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FOR WESTERN ASIA**

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Item 6(b)(iii) of the provisional agenda

**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 181 (XVI) on support for the Regional  
Household Survey Project in the ESCWA countries

1. In implementation of its resolution 181(XVI), ESCWA has continued to provide the countries of the region with advisory and training services in the field of household surveys within its limited financial and human resources. ESCWA requested the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) to provide US\$ 100,000 to finance a number of country activities during the biennium 1993-1994 according to the priorities of the project; its request was accepted.

2. ESCWA also requested the International Labour Organization (ILO) to provide the services of a consultant on labour statistics; however, although ILO promised to consider the possibility of providing a consultant in that field for limited periods of time upon the request of ESCWA, no agreement has yet been reached on that subject as ESCWA considers such an arrangement impractical and prefers the consultant to be at ESCWA on a permanent basis since ESCWA can then provide consultancy services directly and avoid the trouble of making numerous contacts about every request it receives from member countries.

3. ESCWA contacted the Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States and Europe of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enlist support for the Regional Household Survey Project in the ESCWA member countries, and ascertained that UNDP was interested in the project. However, ESCWA must contact UNDP on that matter and present a new project. ESCWA has no information about the steps taken by the permanent representatives of ESCWA member countries at United Nations Headquarters in order to support its request that the project be refinanced by UNDP.

4. In addition, a report on the Regional Household Survey Project in the ESCWA member countries was presented to the Fourth Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region, held at Amman from 26 to 28 October 1993.<sup>1/</sup> The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the services provided by ESCWA in that field and issued several recommendations stressing the great importance of the Regional Household Survey Project and the need to ensure its continuity. The Meeting requested that ESCWA strive to secure the services of a regional adviser on sampling in view of the importance of that subject in household surveys and the scarcity of experts in that field.

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<sup>1/</sup> See ESCWA, التقرير الختامي (Final Report) (E/ESCWA/STAT/1993/IG.1/11), 17 November 1993 (Arabic only).