



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

REPORT ON THE FIRST SESSION

(3-8 June 1974)

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OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Authority
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESOB	United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization

I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY, OR ARE BROUGHT TO
THE ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Draft resolution requiring action by the
Economic and Social Council

Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council

1. Takes note of the first annual report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and of the resolutions and other decisions adopted at its first session;
2. Endorses the programme of work and priorities contained in the report.

B. Resolutions and decisions brought to the
attention of the Economic and Social Council

Financial resources

The Commission draws the attention of the Council to its resolution 2 (I) contained in chapter III below.

Site of the headquarters of the Commission

The Commission decided to postpone the consideration of item 7 of the provisional agenda (Site of the headquarters of the Commission) to a special session to be held at Beirut during the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in order to make a recommendation concerning the choice of the site of its headquarters to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed fifty-seventh session.

Applications for membership in the Commission submitted by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Commission

The Commission decided to postpone item 10 of the provisional agenda (Applications for membership in the Commission submitted by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Commission) to a future session.

Provisional rules of procedure

The Commission decided to adopt provisionally the rules of procedure as contained in document E/ECWA/2, after revising rule 1 by stipulating that the sessions of the Commission should be held annually, starting on the third Monday of April. Rule 25 provides that Arabic, English and French shall be the working languages of the Commission. 1/

1/ For the provisional rules of procedure, see annex IV.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION

A. General statements

1. The representatives of a number of member countries of the Commission made general statements welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) under which the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was established as an organ of the United Nations which aimed at promoting economic and social development within the region. They stressed the point that the establishment of the Commission was an important step inasmuch as the 12 Arab countries of the region had not been members of any regional commission of that nature and consequently had not benefited from the type of services rendered by the Commission's counterparts in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Far East, and Latin America.
2. The delegates also emphasized the growing need for achieving regional co-operation within the framework of the United Nations and in line with the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The question of energy, its uses and conservation, added a new dimension to those issues, especially as the balance shifted at a growing pace in favour of the producing countries in the region. Within that framework, some representatives noted the significance of an institutional structure in the region operating within the context of the United Nations. It was suggested that the Commission was in a position to become an effective and appropriate institutional instrument dealing with those issues at the national and regional levels. More specifically, the secretariat of ECWA was urged to focus attention on projects designed to maximize the economic value of natural and human resources through increased agricultural production and development; industrialization, especially the production of fertilizers, petrochemicals and synthetic protein; development of a communications network; and manpower development programmes. In order to achieve development goals through such programmes, the delegates urged the United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations to co-operate with ECWA and provide every assistance needed to develop and mobilize the capabilities of its secretariat. They also stressed the need for interagency dependence and co-operation in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts and waste of financial and other resources.
3. The Commission was informed by the delegations of Iraq, Lebanon and Syria of their Governments' offers to host the headquarters of the Commission. 2/
4. After approval by the Commission of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the deliberations of the Commission, the representatives of some of those Member States made statements in which they extended their best wishes for the activities of the Commission and stressed their interest in the development problems of the region and their willingness to co-operate in an effort to further the aims of the Commission.

2/ See E/ECWA/7 and Add.1 and 2.

5. Representatives of a number of United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participating in the inaugural session of the Commission also made general statements. At the outset, they all expressed their gratification at the creation of ECWA and noted that its establishment came at a time when the countries of the region were facing a crucial challenge owing to the profound change that was taking place in their economic structures and growth patterns. That challenge clearly required adequate and appropriate assistance by all organizations and organs of the United Nations system, acting in a concerted manner. The participating agencies also informed the Commission about their respective activities at the national and multinational level within the region and indicated that there were substantial areas of mutual interest for collaboration between them and the Commission. In particular, reference was made to the intersecretariat agreement in principle between ECWA and UNIDO for a joint division for industry at ECWA and between ECWA and FAO for a joint division for agriculture.

6. The representatives of those agencies stressed the need for greater co-operation among the member States of the Commission, leading to regional integration, which would in turn provide a basis for, and facilitate co-ordination of, efforts among the agencies serving the region.

B. Adoption of the rules of procedure

7. The Commission had before it document E/ECWA/2, containing the draft rules of procedure of the Commission, and document E/ECWA/L.1, containing a statement of the administrative and financial implications of the adoption of three working languages. The Commission decided to adopt provisionally the rules of procedure set out in document E/ECWA/2, after revising rule 1 by stipulating that the sessions of the Commission should normally be held annually, starting on the third Monday of April. 3/

8. After taking note of the statement of administrative and financial implications contained in document E/ECWA/L.1 (see annex V), the Commission decided that Arabic, English and French should be its working languages, as provided in rule 25 of the provisional rules of procedure.

C. Terms of reference

9. The Commission took note of its terms of reference set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV).

D. Programme of work and priorities

10. The Commission considered the programme of work and priorities contained in document E/ECWA/4. In introducing the document, the Executive Secretary explained the over-all approach adopted in preparing the 1975 work programme in general and in selecting priorities and projects in particular. In addition, he gave some clarifications concerning the medium-term plan (1976-1979) and the first

3/ For the provisional rules of procedure, see annex IV.

biennial work programme (1976-1977), which was to be prepared by the Secretariat for submission to the Commission at its next session.

11. In the discussion that ensued, several delegations emphasized the point that the effectiveness of ECWA in the years to come would depend mainly on the successful implementation of concrete projects vital to the development of the region. In the opinion of those delegations, the identification of priorities and the selection and preparation of projects were of primary importance.

12. Several delegations considered that the resources put at the disposal of ECWA were far too meagre to allow the Commission to undertake an effective work programme and attain its objectives.

13. The Commission then considered the 1975 work programme in detail. Several amendments were put forward.

14. One proposal was to include in the work programme a comprehensive table specifying, for each project, the resources allocated, the total cost, the timing and the scope. It was agreed that the secretariat would take that proposal into account in the preparation of future programmes of work.

15. It was also proposed: (a) to initiate studies in the transport and communications field, as it was considered that the absence of an adequate intraregional and interregional road network was a serious obstacle to the development of the countries of Western Asia; (b) to strengthen the activities concerned with the human environment, particularly those relating to marine resources, as many countries of the region were facing increasing and complex problems in this field; and (c) to take full advantage of the international university, to be set up in Tokyo, through establishing a branch in the ECWA region.

16. The Executive Secretary welcomed the proposals and said that the future work programme would include activities relating to the human environment, based partly on the outcome of the deliberations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to be held at Caracas, and the United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements, to be held at Vancouver.

17. Most representatives were of the opinion that adequate measures should be taken to concentrate resources on a limited number of projects falling within the selected areas of priority, in order to prevent the dispersion of resources and efforts in too many directions. A number of written amendments to the programme of work submitted by several delegations were considered, and the Commission decided to delete certain projects and to include a new one. The following projects were deleted: regional financial resources; prospects and uses; co-operation with existing institutions in the region; social factors in productivity; comparative study on the main structural characteristics of population in the ECWA region; evolution of cities of 100,000 inhabitants and more in the region; and interuniversity co-operation and dissemination of the findings of applied research. The Commission decided to include a project on transport and communications in the 1975 work programme.

18. The Commission also recognized the importance of promoting co-operation with governmental and intergovernmental organizations engaged in development activities and their financing.

19. Several delegations stressed the importance for all the countries of Western Asia of speeding up agricultural development within an integrated rural development framework. It was noted that in the past the lack of integrated rural development had been a major cause of the disappointing performance of the agricultural sector in the region and of the low standard of living of the rural population. Some representatives suggested that the 1976-1977 work programme should include projects for the development of the fishing industry, which was of particular importance to countries of the southern part of Western Asia.

20. With respect to mineral resources, some delegations supported the establishment of a mineral resources institute. It was suggested that the Institute for Petroleum Research in Iraq might be considered as a nucleus for the proposed institute. Other delegations called attention to the need for processing the available natural resources and raw materials in the region.

21. Several delegations stressed the importance to the region of petrochemical and fertilizer industries in view of the availability in the region of the necessary raw materials. In speeding up industrial development, the Commission agreed to give priority, in a first phase, to the establishment of fertilizer industries, and in a second phase, in consultation with UNIDO, to the petrochemical industries.

22. The importance of the industrial training project was stressed by a number of delegations. Particular attention was given to the need for local training of manpower and for preparing projections of supply and demand of manpower at various levels. The need for a regional industrial training centre oriented towards the training of instructors at the national level was also pointed out. The Commission agreed that such a centre might eventually be established as one of the results of the surveys and studies envisaged in the industrial training project.

23. A number of delegations expressed their full support for the establishment of a documentation centre, as proposed in the work programme. The centre should have as its primary function the storage, easy retrieval and dissemination of data, and the identification of sources of information. One delegation emphasized the importance of establishing a permanent computer centre, which could be attached to the documentation centre. This could be a long-term objective of the project.

24. The Commission adopted the work programme with the amendments agreed upon (see chapter IV below).

III. RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED
BY THE COMMISSION

A. Resolutions

1 (I). Programme of work and priorities

The Economic Commission for Western Asia

Approves the programme of work and priorities contained in document E/ECWA/4, as amended.

6th meeting
7 June 1974

2 (I). Financial resources

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having compared its intended future work programme with budgeted financial resources,

Convinced that it is essential to increase substantially the financial resources allocated to it to enable it to carry out its duties and responsibilities within the framework of an effective and dynamic work programme,

1. Calls upon the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session a budget for the Commission commensurate with its present and anticipated needs;

2. Also calls upon the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly the request of the Commission that favourable consideration should be given by the Fifth Committee to increasing substantially the resources of the Commission.

6th meeting
7 June 1974

3 (I). Regional institutions and centres

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Believing that it is necessary to review the progress of the operational activities of existing regional institutions and centres which receive assistance from the United Nations Development Programme or any other United Nations organization,

Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To prepare and submit to the Commission at its next session, in 1975, an

evaluation report on the activities of existing regional institutions and centres within the competence of the United Nations;

(b) To consult the specialized agencies with a view to their making similar efforts concerning institutions and centres that fall within their competence;

(c) To take note of equitable geographical distribution when establishing new regional institutions and centres.

6th meeting
7 June 1974

4 (I). Technical co-operation activities

The Economic Commission for Western Asia

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to hold consultations with the specialized agencies and other organizations or organs in the United Nations system, as well as with Governments of the member States of the Commission as appropriate, with a view to submitting to the Commission at its next regular session a report on ways and means of:

(a) Ensuring the highest level of effectiveness and the maximum possible co-ordination of effort in the technical co-operation activities in the region;

(b) Delegating to ECWA the authority for the execution of projects within the competence of the United Nations;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to include in the report his recommendations on the subject.

