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FOR WESTERN ASIA**

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA
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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

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

Resolution 179 (XVI) on setting up a statistics committee
within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

1. In accordance with ESCWA resolution 179(XVI) of 2 September 1992 on setting up a statistics committee within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/2 of 2 February 1993, by which the Council endorsed resolution 179(XVI), ESCWA included this activity in its statistics programme for the period 1994-1995.

2. A report on setting up a statistics committee within ESCWA^{1/} was presented at the Fourth Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region, which was held at Amman from 26 to 28 October 1993. It was decided that the committee should consist of the heads of the central statistical organizations of the States members of the Commission, that it should assume a permanent institutional form, and that it should hold meetings biennially, with the first of those meetings to be held at Amman in 1995. The committee would undertake the following activities:

(a) Familiarize itself with the statistical activities in the Commission's member States, follow up the progress made in these countries in their programmes of statistical work, and organize symposia, workshops and seminars related to statistics;

(b) Study international statistical systems, classifications and projects, adapting them to suit the conditions and priorities of the countries of the region;

(c) Provide advice on the statistical training requirements in member States of the Commission, proposing training programmes in coordination with relevant regional institutions as needed;

(d) Standardize national statistics to make them more comparable at regional and international levels, taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations and other relevant bodies;

(e) Coordinate the exchange of statistical data and information between the Commission and its member States for the benefit of all concerned;

(f) Coordinate the statistical programmes of member States, particularly in matters relating to statistical surveys and censuses and schedules of implementation.

3. The above-mentioned Fourth Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations welcomed the setting up of a statistical committee within ESCWA as a step forward to increase interaction, coordination and cooperation with other similar statistical institutions.

^{1/} See (E/ESCWA/STAT/1993/IG.1/6) (Arabic only).