(c) National training workshop on monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects (third quarter, 1995).

7. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Consultation, cooperation and liaison with relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system: FAO (in particular, the Regional Center on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Near East ([CARDNE]), UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Statistical Division, the World Bank, UNFPA, UNDP, the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), UNEP and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

**THEMATIC SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION**

The activities undertaken under this subprogramme will cover mainly the issues of economic development and regional economic cooperation, with special emphasis on: the annual Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region; review of developments in the external trade and payments situation, monetary, fiscal and financial sectors and foreign direct investment; review of recent development in other economic sectors (industry, agriculture, transport); statistical data of interest to the region including statistical abstracts, external trade, national accounts, and financial,

industrial and transport statistics; review of policies and measures in different economic sectors and the possibilities of coordination at the regional level; assisting in the promotion of large ongoing and planned regional projects, particularly in areas of interconnection of electrical power networks at the regional and interregional levels; and interregional coordination of multimodal transport.

## 1. International cooperation

### External relations

Liaison and cooperation will be maintained with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including the League of Arab States, and relevant affiliated organizations, especially AOAD, ACSAD, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, and the Standing Technical Committee on Statistics. Activities will also be coordinated with regional and international organization such as the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the Organization of the Islamic Conference, especially the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD) and the Islamic Development Bank; the Arab Federation for Food Industries; the Arab Union of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Medical Appliance Manufacturers; the World Bank; OPEC; OAPEC; CEDARE; ITU; the Council for Arab Economic Cooperation and its Statistical Committee; AFESD; the International Statistical Institute; as well as national and regional business organizations, dealing with issues relating to transnational corporations and foreign direct investment, including relevant issues stemming from the implementation of Agenda 21.

## 2. Parliamentary services

### (a) Parliamentary documentation

(a) Two reports to the Economic and Social Council on the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region and review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and the Survey (second quarters, 1994 and 1995);

(b) Follow-up action on the implementation of the ESCWA Transport and Communications Decade (second quarter, 1994);

(c) Six reports to the Statistical Commission on ESCWA statistical activities (third quarter, 1995).

### (b) Substantive services

(a) Inputs into the Secretary-General's reports, Economic and Social Council reports and reports to other United Nations bodies such as UNCTAD; the Trade and Development Board; the annual sessions of the Commission on Transnational Corporations; the United Nations Statistical Commission; the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities; and preparation for and participation in relevant United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and AIDMO meetings and conferences;



- (b) The Statistical Committee on ESCWA statistical activities;

3. Published material

(a) Recurrent publications

(a) Review of Recent Industrial Developments and Prospects in the ESCWA Region; (fourth quarter, 1995) (biennial);

(b) Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region and review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (second quarters, 1994 and 1995) (annual), which includes review and analysis of recent developments in the following (first quarters, 1994 and 1995):

- (i) Agriculture;
- (ii) Natural resources;
- (iii) Industrial developments and transport;
- (iv) Transnational corporations;
- (v) Social situation;

(c) Review of developments and issues in the external trade and payments situation of countries of Western Asia (second quarters, 1994 and 1995) (annual);

(d) Review of developments and trends in the monetary, fiscal and financial sectors in the economies of the ESCWA region (second quarters, 1994 and 1995) (annual);

(e) Agriculture and Development in Western Asia, Nos. 16 and 17 (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995) (annual);

(f) Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995) (annual);

(g) External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region (fourth quarter, 1994) (biennial);

(h) Bulletin of National Accounts (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995) (annual);

(i) Bulletin of Prices and Financial Statistics in the ESCWA Region 1995 (fourth quarter, 1995) (biennial);

(j) Bulletin of Industrial Statistics of the ESCWA Region, 1995 (fourth quarter, 1995) (biennial);

(k) Transport Bulletin (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995) (annual).

(b) Non-recurrent publications

(a) Proceedings of the West Asia Workshop on Strategies for Accelerating the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (third quarter, 1994);

(b) Proceedings of the Second Arab Conference on Perspectives of Modern Biotechnology (second quarter, 1994) (XB);

(c) Proceedings of the Workshop on the Implications of New and Advanced Materials Technologies for the Economies of ESCWA Countries (third quarter, 1994);

(d) Proceedings of the Workshop on Integration of Science and Technology in the Development Planning and Management Process in the ESCWA region (third quarter, 1994);

(e) Revitalization of research and development institutions in the ESCWA region (third quarter, 1995);

(f) Report on activities in the ESCWA region related to the protection of the ozone layer (second quarter, 1994);

(g) Prospects of a regional electricity network (fourth quarter, 1995);

(h) Impact of the changing international trade environment on agricultural trade in the Near East (fourth quarter, 1994);

(i) Management of public expenditure in selected ESCWA countries (third quarter, 1995);