6th meeting
7 June 1974

5 (I). Intergovernmental organizations

The Economic Commission for Western Asia

Decides to accord the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, an intergovernmental organization, consultative status with the Commission on a continuing basis.

7th meeting
8 June 1974

B. Other decisions

The Economic Commission for Western Asia, at its 7th meeting, on 8 June 1974, adopted its draft annual report to the Economic and Social Council, as amended during the discussion.

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES 4/

Introduction

25. The Executive Secretary has prepared the following work programme for submission to the Commission at its first session, with a view to assisting member States to establish the objectives and priorities of the activities of the Commission in the years to come. The Executive Secretary feels that these proposals are consistent with the development needs and priorities of the countries in the region, but they are initial suggestions which the Governments may wish to discuss, amend and supplement as appropriate.

26. The requirements of ECWA for 1974-1975 as provided for in the biennial programme budget for 1974-1975 were estimated on the basis of a certain number of assumptions, since that budget was approved prior to the establishment of ECWA. The 1974 programme is now being executed on an interim basis, with adjustments necessitated by the staff available and the new circumstances. The activities to be carried out under the 1974 programme are presented below (section 2) in a summarized form designed specifically for the information of the Commission.

27. The proposed programme for 1975 (section 3) is based on a more concrete approach to the development problems of the region. Should it be approved by the Commission and, subsequently, by the Economic and Social Council, its implementation would still be contingent upon the appropriation of the corresponding additional resources by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. The actual execution would also be subject to revision of the manning table approved for 1974-1975 and to the recruitment of new staff to cope with an expanded programme of work.

28. In section 4, some views are presented on the timing of the submission to the Commission of the medium-term plan (1976-1979) and of a detailed plan and programme for 1976-1977.

1. Over-all approach

1.1. The Economic Commission for Western Asia has received from the Economic and Social Council a broad mandate spelt out in resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973. Within the limits of this mandate, the Commission has to develop a work programme based on the needs of the member States at the present stage of their economic and social development, bearing in mind the manpower and budgetary constraints. The present authorized staff of 106 (46 Professional and 60 General Service) 5/ and the financial resources of close to \$1.2 million are expected to be substantially increased, but they indicate the order of magnitude of the activities that can be reasonably carried out by the Commission.

4/ As submitted by the Executive Secretary and amended by the Commission at its first session.

5/ Including one Professional and five General Service posts approved for the Beirut Information Centre, which are to be transferred to the ECWA manning table.

1.2. The general objective assigned to ECWA, namely, to foster "economic reconstruction and development in Western Asia", can be achieved by the extension of ECWA services at both the country and regional levels. The 12 member States will, no doubt, wish to receive assistance from ECWA in areas of their needs over and above that provided in the UNDP country programmes. This type of assistance, based on specific needs, may be especially relevant to the circumstances of the least developed among the countries of the region. There are, of course, many development problems that can best be tackled by a regional approach. The Commission will, no doubt, wish to strike a balance between national and regional activities and give the Executive Secretary sufficient indication of the relative emphasis it wishes to place on these two types of ECWA services.

1.3. The Commission may render various services to the member States, including the following:

- (i) Undertaking or sponsoring investigations and studies on economic, social and technological problems and developments within the countries of Western Asia, including the evaluation of the studies and research required for the development programmes of countries of the region;
- (ii) Undertaking or sponsoring the collection, evaluation and dissemination of economic, social, technological and statistical information;
- (iii) Undertaking or sponsoring training activities in the areas of research, surveys and evaluation of questions relating to growth and technological developments;
- (iv) Performing advisory services at the request and for the benefit of the Governments of the countries of the region.

Resolution 1818 (LV) also indicates that ECWA is required to assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connexion with any economic problems. In practical terms, the secretariats of all five commissions, as subsidiary organs of the Council and parts of the global United Nations set-up, are requested to prepare data and statistics, draft reports and participate in meetings, in response to General Assembly and Council resolutions. This type of activity, which is often of a continuing nature (for instance, as in the case of the Second United Nations Development Decade exercise), takes a relatively heavy toll of staff resources.

1.4. For investigations and studies, an organ such as ECWA enjoys some comparative advantages. It has an intimate knowledge of the region, from which a large proportion of its staff originates. It also has access to world-wide expertise and is capable of carrying out independent analyses of current and future needs for the economic and social development of the region. As an organ with over-all responsibilities, it can develop the staff capability of responding to the multidisciplinary nature of most of the problems facing this part of the world. The Executive Secretary acknowledges the dangers of excessive indulgence in studies, especially if they are not operationally oriented. He still believes that ECWA can make a meaningful contribution to the development of the region if the studies it undertakes meet the following criteria:

- (i) They should be closely related to the needs and priorities expressed by the member States;
- (ii) They should generate ideas for development opportunities. ECWA comes into the international picture at a time of major change for the region. In the decades ahead, the region will have large funds ready for investment. With adequate co-ordination with existing and future organs involved in the same effort, ECWA could play an important role in preparing studies, especially for regional projects, which could lead to direct investment opportunities and foster a much faster pace of development of the countries of the region;
- (iii) The studies should not be open-ended but should comply with imperative calendars.

1.5. The collection, evaluation and dissemination of information appears to be absolutely essential. ECWA needs to base its activities on sound and reliable economic, social, technological and statistical data. It should also play the role of a clearing-house for information, bringing to the attention of the countries of the region and of its regional institutions an increased quantity of well-organized information, data and analysis on relevant development fields throughout the world, making available to the world, through United Nations bodies or otherwise, information on the countries of the region and, what is perhaps more important, keeping each of the countries of the region well informed of development activities, investment opportunities and co-operation potentialities in other countries of the region. The Executive Secretary attaches great importance to the project of establishing, as of 1975, a modern documentation centre for the collection, analysis, retrieval and dissemination of data and information.

1.6. Advisory services rendered to Governments offer the advantage of great flexibility. They are made available at the request of the member States and can easily be tailored to the particular needs of each country and to its specific stage of development. They are usually available at short notice and are especially fitted to cope with problems in the new areas of interest. The Executive Secretary would like to recommend the strengthening of such services, which would help to establish and maintain a dialogue at the working level between the national ministries and the staff of the Commission.

1.7. The Executive Secretary believes that ECWA should be highly selective in choosing its areas of activity and should concentrate on a few things, rather than trying to attend to a wide range of development issues. Admittedly, advisory services have to be made available in a relatively large variety of sectors, within the staff resources of the secretariat and according to the requests of Governments. But for studies, the proposals for the 1975 programme and for the medium-term plan (1976-1979) are deliberately limited to the following fields, where it is felt a multidisciplinary approach may bring about some concrete results within a reasonable span of time:

- Water resources development
- Food deficit
- Petrochemical and fertilizer industry
- Manpower (supply and demand, industrial training, management training and availability of domestic skills)

Tourism
Public finance and administration
Natural resources
Population
Transport, communications and electricity

A number of carefully selected projects in areas of regional priorities are presented in section 3 for the Commission's consideration of the 1975 work programme.

1.8. Council resolution 1818 (LV) emphasizes the necessity for ECWA to avoid any overlapping with activities undertaken by the specialized agencies or with the United Nations Development Programme. The Executive Secretary is anxious to maintain close liaison with all United Nations organs and also with intergovernmental organizations in the region in the field of economic and social development.

2. The 1974 work programme (substantive activities)

2.1. The approach proposed in section 1 above can be applied only after a certain period in order to enable the secretariat to adjust to new priorities. The implementation of the 1974 work programme, inherited from the past, is now in progress. It is presented below, in an abbreviated form, for the information of the member States. A performance report on the activities of ECWA undertaken in 1974 will be presented to the Commission at its second session, early in 1975.

2.2. Agriculture

2.2.1. Review of agricultural development in the 12 countries of the region. This review is carried out by collecting and analysing all relevant material and information concerning agricultural progress during the year.

2.3. Economic and social development, policy and planning

2.3.1. Review and appraisal of economic and social conditions and developments. This project consists of annual reporting on current economic and social conditions, of the second biennial survey of progress in achieving the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and of the preliminary work for the mid-decade survey (1975).

2.3.2. Substantive support to United Nations technical co-operation activities. This service is provided to assist experts and agencies of the United Nations System in activities related to development planning and policies in the countries of the region.

2.3.3. Advisory services in the field of statistics are made available to Governments and intergovernmental regional institutions, at their request.

2.3.4. Regional seminar on manpower and employment planning. Work is being carried out in 1974 for this seminar, which is scheduled for April 1975 and which aims at promoting the concrete programmes required to induce a more rapid growth of productive employment in the countries of the region.

2.4. Environment

2.4.1. Substantive support is provided to operational projects relating to the human environment.

2.5. Human settlements

2.5.1. Substantive support is provided to United Nations technical co-operation experts and projects in the field of human settlements throughout the region.

2.5.2. With a view to assisting the Governments of the countries of the region in planning and programming for the development of housing and building, the following activities are being undertaken: a survey on housing is being prepared; a study on some aspects of housing and urban development is being carried out; an expert group on co-ordination of building research is scheduled to meet in 1974 to discuss alternative housing techniques to meet the requirements for low-cost housing.

2.6. Industrial development

2.6.1. Review and appraisal of progress in the manufacturing sector consistent with the targets of the Second Development Decade.

2.6.2. Advisory services are made available to the Governments of the region to assist them in identifying, appraising and implementing industrial development programmes and projects.

2.6.3. Problems and requirements for industrial development in selected countries of the ECWA region. This is a promotional meeting between representatives of selected countries and donor countries and financial institutions in the region, as well as national and international organizations active in industrial development in developing countries, for the exchange of views on the development of industrial programmes and projects in the selected countries. Preparation of specific projects is proceeding through staff missions to the selected countries for discussion at the joint ECWA/UNIDO meeting scheduled for October 1974.

2.6.4. Sectoral survey and expert group meeting on certain branches of the food processing industries in the ECWA region. This survey, which will cover vegetable oils, vegetable and fruit canning, and sugar, will identify problems facing these branches of the food-processing industry in the various countries of the region for discussion at the meeting of national and international experts scheduled for December 1974. This is a joint ECWA/UNIDO activity.

2.7. Population

2.7.1. Advisory services to Governments and substantive support to United Nations technical co-operation programmes are provided mainly to strengthen civil registration systems and to organize population censuses and sample surveys.

2.7.2. In 1974, the following demographic studies will be completed:

(a) Demographic characteristics of youth in the Syrian Arab Republic (in co-operation with UNICEF);

(b) Comparative study of fertility in Baabda hospital and French Maternity (Beirut, Lebanon);

(c) Intraregional migration.

