

191(XVI). Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and the leading role therein assigned to the regional commissions as regards the coordination of activities of the system within their regions,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and in particular paragraph 6 of resolution 46/235 concerning the strengthening of the regional commissions,

Recalling further the terms of reference of the Commission as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818(LV) of 9 August 1973,

Referring to its resolution 175(XV) of 18 May 1989 on the strengthening of the role and performance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Aware of the advantages to be derived from the capacity of the regional commissions in operational activities, particularly at the regional level,

Noting the steps already taken by the Secretary-General in restructuring the Secretariat,

1. Expresses its appreciation of the manner in which the secretariat of the Commission has addressed the obstacles encountered as a result of recent events in the region, regaining a level of operations close to the pre-crisis level in a relatively short period of time;

2. Commends the secretariat for the valuable services rendered to countries of the region in convening major meetings, providing advisory services and preparing analytical reports;

3. Reiterates its conviction that the Commission has a central role to play within the United Nations system and in coordination with other concerned entities to improve economic and social conditions in the region;

4. Recommends that the potential of the Commission for coordinating, initiating and realizing development activities for the benefit of member States be strengthened;

5. Recommends also in this connection that the following objectives be made part of the process of the restructuring currently under way in the United Nations:

(a) Decentralization of those activities that could be more effectively undertaken by the regional commissions and of the human and financial resources required (e.g., as regards regional advisory services);

(b) Improvement of the arrangements for coordination of development activities carried out by parties inside and outside the United Nations system, through exchange of information among agencies and institutions involved;

(c) Promoting joint programming of the activities of the United Nations involving the regional commissions and active participation of the

regional commissions in the programming and budgeting process as it relates to their activities, inter alia, through representation on the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board;^{1/}

(d) Strengthening the role of the regional commissions as executing agencies for regional and subregional technical cooperation projects in particular;

(e) Confirmation of the distinction between funding and executing agencies;

(f) Pursuit of joint activities with other organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate;

6. Authorizes the Executive Secretary to reorganize the secretariat of the Commission in consultation with the Secretary-General to enhance the effectiveness of its activities;

7. Invites member States to replenish the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities in order to bolster the operational activities of ESCWA for the benefit of countries of the region and requests the Executive Secretary to follow up with member States;

8. Decides to transmit the present resolution and the ESCWA report on the subject^{2/} to the intergovernmental bodies dealing with the current restructuring process of the United Nations Secretariat.

5th plenary meeting
2 September 1992

^{1/} With reference to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation, E/1992/65, paragraph 169(c).

^{2/} E/ESCWA/16/10.