(j) Country profiles on flow of goods, services and investment with China (1994);

(k) Subregional agricultural price and trade policies covering five ESCWA members: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territories, and the Syrian Arab Republic (fourth quarter, 1994);

(l) A subregional approach to integrated agricultural development (fourth quarter, 1995);

(m) Water policies and agriculture in the Near East region (third quarter, 1994);

(n) Port pricing model for the ESCWA region (third quarter, 1995);

(o) Development of free zones in Western Asia (third quarter, 1994);

(p) ESCWA regional strategy for multimodal transport development and training (first quarter, 1995);

(q) Marketing of agricultural products in Lebanon (second quarter, 1994);

(r) Farm data handbook for two ESCWA countries (second quarters, 1994 and 1995).

(c) Technical material

(a) Trade, investment and technology linkages, and implications for ESCWA countries (1995);

(b) Building up a regional database on transnational corporations operating in the region, and provision of such information to Governments, upon request.

#### 4. Ad hoc expert groups

(a) Intergovernmental meeting on enhancement of intraregional flows of goods and services and investment between countries of Western Asia (first quarter, 1995);

(b) Enhancement of interregional flows of goods, services and investment between China and the Arab world (fourth quarter, 1994);

(c) Management and sustainable development of dry lands in the Arab countries (third quarter, 1994) (RB/XB);

(d) Impact of international and regional trade environment on agricultural trade in the Near East (fourth quarter, 1994);

(e) Review of programmes of regional organizations active in the field of water resources (third quarter, 1994);

(f) The prospects for a regional electricity network (fourth quarter, 1995);

(g) Revitalization of research and development activities in the ESCWA region (second quarter, 1995) (RB/XB);

(h) The development of a multimodal transport chain in Western Asia (second quarter, 1995);

(i) Maritime hydrographic surveying and nautical charting (second quarter, 1994);

(j) Commodity specific policy analysis matrix (PAM) for two ESCWA countries (fourth quarter, 1994 and third quarter, 1995).

#### 5. Operational activities

##### (a) Advisory services

(a) On issues pertaining to dealings with transnational corporations, the Joint UNCTAD/ESCWA Unit will channel Government requests for technical assistance to the UNCTAD programme on transnational corporations;

(b) Provision of direct assistance to countries of the region in reviewing certain aspects of agricultural policies and programmes, upon request; consultation and cooperation with ESCWA member countries and relevant organizations for the establishment of a regional network on agricultural planning and policy analysis; promotion of a regional research, training and information network on desertification;

(c) Assistance in the incorporation of sustainable development management practices into national policies and enhancement of national strategies for sustainable development as they relate to transnational corporations;

(d) Support of regional advisory services on assistance in improving the performance and competitiveness of existing industries in ESCWA countries (continuous);

(e) Support of advisory services in the areas of national accounts, economic statistics, data processing and household surveys.

(b) Group training

(a) Joint ESCWA/UNIDO forum to promote investment opportunities in technology-based material industries, particularly small and medium-scale enterprises (fourth quarter, 1995);

(b) Workshop on the implementation of the 1993 revised system of national accounts (fourth quarter, 1994);

(c) Regional training workshops on food and agricultural policy analysis (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995) (XB);

(d) Regional training workshop on project planning and environmental considerations (second quarter, 1994) (XB) (two);

(e) Workshop on issues relating to ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9000 and their effects on the industrial sectors in the Arab countries (fourth quarter, 1995) (RB/XB);

(f) Conference on electronics software and communication industries in the Arab countries (second quarter, 1995) (XB);

(g) Workshop on the application of biotechnology in pharmaceutical industries (second quarter, 1995);

(h) National training workshops on agricultural policy analysis and farm management into ESCWA countries (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995) (XB) (two);

(i) Workshop on industrial statistics (fourth quarter, 1994);

(j) Workshop on statistical computer packages (third quarter, 1995).

(c) Field projects

Provision of assistance in the formulation and promotion of a project document on a subregional training centre for instrumentation and repair services in Damascus (third quarter, 1994).

(d) Fellowships and study tours

(a) Fellowships will be organized for government and/or private sector officials with a view to developing skills in such areas as project evaluation,

management and supervision of financial institutions, capital market development, and management of regional-based transnational corporations;

(b) Study tours will be organized for officials to exchange experience with respect to such issues as privatization, technology transfer, efficient utilization of foreign investment and environmental protection.