2.7.3. Population Bulletin of ECWA. Issues 6 and 7 will appear in 1974. Consideration is also being given to publishing a special edition in 1974 in observance of World Population Year.

2.7.4. Regional research project and pilot survey. The following activities are carried out under this item:

(a) Infant mortality survey in Damascus city (to be completed in 1974);

(b) Infant mortality survey in Beirut (to be completed in 1975);

(c) Internal migration in Lebanon;

(d) Socio-demographic survey in Sana'a;

(e) Socio-demographic survey in five cities in Oman.

2.7.5. Expert group meeting on internal migration. This meeting will take place at Beirut in December 1974.

2.8. Public administration and finance

2.8.1. Substantive support of United Nations technical co-operation programmes is provided for all projects implemented in the countries of the region.

2.8.2. Work is being undertaken in 1974 for a possible seminar on computers planned for 1975.

2.9. Science and technology

2.9.1. Efforts will be made to provide advisory services and substantive support to Governments and to operational projects in the region.

2.9.2. ECWA will follow up with the Governments of the countries of the region on the application of science and technology to development in order to determine their interest in the regional plan of action.

2.10. Social development

2.10.1. Advisory services and substantive support are provided, respectively, to the Governments and to operational projects on social development in the region.

2.10.2. Preliminary work is being undertaken on the role of women in national development in preparation for the 1975 seminar on the subject.

2.11. Trade

2.11.1. Review and appraisal of developments in the external sector. Relevant indicators on the level and structure of the over-all trade and payments of the ECWA countries will be updated.

2.11.2. Review and appraisal of developments in the field of trade expansion and economic integration.

2.11.3. Advisory services to Governments and to regional intergovernmental organizations and substantive support to United Nations technical co-operation activities are provided.

2.12. Transport

2.12.1. Advisory services in transport will become available to the Governments of the region as of July 1974 to assist them, upon request, in improving the efficiency of their transport systems.

2.12.2. A survey of transport problems in the ECWA region will be completed before the end of 1974.

3. The 1975 work programme

3.1. The programme classification proposed below is consistent with the United Nations programme budgeting system and with the classification used by the specialized agencies in reporting to the Economic and Social Council. The following programme areas are suggested as priority proposals for consideration and approval by member States. Obviously, such a programme can only be implemented to the extent that the required financial resources are available. It follows that any resource increase above the present level would require the approval by the General Assembly of supplementary estimates for ECWA reflecting its increased needs for 1975.

3.2. Policy-making organs

It is anticipated that the Commission will hold annual sessions, for which adequate resources have to be provided in 1975 and in subsequent years.

Under its terms of reference, the Commission may establish subsidiary bodies, as it deems appropriate, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council. For the purpose of planning the workload of the Secretariat, it is assumed that the Commission at its second session may establish a number of such subsidiary bodies, which will require adequate servicing as from 1975.

3.3. Executive direction and management

The over-all direction of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Western Asia is provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary. This programme category encompasses those efforts on the part of the Executive Secretary and his immediate staff that are devoted to the implementation of the policy determined by the member States of the Commission, the direction and leadership of the staff, and the efficient management of the resources made available to the Commission.

The programme objectives are:

To provide the proper interpretation of policies and the direction needed to maximize the contribution of each ECWA programme;

To co-ordinate, lead and assess the work done under each programme within the purview of ECWA;

To follow closely the major economic and social developments in the region;

To ensure the effective and efficient utilization of the resources made available to ECWA;

To co-ordinate the activities of the secretariat of ECWA with those of other United Nations organs and specialized agencies, and to maintain close relations with the Governments participating in the work of the Commission.

Resources required: Professional and above: 72 man-months

3.4. Substantive activities

3.4.1. Continuing activities

This programme category encompasses the following:

(a) The activities aiming at keeping abreast with the economic and social developments in the countries of the region in the fields falling within the competence of the Commission; these activities will include:

- (i) A review and assessment of the current economic and social situation and development prospects of the member States;
- (ii) A systematic assessment of development opportunities, in a national and regional perspective, including project evaluation;
- (iii) The application of perspective planning techniques and growth models consistent with the characteristics of the individual countries, leading to prospective studies on the growth potential of the member States, at the national and regional levels;
- (iv) A systematic study of resource allocation and related balance-of-payments problems, at the intraregional and international levels;
- (v) A review and appraisal of intraregional trade expansion and economic integration, including problems of factor mobility;
- (vi) A systematic measurement of growth and development through the use of adequate economic and social indicators relevant to the characteristics of the region;

(b) Reporting to United Nations Headquarters on many topics, at the request of the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly and Council resolutions;

(c) The advisory services to be rendered, at their own request, to the Governments of the member States;

(d) The substantive support to operational activities undertaken in the countries by the agencies of the United Nations system.

Resources required: Professional and above: 228 man-months

3.4.2. Ad hoc projects and studies

(a) AGRICULTURE

The implementation of the work programme in agriculture will be carried out in close co-operation with FAO. The establishment of a joint ECWA/FAO division is under consideration.

3.4.2.1. Development of water resources

Justification. The scarcity or limited availability of water is a major development constraint which faces, in various degrees, all the countries of Western Asia. Increased water resources and more efficient water use are prerequisites for any future development of the agricultural and industrial sectors and are a necessity for the rapidly growing urban centres.

In the past two decades, most countries of the region have made considerable, but piecemeal, efforts to develop their systems of water resources. A comprehensive approach to the planning and development of water resources has been lacking. Throughout the world there is a growing awareness and concern about water problems. It seems obvious that, unless urgent and significant action is taken, the region will face a serious "water gap" in a not too distant future, and the full potential for the development of the ECWA region may not be realized.

Objectives. The proposed project would study the following aspects:

(a) Projections of demand for water in agriculture, industry and human use until the year 1990 in all countries of the region;

(b) Stock-taking of present and expected availability of surface and underground water (including its quality), and planned water resource development through non-conventional techniques (desalination plants); the outlook for water availability in the 1990s;

(c) Ways and means of bridging the "water gap" in 1990:

Ways and means of using water more efficiently in the agricultural sector;

Multipurpose water use (through recycling of water and through agro-industrial complexes);

What to expect (technico-economic approach) from the new technologies;

Possible contributions of regional and subregional co-operation for bridging the gap;

Investigation of the possibility and usefulness of a water resources development centre for Western Asia; and

Indication of an order of magnitude and priorities for the investment that may be needed to cope with the problem, using conventional and non-conventional methods.

Duration: One year (completion by the end of 1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	60 man-months
	Consultants	6 man-months
	Research assistants	24 man-months
	Travel	\$4,400

Remarks. Some elements of the project will be used as a contribution to the United Nations Water Conference to be held in Buenos Aires in 1977, and to a regional symposium scheduled for the end of 1975.

3.4.2.2. Incentives for accelerating cereals and livestock production:
a short-term approach to the solution of the food deficit

Justification. The outlook for the world supply of cereals and animal products is not very encouraging. In spite of a remarkable but limited success in some countries of the region, progress in cereals and livestock production, on which the livelihood of the bulk of the farm population depends, has been discouragingly small. In general, food production in Western Asia has not risen fast enough to support the increase in population and to match the demand from rising per capita incomes. The region is already a major importer of food-stuffs, and the food deficit is bound to widen steadily in the future.

Many factors are responsible for the present state of affairs, which can be corrected only through a long-term programme. However, immediate results can be obtained by providing more adequate incentives to farmers. Until now, use of such incentives, as a component of agricultural policy, has received little attention in the countries of the region.

Objectives. The proposed project consists of the study of the possibility of introducing incentives, which may have a positive impact in the short-term on the production of the cereals-livestock sector, by arriving at appropriate relationships between wheat and barley, between cereals and other cash crops, between cereals and fodder crops, and between fodder crops and meat and milk.

The study would be conducted on a country-by-country basis, leading to a regional synthesis; it would compile and evaluate up-to-date information on feed and forage production and livestock resources, as well as the plans and potential for the development of the cereals-livestock industry; and would attempt at estimating the present and future deficit of cereals-livestock products in the region.

The main aim of the study would be to give the Governments of the countries of the region an indication of the policy alternatives for accelerating the development of their cereals-livestock sectors in the short-term.

Duration: One year (to be completed in 1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	24 man-months
	Research assistants	18 man-months
	Travel	\$3,500

3 workshops (2-3 days each) at the national or subregional level

Remarks

(a) The findings of the study could be discussed at the meeting of the FAO Near East Commission for Animal Production and Health, scheduled to meet early in 1976.

(b) This project may be considered as a first phase (short-term solution towards solving the food deficit) of a larger project for 1976 and the following years on increasing food production.

3.4.2.3. The integrated rural development approach applied to projects and to agricultural zones

Justification. Integrated rural development as an approach to the development of the rural areas has gained importance in the region. In view of the problem of rising rural unemployment and underemployment and the strong aspirations of the rural population to participate in the building of their countries, a new strategy has emerged to help the rural communities escape from economic stagnation. The approach aims at drawing guidelines on integrating rural institution building with increased productivity. Until now, efforts have been concentrated mainly on the strategy and action at the national level, while relatively little attention has been paid to the application of this approach in specific agricultural zones or project areas. Measures for increasing productivity, integrated with a purposeful programme of institution building (land tenure, credit, extension work and marketing) and gradually complemented by factors such as technical innovations, input supply and processing, are the core of the approach to be applied to specific zones and project areas, such as the Euphrates project (the Syrian Arab Republic); one of the major irrigation projects in Iraq; the Al-Hassa project (Saudi Arabia); the Wadi Zabid project in Yemen; and the Ghor project in Jordan.

Objectives: The objectives are:

(a) To review and assess the strategy and efforts towards integrated development at the national level;

(b) To survey and assess the socio-economic situation of the farmers in selected areas of the ECWA region;

(c) To formulate a strategy for integrated rural development of the project areas and to draw up a plan for implementing it.

(d) To study the institutional problems of integrated rural development, including the relationships between the projects and the national institutions;

(e) To assist in implementing the proposed strategy for the project areas.

<u>Duration:</u>	First phase (objectives (a) to (d))	One year (1975)
	Second phase (objective (e))	Six months (1976)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	36 man-months
	Research assistants	24 man-months
	Travel	\$2,200

Remarks. The approach will be implemented in close collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for the Near East, which is implementing a programme of integrated rural development at the national level.

(b) INDUSTRY

The implementation of the work programme in industry will be carried out in close co-operation with UNIDO. The establishment of a joint ECWA/UNIDO Division is under consideration.

