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UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA
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FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMMES

TRUST FUND FOR ESCWA REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. BACKGROUND

1. In its review of the programme of work at its second session, the Commission noted that the level of resources provided by the regular programme budget was inadequate to meet the programme needs, particularly for the great number of projects requested for the region; the provision of extrabudgetary resources was therefore necessary for the successful implementation of the Commission's programme of work. In the operative paragraph of its resolution 11 (II) of 9 May 1975 on the Voluntary Fund, the Commission decided to authorize the Chairman of the second session and the Executive Secretary to hold urgent consultations with member States with a view to exploring the best and speediest ways of establishing an additional fund financed from voluntary contributions for the extrabudgetary financing of the Commission's work programmes and for meeting requests by member States for studies and advisory services.

2. In paragraphs 1 and 2 of its resolution 33 (III) of 14 May 1976 on the establishment of a voluntary fund, the Commission decided to establish a voluntary fund and called upon the Executive Secretary to utilize the resources of the fund to finance the greatest possible amount of services in the fields of economic and social development in favour of the least developed member States of the Commission.

3. At its fourth session, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 45 (IV) of 28 April 1977 on the financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund, the Commission urged member States to make voluntary contributions towards the general financing of its programmes or the financing of specific projects. In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Commission called upon the Executive Secretary to submit a financial statement of the Voluntary Fund for its approval at each session; the present note is in response to that request.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS

4. In response to the above-mentioned resolution 33 (III), the Voluntary Fund (subsequently the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities) was established by the Secretary-General. The contributions amounted to a total of US\$ 1,008,864; the status of contributions received from 1975 to 31 December 1993 is presented below. As can be seen, no contribution has been received since 1983.

<u>Donors</u>	<u>Year of contribution</u>	<u>Amount contributed (United States dollar equivalent)</u>
The Government of Iraq	1975	300,000
The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development	1975	144,000
The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	1975	144,000
The Government of Saudi Arabia	1979	300,000

<u>Donors</u>	<u>Year of contribution</u>	<u>Amount contributed (United States dollar equivalent)</u>
The Government of Yemen	1980	5,864
The Iraqi Fund for External Development	1982	15,000
The Government of Qatar	1983	<u>100,000</u>
Total contributions received since the establishment of the Fund		<u>1,008,864</u>

5. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 45 (IV), the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to invite member States of the Commission six months before the date scheduled for the holding of each session to determine the amount of their contributions towards the resources of the Fund.

6. In accordance with the procedure established by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly, an annual pledging conference is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, during which all States Members of the United Nations are requested to announce their contributions to all programmes and funds established in the United Nations, including the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities. A detailed account of ESCWA extrabudgetary resources including the Trust Fund is contained in document E/ESCWA/17/8/Add.2.

7. Based on information received from the last pledging conference, no contributions have been pledged and/or received for the Trust Fund at any of the pledging conferences held since 1984.

III. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FINANCED FROM THE TRUST FUND

8. At its second session, the Commission, in its resolution 11 (II) of 9 May 1975, decided to explore ways of establishing a voluntary fund to serve as a source of revenue for the extrabudgetary financing of the Commission's programme of work and for meeting requests by member States for studies and advisory services. At its third session, the Commission, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 33 (III) of 14 May 1976, circumscribed the utilization of the resources of the Fund to the various fields of economic and social development in favour of the least developed States Members of the Commission. At its seventh session, in its resolution 79 (VII) of 22 April 1980 on the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, the Commission expanded the area of activities to be financed from the resources of the Fund to include surveys and statistical research, analytical studies, training, consultant services, and all economic and social sectors and subsectors.

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