#### 6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

(a) Participation in the meetings of the United Nations Central Programme in Public Administration and Finance;

(b) Coordination of TNC (transnational corporation) activities with other subprogrammes at ESCWA in the areas of industry, environment, women and development, and statistics; coordination of activities with the UNCTAD programme on transnational corporations; and maintaining direct contacts with relevant official entities in member countries and regional organizations;

(c) Coordination of activities in industry with UNIDO and AIDMO in the formulation and implementation of joint activities, particularly with reference to the special programme for industrial development in the Arab countries (sectoral studies on food and textile industries, efficiency improvement of existing industries, human resources needs in industry);

(d) Coordination with the United Nations Statistical Commission and the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities;

(e) Coordination of activities with FAO and its affiliated organizations, especially the Agricultural Food Marketing Association for the Near East and North Africa (AFMANENA), CARDNE and the Near East North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (NEMARACA);

(f) Coordination of activities of the Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

#### **THEMATIC SUBPROGRAMME 4. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CHANGES**

The activities undertaken under this subprogramme will focus on issues related to global changes and their implications for the social and economic conditions in the ESCWA region. Global changes may include the establishment of the International Trade Organization (ITO), the GATT agreement and the emerging economic blocs, such as the single European market. Consideration will be given to the impact of economic reform policies, including structural adjustment and privatization and the new role of transnational corporations with regard to social and economic conditions in the region.

##### 1. International cooperation

###### External relations

Cooperation with governmental and regional institutions such as the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and the European Economic Community.

## 2. Published material

### Non-recurrent publications

(a) Impact of the single European market on different sectors in the ESCWA region (fourth quarter, 1995), including:

- (i) The trade and financial sector;
- (ii) The agricultural sector in the ESCWA countries;
- (iii) The industrial sector, including transfer of technology;

(b) Study of the impact of changing international and regional environment on industrial strategies and policies in the ESCWA region (third quarter, 1995);

(c) Implications of GATT for policies and strategies in the industrial sector, including the transfer of technology (second quarter, 1995);

(d) Impact of privatization on economic growth, trade and mobilization of financial resources for development in selected ESCWA countries (fourth quarters, 1994 and 1995);

(e) Country case-study on operation of TNCs and the implications of their size (small, medium and giant) on national competitiveness, economic restructuring and transfer of technology (1995).

## 3. Ad hoc expert groups

Industrial strategies and policies in the context of changing regional and international environment (second quarter, 1995) (RB/XB).

## THEMATIC SUBPROGRAMME 5. SPECIAL ISSUES

This subprogramme will undertake studies and provide technical assistance for the least developed country in the region and the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. It will analyse the implications of the ongoing peace process for regional cooperation and development. It will also deal with issues related to the social and economic rehabilitation and reconstruction of war-torn areas.

### 1. International cooperation

#### External relations

Cooperation with regional and international organizations, in particular the League of Arab States and its affiliated agencies, and UNCTAD, the World Bank and regional development trust funds.

### 2. Published material

#### (a) Recurrent publications

Review of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (second quarter, 1995) (biennial).

(b) Non-recurrent publications

(a) Requirements of an efficient financial system in the occupied Palestinian territories (fourth quarter, 1994);

(b) Rehabilitation of the agricultural credit system in the occupied Palestinian territories (fourth quarter, 1994)

(c) Rehabilitation of the fishery sector in the Gaza Strip (third quarter, 1994);

(d) Rehabilitation of the animal health service in the occupied Palestinian territories (second quarter, 1995);

(e) Assessment of the cropping pattern in the Gaza Strip and prospects for development (third quarter, 1995);

(f) Promotion of the industrial sector in Yemen (fourth quarter, 1995).

3. Ad hoc expert groups

Requirements of an efficient financial system for development in the occupied Palestinian territories (fourth quarter, 1995).

4. Operational activities

(a) Advisory services

(a) Formulation of specific projects for rehabilitation of the agricultural sector in ESCWA countries affected by civil strife and military conflicts (fourth quarter, 1995);

(b) Formulation of specific projects within the context of national Palestinian development (continuous).

(b) Group training

(a) A series of five workshops on how to start your own business programme in war-torn areas: the occupied Palestinian territories: training of trainers and of potential entrepreneurs (second and third quarters, 1994) (XB);<sup>1/</sup>

(b) Workshop on development of small enterprises in the occupied Palestinian territories (first quarter, 1995).

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<sup>1/</sup> Including three workshops for potential entrepreneurs: two in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip (in cooperation with UNDP); one workshop for the training of trainers in the Gaza Strip (in cooperation with UNRWA); and one workshop for potential entrepreneurs (disadvantaged Palestinian refugees) in Lebanon (in cooperation with UNRWA).

(c) Field projects

Preparation of two project documents for the establishment of "business incubators" in the occupied Palestinian territories, one in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip (third quarter, 1994), in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Welfare Association.

5. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Coordination with relevant United Nations organizations such as FAO, UNCTAD, UNIDO (in industrial promotion in Yemen), UNEP and UNDP.