3.4.2.4. Development of the fertilizer industry

Justification. Food production has failed to keep pace with world demand and, in many developing countries, the low levels of consumption and nutritional standards are adversely affecting economic growth. A key factor in rectifying this situation is to increase the production of fertilizers. The projected world consumption of fertilizers in 1980 is double that of 1970 for developed countries and triple for developing countries.

Objectives. In order to assist the countries of the ECWA region in coping with the need for the increased production of fertilizers, ECWA will devote a good part of its programme in industry in 1975 to the assessment, promotion and marketing of the productive capacities of fertilizers in the region. To this end ECWA will:

(a) Undertake a survey of the productive capacity of the fertilizer industry in the countries of the region in relation to present and future demand on the world markets (in the light of the joint FAO/UNIDO statement on fertilizers at the Third Industrial Development Conference of Arab States in Tripoli in April 1974);

(b) Organize a consultation and planning meeting with representatives of member States, governmental and intergovernmental organizations in the region active in industrial development, and UNIDO (or the FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Industry Technical Advisory Group, if constituted) to review the state of the fertilizer industry, its future expansion and the rationalization and co-ordination of productive capacity in the region.

It is hoped that, as a result of these efforts, a plan of action will evolve for guiding the future development of the fertilizer industry in the region.

Duration: One year (completion by the end of 1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	36 man-months
	Consultants	9 man-months
	Research assistants	12 man-months
	Travel	\$1,300

3.4.2.5. Industrial infrastructural development: manpower training

Justification. To speak of the availability of capital and the utilization of natural resources for industrial development, where there is a lack of adequately trained and skilled personnel, is to overlook a serious bottle-neck in the way of this development. The shortage of skilled personnel in the ECWA region is aggravated by the inefficient use of existing skills in the management of human and material resources. Unless treated expeditiously and effectively, this problem is

bound to become progressively more acute with the advances in industrialization of the countries of the region resulting from increased flows of capital and its use in development projects.

The dimensions and urgency of the problem, as well as the wide disparity between the countries of the region with respect to the availability of skilled personnel, dictate an over-all regional attack on this problem rather than a piecemeal, or country-by-country approach. ECWA intends, therefore, to investigate the possibilities for co-operative efforts in the field of industrial training between the countries of the region, or any number of them, in conjunction with the activities of governmental and intergovernmental organizations in the region and of UNIDO, UNDP and other United Nations bodies.

Objectives. For this purpose ECWA will:

(a) Undertake a preliminary survey of industrial training facilities and capabilities in the region;

(b) carry out consultations with the Governments and institutions in the region in the light of these findings;

(c) Convene a planning and promotion meeting of experts in the field, government officials, representatives of governmental and intergovernmental organizations active in the field of industry and its promotion, and of UNIDO and UNDP, in order to draw up a co-ordinated approach to the needs of industrial training in the region and agree on appropriate specific institutional arrangements to deal with these needs.

Duration: One year (completion by the end of 1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	18 man-months
	Research assistants	6 man-months
	Travel	\$3,700

(c) NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

3.4.2.6. A strategy for action on alternative uses of oil

Justification. The countries of the ECWA region are endowed with a substantial part of the world's reserves of oil, which at present is mainly consumed as fuel. This use does not represent a maximization of the economic value of oil, which can be put to more remunerative uses. Oil can be processed into fertilizers, petrochemicals, synthetic protein, pharmaceuticals etc. Moreover, in the long-term the economic importance of oil as a fuel may decrease. Indeed, the Western world is already engaged in a major search for alternative sources of energy, particularly after recent developments in the oil situation. It is of crucial importance that the oil-rich countries of the ECWA region consider a strategy designed to encourage the processing of the "raw material" oil into products other than fuel in gradually increasing proportions and that their Governments fully participate in the establishment and expansion of these industries in the ECWA region and in other regions of the world.

Objectives. The objectives are:

(a) To assess the end uses of oil in the world at the present time (by regions);

(b) To assess the medium and long-term outlook for the use of oil as a raw material for industrial and agricultural development (uses other than fuels) in the ECWA region and the other regions of the world;

(c) To define and study the ways and means of implementing a strategy designed to encourage the use of oil as a "raw material" for industrial and agricultural development (optimal end-use allocation of oil);

(d) To study the modalities for, and the feasibility of, establishing such industries in the ECWA region, joint ventures in this field in other developed or developing countries, and the ways and means of participating in the development of these industries and in the co-ordination action needed.

Duration: First phase (objectives (a), (b) and (c)) In 1975
Second phase (objective (d)) In 1976

Resources required: Professional 30 man-months
Research assistants 24 man-months
Travel \$3,700

3.4.2.7. Regional co-operation in the development of mineral resources

Justification. In their efforts to diversify their economies, the Governments of the countries in the ECWA region have not yet taken full advantage of the potentialities of the development of their mineral resources. The present piecemeal approach to mineral exploration stands to gain enormously from a comprehensive, integrated and regional approach. It is indeed necessary to proceed by utilizing the most modern techniques of photogeology, geophysics, geochemistry and the like in mineral exploitation, and endeavour to establish or strengthen the relevant infrastructure of national and regional services and accelerate the process of training in the required fields.

Objectives. The objectives are:

(a) To survey the situation pertaining to the development of mineral resources in the countries of the region:

(b) To assist in the improvement of mining codes or legislation and the establishment of the institutional framework for mineral resources development;

(c) To study the possibilities for regional co-operation, particularly through the establishment of a regional mineral resources development institute. The training of local technical personnel and participation in the development of mineral resources, through basic mapping and systematic exploration, would be among the major objectives of the institute.

Duration: One year (1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	36 man-months
	Consultants	6 man-months
	Research assistants	12 man-months
	Travel	\$3,700

Remarks. The co-operation of the Resources and Transport Division at United Nations Headquarters will be sought. ECWA will continue to assist in this project in subsequent years.

(d) TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

3.4.2.8. Development of an integrated transport and communications system in the ECWA region

Justification. The lack of an adequate transport and communications system in the region has hampered the economic and social development of the countries in Western Asia. The anticipated high rate of growth in the region underscores the need and urgency of developing an integrated air/land/sea transport system and telecommunications network, the direct and indirect benefits of which will be reaped by all member States.

In recognition of the vital importance of this issue, the secretariat of ECWA has already initiated a survey on the transport situation in the region, which will be completed before the end of 1974. The present project will use, inter alia, the recommendations emanating from this survey to assess the potential benefits of an integrated transport and communications system, with respect to intraregional trade, tourism, transport costs, the development of growth poles, the linking up of the Asian Highway into North Africa, the establishment of a more efficient intraregional and international communication, and the fostering of regional economic and social integration.

Objectives. The proposed study will:

(a) Evaluate the recommendations emanating from the survey mentioned above, with a view to developing concrete proposals for possible implementation;

(b) Suggest alternative schemes designed to lead to complementary efforts, at the national and regional levels, for the establishment of an integrated transport and communications network;

(c) Assess the financial, human and technological requirements for the implementation and maintenance of these alternative schemes.

Duration: One year (1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	36 man-months
	Consultants	12 man-months
	Research assistants	24 man-months
	Travel	\$5,000

Remarks. The resource requirements indicated above are for the year 1975, it being understood that this will be a continuing project designed to be in operation for a number of years.

(e) DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

3.4.2.9. Training programme in public finance and development administration

Justification. The apparent lack of adequately skilled cadres in the field of public finance in Democratic Yemen, Oman and Yemen has been a serious bottle-neck in the running of government machinery and in the implementation of public programmes. The present nature of fiscal and financial institutions makes it necessary for real efforts to be made to upgrade high-ranking officials, as well as lower cadres, responsible in the field of public finance.

While training for senior officials could be organized more efficiently at Beirut, the task of training lower cadres could best be accomplished with the help of country-based training programmes especially tailored to fit local needs. Consultations with the Governments concerned will determine the most immediate problems to be tackled in these local programmes. More attention will be devoted in these programmes to operational activities that help carry out the decisions taken, namely, in the fields of tax implementation and tax administration, budget execution, government and public enterprise accounts, and auditing.

Objectives. The proposed project would:

(a) Provide for holding a training session at Beirut in 1975 in the context of the training programmes initiated in 1973 and addressed essentially to high-ranking officials in positions of responsibility in their respective countries. These training programmes have been providing courses which (i) emphasize the fundamentals of the different subjects offered in the programme for the purpose of giving the participants a broad knowledge of public finance and its relationship to other disciplines, (ii) stress the development of the participants' knowledge in the fields of direct relevance to their work, and, (iii) underline the practical aspects of the training, without losing sight of the academic content;

(b) Provide for holding training programmes locally in the countries concerned, with a view to tackling specific aspects of inadequacies in skills, as felt by the Governments, at lower echelons of the administrative machinery. Consultations with Governments will determine areas of emphasis in each local training programme.

Remarks.

(a) The training programmes are conceived as a continuing ECWA activity until an adequate cadre, in number as well as in quality, has been constituted in the countries concerned;

(b) The regional project for public finance and administration, which is decentralized to ECWA, will be responsible for this training programme within the standing terms of reference and present financing from the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation.

(f) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3.4.3.1. Establishment of an ECWA documentation centre

Justification: There is no denial that scientific research can be a most

effective instrument in promoting economic and social progress in the countries of Western Asia. A serious handicap to the application of research to the solution of the region's development problems has been accessibility to relevant information. Socio-economic information on the countries of Western Asia is not only deficient in coverage and quality but, what is perhaps more serious, it is often not readily accessible to the research worker, whether he is an academician, a government official or an international expert. In a broader sense, the question of access to information extends to include the results of theoretical and applied research in other parts of the world that could or should be brought to bear on solving the problems of the region. The Commission, by virtue of the links it has with the countries of the region, the academic and private research institutions and the international community at large, is in a position to take the initiative in this respect and establish a documentation centre in support of research activities on the problems of the region to serve all concerned with the promotion of development in Western Asia.

Objectives:

(a) The project would involve collecting, classifying and storing selected kinds of information and documentation which could serve to promote a better understanding of the region's problems and contribute to their satisfactory solution (including factual information, reference works and relevant results of theoretical and applied research emanating from private, public and international sources from within and outside the region):

(b) A variety of services (including research abstracts, bibliographies and copies) based on the centre's collection of documentation would be provided, and the centre's facilities would be made available to a selective but world-wide audience;

(c) To the extent possible, the centre's documentation will be made available in Arabic, English and French.

Duration: One year (completion of the first phase by the end of 1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	24 man-months
	Research assistants	12 man-months
	Travel	\$2,800

Remarks. The objectives of the project are to be realized over a period of several years, extending into 1980, with 1975 representing the first phase and involving preparatory activities relating to the establishment of the centre.

3.4.3.2. Regional co-operation for the promotion of tourism

Justification. Efforts at economic co-operation among the countries of the region have, in the past, been mainly concentrated in traditional areas of trade and industry. For various reasons, these efforts have had only limited success. While such efforts need to be intensified in order to find more workable arrangements, other areas of co-operation should be seriously explored. A potentially promising field in this respect is tourism. Tourism has been of real economic significance for only one or two countries in the region (Lebanon and, to a lesser extent, Jordan); its full potentiality in these two countries, and in the rest of the

region, remains to be explored and exploited. This potentiality is likely to be put to best use through close co-operation among the interested countries, given the rich and diversified touristic endowments of the region and the availability of other relevant complementarities (entrepreneurship and finance).

In co-operation with international, regional and national bodies (both private and public) active in the field of tourism, ECWA's efforts could be usefully directed towards assisting the countries of the region in identifying possibilities and suggesting modalities of co-operation and investment (offering a bundle of touristic services), and in helping to bring about the necessary collective endorsement and action. A start in this direction would involve Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Possibilities for co-operation in the field of tourism, involving other countries in the region, would be explored, particularly between Democratic Yemen and Yemen.

Objectives. The proposed project would:

(a) Study the present situation of tourism in the region, with special emphasis on co-operative aspects;

(b) Formulate action-oriented proposals for the most promising areas of co-operation and indicate feasibility studies to be undertaken which could eventually lead to actual investment:

(c) Define the most appropriate modalities of co-operation and means of financing, with special emphasis placed on the possibility of launching joint ventures involving specific countries and based on a social cost-benefit analysis, taking into consideration the opportunity cost of investing in tourism.

Duration: One year (to be completed by the end of 1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	12 man-months
	Consultants	6 man-months
	Research assistants	24 man-months
	Travel	\$400

3.4.3.3. The "brain drain" problem: causes, consequences and remedies

Justification. Among the more serious handicaps to accelerating the pace of economic and social progress in countries of Western Asia is the inadequacy of human skills that affects all aspects of life. It is perhaps not an exaggeration to say that the region's scarcest resource is trained and talented people. The impact of this constraint will be increasingly felt as savings and foreign exchange resources rapidly accumulate in the region as a result of recent developments in the oil situation.

While the problem of skills could be traced to the present state of development in the region, the constant outflow of talent outside the region, or what may be referred to as the "brain drain", has had a detrimental effect. Present conditions in the region require that something should be done to remedy the situation. ECWA could and should take the initiative to study the causes and consequences of the "brain drain" and develop programmes designed to lessen its intensity and reverse the trend in the future.

Objectives. The proposed project would:

(a) Initiate a study of the present situation, with special emphasis on the compilation of comprehensive information on the academic qualifications, occupation, and motivation for emigration or residence abroad, of nationals of the countries of Western Asia who work and reside abroad, and compare the findings with the kind of skills and talents in demand in the region;

(b) Examine the underlying causes of the outward migration of skills and talents and formulate policy-oriented proposals, with a view to reducing and ultimately reversing the direction of the flow;

(c) Consider ways and means of making use of the services of Arab talent residing abroad in order to further the cause of development in the region.

Duration: One year (to be completed by the end of 1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	12 man-months
	Consultants	4 man-months
	Research assistants	12 man-months
	Travel	\$500

(g) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

3.4.3.4. Urban slums

Justification. Marginal human settlements (slums and shanty towns) constitute a sizable proportion of the total city population of many cities in the ECWA region. It can be assumed, taking into account the typical demographic characteristics of such settlements, that slum populations will grow excessively. Hence, marginal human settlements may easily become the major parts of large cities in terms of urban patterns, living conditions and environment if the present approaches towards such settlements are pursued, and intracity inequalities will be further accentuated.

Objectives. The proposed project will consist of the following components:

(a) Determination of the existing marginal urban settlements within selected countries of the ECWA region;

(b) Analysis of the factors leading to the formation of such marginal urban settlements;

(c) Projections of growth of such settlements in relation to total city population under present policies;

(d) Survey of present approaches to the solution of urban marginal settlements;

(e) Development, on the basis of the foregoing components, of new and alternative development approaches, programmes and policy recommendations for the improvement of urban marginal settlements, including investment requirements.

Duration: One year (completion by the end of 1975)

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	36 man-months
	Consultants	3 man-months
	Research assistants	18 man-months
	Travel	\$550

Remarks. Elements of the project will constitute the preparation for an ECWA regional conference on human settlements to be held early in 1976 in preparation for the United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements scheduled to be held in Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976.

3.4.3.5. Children and youth in national development

Justification. Children and youth constitute in almost all ECWA countries nearly 50 per cent of the total population. Although tremendous progress has been made with the establishment of selected services for children, nowhere have a comprehensive long-term development policy and plan been formulated for the formation of the adult generation of tomorrow. The present younger generation is confronting development planners with a great number of problems calling for attention and solution, including: increasing youth unemployment; greater output of the educational system; marginally educated youth resulting from and leading to high drop-out rates and limited opportunities for further practical education and training; and the need for social integration of special groups, such as the handicapped.

Objectives. The project will be composed of the following components:

(a) A status report (assessment) on the present facilities and policies for the preparation of the younger generation, with particular reference to unemployed youth, out-of-school youth and special youth groups (including services for young workers);

(b) A survey of the trends with regard to unemployed youth, out-of-school youth and special youth groups, including projections;

(c) A development programme for children and youth in selected ECWA countries, including policy recommendations for greater social integration and participation.

Duration: One year, ending 1975

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	12 man-months
	Research assistants	18 man-months

Remarks. The project will provide the working papers for the second regional conference on planning for children and youth in national development to be held late in 1975 under the joint auspices of UNICEF, the League of Arab States and ECWA.

3.4.3.6. The role of women in national development

Justification. The problems of social integration of national societies in the ECWA region are particularly reflected in the status and role of women in the development process. Factors like political and legislative reform (voting rights and new personal status laws), wider educational opportunities for girls, industrialization and urbanization with their accompanying modernization processes

(involving employment), are basic sectors to be taken into account. Opportunities for particular types of education are still limited, and female activity rates in the labour force are still extremely low throughout the ECWA region. Hence, the mobilization of women for development demands a substantial acceleration of the social integration processes in all ECWA countries.

Objectives. After the initial assessment of the role of women in development, to be completed by ECWA during 1974, the proposed study will consist of the following components:

(a) A survey of the factors determining the access of girls to education, with particular reference to the cost of education;

(b) A survey of the factors determining the access of women to employment, including the relationship between the salary and wage structure and the activity rate of women;

(c) An analysis of the relationship between the status of women and population growth (family planning, fertility);

(d) An analysis of the role of women in development in relation to the legal status of women;

(e) Formulation of policy recommendations for the accelerated integration of women in education and employment and the services required in this regard.

Duration: One year, ending 1975.

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	24 man-months
	Consultants	3 man-months
	Research assistants	12 man-months
	Travel	\$950

Remarks. The project will form the preparatory work for the regional seminar on the role of women in national development to be organized under the auspices of ECWA in September 1975 within the context of the International Women's Year (1975). As part of the over-all preparation for this seminar, ECWA countries may wish to develop special programmes for use by their mass media, concentrating on the importance of the role of women in national development.

(h) POPULATION

3.4.3.7. Meeting on the regional variant of the world population plan of action

Justification. During the Regional Consultation Meeting held at Damascus from 21 to 23 May 1974 in preparation for the World Population Conference to be held at Bucharest, a recommendation was unanimously adopted calling on the ECWA secretariat to organize a regional meeting soon after the Conference to discuss and develop the regional variant of the world population plan of action. The questions of maintaining present rates of population growth, of population maldistribution, of rapid urbanization and of intraregional migration may be some of the most important aspects to be elaborated in the regional variant. A good deal of the thinking of

the region on the subject of population is already contained in the recommendations of the First Regional Population Conference, held at Beirut from 18 February to 1 March 1974. These recommendations should be the basis and the starting-point of the regional variant.

Objective. The meeting will permit the region to elaborate its own policies and to emphasize its own priorities in the population field. The regional variant would be within the framework and in the context of the world population plan of action and compatible with it.

Duration: 5 days, in May 1975

Resources required: Professional 8 man-months
General Service 6 man-months

Remarks. Funding will be requested from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

3.4.3.8. Interrelation between population and economic growth: the study of demographic and economic investment in Iraq

Justification. During 1974 and 1973, a consultant prepared for UNESOB a study on demographic and economic investment in the Syrian Arab Republic. This study included the following three sections: (i) a discussion of Professor Sauvy's definition of the concept of demographic and economic investment; (ii) a review of the method used, and (iii) an evaluation of the demographic investment in the Syrian Arab Republic. During the First Regional Population Conference of ECWA, a recommendation was made that the scope of this study should be widened to include other countries in the region and to explore more systematically the complexity of the relations between demographic and economic factors in the development process.

Objective. The project will consist of a study of the impact of economic and social investment on population trends and structure in Iraq and the inverse relationship.

Duration: One year (February 1975 to February 1976)

Resources required: Professional 2 man-months)
Consultants 10 man-months) In 1975
Research assistants 4 man-months)

Remarks. UNFPA funding will be requested.

3.4.3.9. Socio-demographic survey of five cities in Oman (Muscat, Mutrah, Nizwa, Sohar and Sur)

Justification. The Government of Oman is fully aware that reliable demographic data are essential for their planning exercise. No census of population has ever been taken; various estimates of population are currently discussed, ranging from 500,000 to 1,500,000. The Government is planning to take a population census as soon as possible in order to be able to produce a development plan for the country and a master plan for the capital. As part of the preparatory work for the census, it is felt that a socio-demographic survey on a pilot basis should be organized

jointly by the Government of Oman and ECWA. This survey could provide the necessary basic information for planning and would serve as a training exercise for the census and for estimating its costs and personnel requirements.

Objectives. The object of the survey is to provide the necessary basic information for planning on the volume, structure, socio-economic characteristics and components of the population of the five cities. In addition, it will provide information on housing characteristics and needs.

Duration: Two years (June 1974 to June 1976)

Resources required: UNFPA share, \$US 65,400; Government share, \$US 14,400.

Professional	10 man-months) In 1975
General Service	2 man-months	

Remarks. ECWA will try to co-ordinate this survey with the FAO economic farm survey.

3.4.4.0. Survey of migration to major cities in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait

Justification. In the Gulf States and Emirates, a large proportion of the population consists of expatriates. This is so particularly in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, where the native population accounts for less than 50 per cent of the total population. Both Governments are very keen to encourage economic growth by permitting Arab expatriates to work freely, but not to the point of losing the identity of the country. Both Governments are interested in undertaking a pilot survey on migration to determine the size, sex, age, nationality, marital status, occupation, level of education, place and duration of residence and other characteristics of the migrants. The findings will help Governments in formulating the necessary population policies.

Objective. The aim of the project is to determine the causes and effects of migration, with special emphasis on the movement of educationally qualified persons among the countries of the region.

Duration: Two years (June 1975 to June 1977)

Resources required:

Professional	12 man-months
General Service	10 man-months

Remarks. This project will be prepared and presented to UNFPA about the middle of 1974.

3.4.4.1. Infant mortality survey in Baghdad

Justification. During the period 1971-1973, two surveys on infant and childhood mortality were carried out successfully in Damascus and Beirut. The First Regional Population Conference recommended that such surveys should be undertaken in other cities in the region.

Objective. The objective of the survey is to determine the level and pattern of infant and childhood mortality, to explore and analyse the differentials

according to such criteria as education, occupation and income, and to investigate the role of environmental practices concerning the care and nursing of infants and young children.

Duration: Two years (June 1975 to June 1977)

Resources required: Professional 10 man-months)
Research assistants 5 man-months) In 1975

Remarks. Funding for this project will be requested from UNFPA.

3.4.4.2. Socio-demographic survey of Hodeida and Taez in Yemen

Justification. In 1972, a socio-demographic survey was jointly implemented by UNESOB and the Government of Yemen in order to obtain demographic data for planning. This survey was considered as a pilot exercise for the census and for estimating its requirements. The census is now under way. The Government of Yemen is very keen to undertake the same type of survey in Hodeida and Taez, the two major towns in the country, for the purpose of obtaining demographic data.

Objective. The aim of the project is to provide information on the volume, structure, socio-economic characteristics and components of the population growth of these two cities. The results of the survey will also be used to determine the population of both cities.

Duration: Two years (September 1974 to September 1976)

Resources required: Professional 6 man-months)
General Service 10 man-months) In 1975

Remarks. UNFPA funding will be requested for this project. A mission from ECWA will soon visit Yemen to finalize a project request and present it to UNFPA.

3.4.4.3. Techniques of evaluating demographic parameters from defective demographic data:

- (a) Regional seminar
- (b) Regional training course

Justification. The need for demographic data is becoming increasingly necessary to measure parameters, owing to the fact that most countries of the region are planning for economic and social development. Unfortunately, the basic data are often lacking or, if they exist, of poor quality. Therefore, it is a necessity to review all methods allowing an estimation of the demographic parameters with the available data.

Objective. The objective of this project is to review and analyse the techniques of evaluating the demographic parameters from defective demographic data provided by censuses or surveys and to acquaint demographers and other research workers in the region with such techniques.

Duration. The seminar will be held for six days in June 1975. The training course will be held for six weeks in October/November 1975.

Resources required. Funding for this project will be requested from UNFPA. The technical work of preparation will require 14 man-months of Professional and 6 man-months of research assistants. The services of one consultant for three months and two lecturers will be needed for six weeks during the regional training course.

3.4.4.4. Population Bulletin of ECWA

Justification. Based on the recommendations of the various expert group meetings that were convened under the auspices of the United Nations, the first issue of the Population Bulletin was published in June 1971. Since then issues 2 to 6 have been published, on the basis of two issues a year, one in January and one in July; issue No. 7 will appear in July 1974. In 1975, two issues will be published. Also in 1975, the Bulletin will be published in Arabic as well as English.

Objective. The basic objective is to raise the level of awareness and understanding of population problems among government officials, professionals and scientists, as well as the general public, in the various countries served by ECWA. The Arabic version of the Bulletin will help to achieve this objective.

Duration. Two issues will be published in 1975.

Budget. The project will be financed by UNFPA.

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	12 man-months) In 1975
	Research assistants	4 man-months	
	Translator (English- Arabic)	6 man-months	

3.5. Supporting services

3.5.1. Management of technical co-operation activities

This programme is mainly concerned with the management and speedy implementation of technical assistance projects assigned to ECWA for execution. ECWA is responsible for technical assistance projects of a regional nature designed for the general benefit of the countries in Western Asia as a whole. In view of the special needs and requirements of the least developed of the developing countries in the region, ECWA wishes to assist in locating and obtaining additional resources to finance specific projects which may be requested by those countries.

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	24 man-months
	Travel	\$1,000

3.5.2. Administrative services, conference services and common services

Under this programme, ECWA would have available to it, to assist in achieving the substantive programme objectives established and approved by the Commission, a range of important and essential services:

- (i) Administrative services, such as budget, finance, legal affairs, personnel management and protocol;

- (ii) Common services, which, during the initial phase of ECWA's programme development, would comprise information and library services. Both activities are essential to the efficient functioning of the Commission and also to making available to members of the Commission relevant information about the activities of the Commission and its secretariat. The establishment of a modern documentation centre has been dealt with above, as a separate project, in paragraph 3.4.3.1.
- (iii) Conference and general services for servicing conferences and meetings approved by the Commission in its calendar of meetings. These include, in particular, translation, editing, reproduction and distribution of documentation, interpretation, essential housekeeping, maintenance and repairs of furniture, fixtures and equipment.

It is proposed that the level of staff resources should be built up over a period of three years (1975, 1976 and 1977). Subject to approval by the General Assembly, the staffing levels under this programme would reach 32 Professional and 100 General Service posts at the end of the period.

<u>3.6. Summary of estimated staff requirements for 1975</u>	<u>Professional man-months</u>
Policy-making organs	-
Executive direction and management	72
Substantive activities:	
(i) Continuing activities	228
(ii) <u>Ad hoc projects and studies (priority A)</u>	432
Supporting services	240
Total	<u>972</u>

3.7. In view of the decision of the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session to establish the staff resources for the Economic Commission for Western Asia at a substantially lower level (45 Professional posts approved for the biennium 1974-1975), the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary would appreciate receiving clear and precise guidance from the members of the Commission and their views regarding the priorities of the above work programme suggestions.

4. Medium-term plan (1976-1979) and first biennial
work programme (1976-1977)

4.1. The Commission is expected to approve, at its second session in early 1975, general priorities for the medium-term plan (1976-1979) and the work programme for the biennium 1976-1977. The Executive Secretary will submit, in due course, a draft plan and programme, developed in the same priority areas as those adopted by the Commission for 1975, unless otherwise indicated. He would, therefore, appreciate receiving, in this connexion, precise guidance from the members of the Commission.

4.2. It seems advisable to plan for a reasonable expansion of the activities of the Commission over the 1976-1977 period in order to reach relatively rapidly a "cruising level". Such an expansion could then be endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and approved by the General Assembly. To this effect, and for planning purposes only, the work programme for

1976-1977 might be established within the following framework in terms of staffing requirements (in Professional man-months).

Policy-making organs	-
Executive direction and management	72
Substantive activities	720
Supporting services	312
Total	<u>1,104</u>

V. ACTIVITIES FROM 15 APRIL 1973 TO 8 JUNE 1974

Introductory note

29. The activities reported for the period preceding 1 January 1974 were carried out by the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut.

A. Development planning and policies

30. During the period under review, ECWA continued to assist national and regional efforts in economic and social policies and planning by clarifying situations, issues and prospects, by reviewing and evaluating development performance and by demonstrating and disseminating the application of modern tools of economic and statistical analysis to the solution of problems that impede economic and social progress in countries of Western Asia.

31. Research related to the first biennial review of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade took a substantial part of the resources available to ECWA. As a contribution to this first biennial effort, a study was prepared on "Review and appraisal of over-all growth performance and development plans and policies in various countries of Western Asia". The purpose of this study was both to assess past and recent performance and its implications for future growth and to bring to the forefront the objectives and policies laid down in the development plans of countries in the ECWA region in the 1970s, as compared to the targets of the Second Development Decade. Moreover, a comprehensive report was prepared, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fifth session, entitled "Review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade", which established baselines against which future progress in the ECWA countries could be usefully assessed, while taking stock of recent achievements and compiling up-to-date information on economic and social progress in the region.

32. In addition to the over-all review and as the first phase of a project designed to analyse the economics, efficiency and performance of public enterprises in various countries of Western Asia, two case studies were completed, one on Iraq and the other on Syria, on the "Review and appraisal of the process of decision-making and management in the public industrial enterprise".

33. Research continued on investment and growth in a multinational perspective, in a major ECWA project entitled "A regional perspective to resource formation and allocation in Western Asia". ^{6/} This project is designed to suggest ways and means of harmonizing national plans and improving the utilization of existing national industrial production capacity in order to achieve a more efficient allocation of

^{6/} The countries covered by this project are the 12 ECWA countries, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Republic and the Sudan.

regional investment resources. Following a study entitled "A critical evaluation of alternative approaches to project appraisal", which had been prepared earlier, a paper on "Regional co-operation and co-ordination in the field of industrial development" was finalized. An attempt is made in this paper to provide a critical appraisal of alternative approaches to regional co-ordination, with particular reference to industry; the use of social cost-benefit analysis in this context is advocated. Complementing this paper are five technical appendices, entitled (a) "Welfare effects of customs unions"; (b) "The potential benefit of tariff harmonization through adoption of a common external tariff in the Arab Common Market"; (c) "Cross-listing of industrial development projects in Western Asia"; (d) "Questionnaire for application of social cost-benefit analysis to industrial projects in the context of economic integration"; and (e) "Empirical estimation of economies of scale". Moreover, work on specific applications of the social cost-benefit approach to regional industrial co-ordination continued during the period under review and resulted in the compilation of the preliminary drafts of five studies. The purpose of the first paper, entitled "The cost of certain industrial inputs in countries of Western Asia", is to present some relevant background material and the best available statistical information the prices of some of the most important inputs to any industrial enterprise in Western Asia, namely, electricity, water, petroleum fuels and unskilled labour. The second study, entitled "Transport facilities, routes and costs in countries of Western Asia", provides estimates of transport costs between Western Asian cities and links the market prices with the social costs of transport. In the third paper, entitled "A simple partial equilibrium model for measuring the benefits/costs of regional co-ordination in certain kinds of industries", a model incorporating several important characteristics of certain industries is developed, which makes it possible to assess the social and private benefits of regional co-ordination or partial economic integration in a simple and straightforward way. The titles of the fourth and fifth studies, namely, "The cement industry in countries of Western Asia: a survey of its present status, of its future prospects and an evaluation of the potential benefits of regional co-ordination" and "The sugar industry in countries of Western Asia: a survey of its present status, of its future prospects and an evaluation of the potential benefits of regional co-ordination", are self-explanatory.

34. In the field of development planning and projections, a paper on the economic structure, foreign trade and capital needs of the Yemen Arab Republic in the Second Development Decade was revised and finalized. This paper describes the economic structure of Yemen, reviews recent economic developments, analyses recent trends in external trade and payments, and attempts detailed projections of imports, exports and transfer payments for every year of the Second Development Decade, in order to arrive at estimates of the balance-of-payments deficit on current account during the 1970s. A major study, also completed along the same lines, was entitled "Economic structure, foreign trade and capital needs of the Syrian Arab Republic (1971-1975)". The study describes briefly the economic structure of Syria since 1963, reviews recent economic and financial developments and planning efforts, presents a critical evaluation of the objectives of the latest Syrian Plan (1971-1975), attempts detailed projections of imports and exports of goods and services, estimates the foreign capital needs of Syria in the terminal year of the Plan (1975), and also provides an order of magnitude of the total foreign exchange requirements of the country during the first half of the Second Decade. In addition, projections of oil production and government oil revenues in Western Asia during the 1970s were prepared. Finally, on the basis, inter alia, of the

three studies mentioned above, a provisional paper was completed on "Regional finance availabilities and the capital needs of various countries in Western Asia (1971-1975)". This study on the financial resource availabilities and needs in the ECWA region shows that the foreign capital needs of Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Syria and the two Yemens will, together, represent a very small fraction of the financial surpluses likely to be generated in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates during the first half of the Decade. To this study, individual country summaries and projections are appended which provide a proper base for the regional picture.

35. As part of the concerted action of the United Nations system in favour of the least developed among the developing countries, research was undertaken on this subject as it pertains to the ECWA region, resulting in the completion of a paper on "Identification and special measures in favour of the least developed countries in Western Asia". This paper utilizes identification criteria specially adapted to the peculiarities of the economies reviewed, while taking stock of the special measures already adopted in favour of the least developed countries thus identified.

36. An evaluation report on the Lebanese Plan, which had been prepared earlier in provisional form, was revised, finalized and published as an ECWA "Occasional Paper" under the title "The Lebanese Six-Year Development Plan 1972-1977: an evaluation".

37. As in preceding periods, work was undertaken for the preparation of the annex, "Sectoral developments and development indicators", to the 1974 issue of the annual publication on development problems, to be entitled Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia. The section of the annex concerning petroleum was completed, with the corresponding statistical tables.

38. A variety of contributions were made in support of United Nations technical co-operation activities and advisory services to Governments in the fields of development planning, finance and statistics. In addition to briefing and debriefing of UNDP experts assigned to the region and substantive review and comments on some of their reports, as well as the reports of the three Special Fund projects operating in the region, ECWA devoted considerable time to:

- (a) Active participation in the following meetings and seminars:
 - (i) Meeting of economic experts on proposals for the implementation of the section dealing with trade, industry and transport of the action programme for economic co-operation among non-aligned and other developing countries (Georgetown, April-May 1973);
 - (ii) Arab League seminar on international monetary reform and the investment of surplus financial resources of oil producing countries in the Middle East (Cairo, August 1973);
 - (iii) Seminar on investment policies for surplus funds of Arab oil producing countries (Kuwait, February 1974);
 - (iv) Meeting of United Nations senior officials in energy (New York, March 1974).

(b) Provision of assistance and advisory services in development planning and projections to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

39. At the request of Governments, the Regional Adviser in Statistics visited Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, where he assisted in the development or improvement of national income accounting and input-output tables, while advising on other matters in the field of statistics.

40. The Regional Adviser in Development Planning and Finance represented ECWA at the first three meetings mentioned above. He also visited Kuwait to advise on the research functions of the Arab Institute for Economic and Social Planning. He provided assistance to the Governments of Syria and the United Arab Emirates in the formulation of their development strategy and advised the chambers of commerce in Yemen on their activities and their role within the over-all development effort of the country.

B. Development of human resources

41. During the period under review, ECWA's efforts in the field of human resources continued to be directed towards assisting the Governments in the region in the areas of social development; housing, building and urban planning; the human environment; science and technology; and public administration. Under this umbrella of tasks, ECWA contributed to the formulation of a social development strategy to deal with the social, physical and environmental problems resulting from the high urbanization rates in the region, the increased requirements for developmental reform - the need for greater application of science and technology and heightened environmental awareness - and the complementary necessity of administrative reform.

42. Within this context, the biennial review and appraisal of progress in three fields - social development; housing, building and urban planning; and public administration - was finalized. Three studies, entitled, respectively, "Review and appraisal of progress in social development in selected countries of Western Asia", "Review and appraisal of progress in housing, building and urban planning in selected countries of Western Asia" and "Review and appraisal of progress in public administration in countries of Western Asia", were prepared. They provide the Governments in the region with an evaluation of the measures taken with regard to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and centre around the actions required to achieve the Decade's social targets.

43. In addition to the review and appraisal exercise, data on the health, education, social welfare, housing and public finance sectors for the years 1971 and 1972 were prepared in the form of quantitative indicators which, together with the review and appraisal of progress in housing, building and urban planning, will be published in the 1974 publication Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia.

44. ECWA also prepared a preliminary report on the social situation in the ECWA region (ECWA/HR/74.11), for publication in the 1974 Report on the World Social Situation, which assists policy-makers in the region, through a sectoral and intersectoral policy-oriented perspective, by analysing the salient social trends in Western Asia. The analysis focuses, in particular, on the social processes in

the region accompanying growth and change, such as urbanization, migration and intraregional manpower flows, and the imbalance and disparity to which they give rise (urban infrastructural backlog, urban unemployment, regional inequities and income differentials). The report also deals with the developmental and administrative reform initiated in the region, the mobilization of women and youth and the scientific and technological reorientation of development in the region.

45. Social attitudes and values as they affect development, as well as social integration, also received attention in the work of ECWA. Within this orientation a preliminary report on the status and the participation of women in development in selected countries of the ECWA region was prepared. The report, which dealt with certain aspects of the issue in Iraq, Kuwait and Lebanon, indicated various areas for future action with regard to the legal, educational and employment status of women in preparation for the International Women's Year (1975). In addition, a paper entitled "The status of women in rural areas in the ECWA region" was prepared and submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session, held in January 1974.

46. Within the context of substantive support to ongoing United Nations technical co-operation activities, and at the request of the Government of Jordan, two evaluation surveys of Bedouin settlement projects in Jordan were undertaken. The studies, entitled "A social and economic evaluation of the Al-Jafr Bedouin settlement in East Jordan" (ESOB/HR/73/18) and "A study of the Wadi Dhuleil irrigation project in East Jordan: a preliminary investigation" (ESOB/HR/73/19), focus on policy guidelines for possible future action in relation to the existing and new settlement projects in Jordan, with particular reference to the socio-economic integration of nomadic populations.

47. In the field of social development, ECWA submitted a paper entitled "Some socio-economic and demographic factors affecting nutrition in the Middle East", which was submitted to the Second Regional Seminar on Food and Nutrition, sponsored jointly by WHO/UNESCO/FAO/UNICEF and the Government of Lebanon and held at Beirut in September 1973.

48. ECWA was also represented at the twenty-third session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, held in Bludan, Syrian Arab Republic, in September 1973.

49. During the year under review, ECWA continued to assist the countries of the region in their search for a more balanced and progressive urban development. Activities were carried out in the main priority areas of housing, building and urban environment. A study entitled "Housing through co-operatives and other non-profit associations in the Middle East" (ESA/HBP/AC.12.7) was prepared as a contribution to an interregional seminar held in Denmark in September 1973. As a finalization and a follow-up of the survey on uncontrolled urban settlements in Amman, Jordan, which appeared under the title "Uncontrolled urban settlements: a case study of Amman, Jordan" in the 1973 issue of Studies on Development Problems in Selected Countries of the Middle East, ECWA formulated, at the request of the Government of Jordan, a proposal for technical assistance to the Amman Municipality entitled "Pilot project in integrated community services for low-income settlements in Amman, Jordan".

50. In the field of the human environment, ECWA prepared, in close collaboration with the regional representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a plan of action for the human environment in the ECWA region for the consideration of UNEP. ECWA participated in the United Nations Expert Meeting on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, in May 1973, and in the First World Intercommunal Conference on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, held at Beirut in June 1973, under the auspices of the Government of Lebanon.

51. In the field of science and technology, the Regional Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development in the Middle East (ESOB/HR/73.4/Rev.1) was adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session. ECWA was also represented at the second session of the Council's Committee on Science and Technology for Development, held in New York in March 1974.

52. ECWA participated in the following two regional conferences held in Beirut in the field of public administration: the First Arab Conference on the Organization and Administration of Postal Services, under the auspices of the Arab Organization for Administrative Sciences and the Civil Service Board of Lebanon, and the round table meeting on organizing and administering national agricultural research systems organized by the Civil Service Board of Lebanon. Moreover, ECWA provided substantive support to the Beirut-based training programme in public finance, which offers training to senior officials of the Ministries of Finance and the Treasury of Democratic Yemen, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

53. ECWA initiated research for papers on "Expansion of higher education and the labour market in selected countries of Western Asia" and "Employment problems and policies in selected countries of Western Asia", which are intended for the joint ILO/ECWA seminar on manpower and employment planning in the Arab States, scheduled to be held at Beirut in April 1975. Also, preparatory work was initiated for a proposed management seminar on the use of computer technology for development in the ECWA region. Similarly, projects on the status and role of the Government and non-governmental organizations in the participation of rural women in development in Lebanon and on the effectiveness of home-based rural employment programmes for women were initiated. Moreover, preparatory work on the co-ordination of building research in the countries of Western Asia and social aspects of rural industrial programmes is under preparation.

54. The Regional Adviser in Human Resources Development and the staff of the Human Resources Section provided advisory services to meet requests of Governments in the ECWA region, which included, among others, advice on social policy and social planning (Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates); training in community development (Saudi Arabia); social welfare and youth programmes (Iraq); regional planning (Jordan); urban and rural housing and settlements (Jordan and Syrian Arab Republic), and the role of non-governmental organizations (Lebanon).

C. Regional co-operation and trade expansion

55. The work of ECWA on regional co-operation and trade expansion was primarily directed in the reporting period towards problems of trade promotion, in general, and of regional trade expansion and economic integration, in particular.

56. A joint UNIDO/UNCTAD/ECWA mission on export promotion visited the Syrian Arab Republic to help in assessing the possibilities for expanding exports of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods which the introduction of the generalized system of preferences offered. The Regional Adviser in International Trade also drafted a proposal for a "Regional project on training workshop on industrial free zones and incentives to promote export-oriented industries".
57. In the context of the preparatory activities for the multilateral trade negotiations, ECWA participated with UNCTAD in a mission that visited Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria and held discussions with the competent authorities on the possibilities and ways and means of assisting those countries at the various stages of the negotiations.
58. With respect to imports, ECWA organized and serviced, in co-operation with UNITAR and SIDA, a regional seminar on international procurement of goods and services. Substantive documentation was prepared for that meeting, reviewing the trade and payments aspects of import procurement in the region, issues relevant to international procurement in the areas of transportation, insurance and transit, and individual country experiences (Iraq and Saudi Arabia) with respect to public procurement.
59. In the field of research and studies on problems and prospects of trade diversification, an issue paper was prepared on the development and promotion of exports of manufactured goods in the region. Also, two brief reviews of recent developments in the level and structure of intraregional and over-all trade and payments of the countries in the region, with up-to-date supporting statistical series and related indicators, were prepared for inclusion in the annexes to the 1973 and 1974 issues of the annual publication on development problems in the region.
60. The problems and prospects of intraregional trade expansion and economic co-operation and integration continued to be one of the central preoccupations of ECWA in the reporting period. In particular, ECWA co-operated closely with UNCTAD and the Council of Arab Economic Unity in the preparations for a regional seminar on problems of trade expansion and economic integration among Arab countries held at Cairo during May 1974. ECWA's contribution included five background papers reviewing, *inter alia*, economic co-operation, integration efforts and payment arrangements in the region, the institutional framework of the Arab Common Market and problems of establishing a common external tariff for the members.

D. Industrial development

61. The Commission extended assistance and advisory services to countries and intergovernmental organizations in the region on the following aspects of industrial development: the promotion of exports of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods, the formulation of an Arab industrialization strategy, the identification of industrialization problems and the promotion of specific industrial investment opportunities in the least developed countries of the region, the future expansion, rationalization and development of specific industry branches, project formulation and evaluation, and the strengthening of industrial institutions.

62. The Commission participated, with UNCTAD and UNIDO, in a joint mission to the Syrian Arab Republic, from 18 to 30 April 1973. The purpose of that mission was to assist Syria to maximize the benefits from the export opportunities that became available with the introduction of the generalized system of preferences.
63. An issue paper on over-all strategy for industrial development formed part of the United Nations contribution to the Third Conference on Industrial Development for Arab States organized by the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States in Tripoli, Libya, in April 1974.
64. Preparations have been started for the joint UNIDO/ECWA meeting on special problems and requirements of industrial development in selected countries of the Middle East. Two staff members undertook a three-week mission to the two Yemens; country papers and project information sheets are presently being prepared.
65. Country-by-country surveys and consultations with Governments were initiated in selected branches of the food-processing industries, the findings of which will be discussed in a joint UNIDO/ECWA meeting of experts and government representatives in the autumn of 1974. The main purpose of this meeting is to identify national and regional priorities and outline specific co-operation programmes for the development of selected branches of the food industry.
66. Other activities included briefing UNIDO experts in the region, facilitating their missions, and attending UNIDO meetings in the region.
67. During this period, the Regional Adviser on Industrial Development provided advisory services to Saudi Arabia, with respect to the valorization of date fruit, to Syria, regarding the prospects of a soda ash industry and the evaluation of a grape juice project, and to Iraq, for the establishment of a technical department attached to the Federation of Industries. The work for those assignments involved field investigations and the preparation of feasibility or implementation reports to assess each project and recommend a suitable procedure for execution. As a member of the joint country mission on the generalized system of preferences to the Syrian Arab Republic, the Regional Adviser also participated in the field work and in the preparation of a report submitted to the Syrian Government. In Kuwait he participated, as a lecturer, in a course organized by the Arab Planning Institute on the formulation and evaluation of industrial projects.

E. Agriculture and natural resources

68. ECWA continued its activities in the field of agriculture, with the aim of proposing possible solutions to major agricultural development problems and exploring ways and means of further integrating the agricultural sector in the countries of the region. However, the resources of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Unit remained at a minimum and, consequently, the implementation of the work programme was seriously affected. As a result, the planned agricultural sector studies, advisory services and short-term missions to Governments and regional organizations could not be undertaken, and a study on agricultural prices and price policies in a selected country of the ECWA region had to be discontinued because of staff limitations.

69. The study of progress in the agricultural sector in selected countries in the Middle East was finished. It reviews and appraises agricultural performance during the past decade, at various levels, and analyses inputs and socio-economic and institutional factors affecting agricultural development. An evaluation is made of the performance of previous plans and of the objectives and priorities of current agricultural development plans.
70. This study was presented, and its findings were discussed, at the Seventh Joint Meeting of the FAO Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and the FAO Commission on Agricultural Statistics, held at Beirut in April 1974.
71. The study on the development problems and policy issues of Lebanese agriculture was updated to the end of 1972 and revised.
72. ECWA co-operated closely with an FAO consultant on an FAO report on agricultural adjustment in the Near East, which served as an important input at the Seventh Joint Meeting of the FAO Commissions referred to above (see para. 70). The study stresses the importance of clarifying agricultural policy objectives at the national level, with the aim of defining meaningful regional objectives, against which national policies would be adapted to help bring about future changes in the location, composition and volume of farm production and the processing of agricultural products. The report also discusses a number of development problems, both national and regional, arising from the need to adjust agricultural, and particularly food, output to match more closely the dynamic growth of demand in the Near East and the changes in its composition. It highlights a number of issues of vital concern and notes that there is scope for various forms of co-operative action at the regional level. The report also looks briefly at intraregional trade in agricultural products and production inputs, a major means by which the agricultural sector could be adjusted in time into a more integrated regional system of production and processing of food and fibres. Finally, the report makes a number of suggestions for appropriate institutional arrangements as a necessary part of agricultural adjustment within a regional context.
73. The indicators and the review of developments in 1972 in the field of agriculture and fisheries in the countries of the region were prepared for inclusion in the annex of the annual ECWA publication on development problems in the region.
74. At the request of the regional representative of UNEP, the first drafts of two project proposals in the area of the human environment, to be submitted to UNEP, were reviewed and evaluated. Also, an internal note was prepared proposing the initiation of activities to develop the rangelands and improve the nomad environment.
75. The Commission participated actively in the FAO/WHO/UNESCO/UNICEF regional seminar on food and nutrition, held at Beirut in September 1973, and in the regional round table on organizing and administering agricultural research systems, organized by the Civil Service Board of Lebanon at Beirut in December 1973.
76. The Commission provided backstopping and substantive support to field experts and to various national and regional organizations and agencies working in agriculture.

77. The initiation of substantive activities in the field of natural resources had to be postponed once more owing to lack of staff. However, ECWA followed up on developments in this field and responded to requests from various organizations and agencies. Useful contacts were also maintained with the Resources and Transport Division at Headquarters.

F. Population

78. In the population field, ECWA assisted Governments and regional institutions in the formulation of their plans and programmes, in the promotion of demographic knowledge and the dissemination of such knowledge through mass media, and in the provision of technical advisory services to Governments and substantive support to United Nations technical co-operation programmes carried out in the region.

79. During the period under review, short-term advisory services in the elucidation of population problems and in the formulation, execution and evaluation of projects were rendered. This work was co-ordinated with that of the Regional Adviser in Demography and the Regional Adviser in Population Statistics, who helped in promoting programmes and projects in the fields of population policies and programmes and also advised and assisted Governments in formulating requests for technical assistance designed to initiate or strengthen population activities.

80. Advisory services were extended to the Governments of the region in the following projects: in Bahrain, in connexion with the organization of population statistics, with particular reference to civil registration and vital statistics; in Lebanon, in connexion with the organization, preparation, implementation and analysis of the internal migration survey and infant mortality survey; in Saudi Arabia, in connexion with the improvement of civil registration and collection of vital statistics by the sampling method; in Oman, in connexion with the organization and implementation of a socio-demographic survey of the five major cities in the country; in the Syrian Arab Republic, in connexion with the setting up of a demographic department within Aleppo University and the planning and implementation of an infant mortality survey in Damascus city; in Yemen, in connexion with the processing and analysis of a socio-demographic survey of Sana'a city, and in Democratic Yemen, in connexion with the setting up of a civil registration and vital statistics system.

81. During the period under review, the efforts of ECWA were directed chiefly to the organization of the First Regional Population Conference, which was held at Beirut from 18 February to 1 March 1974. The objectives of the conference were to review and analyse the present demographic levels and trends and their economic and social implications in the Arab countries of Western Asia and to exchange knowledge and experience on population policies and programmes; to provide a better understanding of the central role of population in the achievement of development goals; and to assist Governments in the region in determining and applying the most effective means of influencing population trends and patterns in order to speed the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade. The conference provided a high level of training, which will assist countries of the ECWA region in preparing themselves more thoroughly for participation in the World Population Conference and ensure that they derive the maximum benefit from such participation. The preparatory committee for the conference had held its third session on 15 February 1974 to finalize the plans and arrangements for the conference.

82. An expert group meeting on fertility was held at Beirut from 17 to 21 December 1973, preceded by a World Fertility Survey Regional Conference held on 14 and 15 December. The objectives of the meeting were to improve knowledge of and information on fertility trends and prospects and the relevant associated factors and, particularly, to study, compare and analyse the levels and trends in fertility in the countries of the ECWA region. Senior government officials from the ECWA region participated in their capacity as experts. The meeting made a number of recommendations which have been taken into account in the formulation of the long-term work programme of ECWA in the demographic field.

83. On the research side, studies were made on the demographic characteristics of youth, the interrelationship between economic and demographic growth and the manpower situation in countries of the region.

84. During the period under review, ECWA participated in and contributed to the documentation of the General Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, held at Liège, Belgium, from 27 August to 1 September 1973, the seminar on population problems and mass media in North Africa and the Middle East, held at Tunis from 24 to 29 September 1973, the eighth session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Population, held at Geneva from 22 to 24 October 1973, and the third special session of the Population Commission, held in New York from 4 to 15 March 1974.

G. Public finance and administration

85. The United Nations project for public finance and administration in Beirut is the outcome of General Assembly resolution 2803 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, which aimed at supporting country programmes of the least developed among the developing countries, as well as regional and subregional programmes of special interest to those countries.

86. The project was officially established in November 1972, for an initial period of four years. It started its operations on 1 March 1973. It is designed to serve mainly Yemen, Democratic Yemen and Oman.

87. During the period under review, the logistic and administrative steps necessary to start and continue the project were taken. A detailed work programme for the second half of 1973 and the year 1974 was prepared and partly implemented.

88. The first Beirut-based training programme, which is designed for senior government officials, was scheduled to take place from 7 November to 31 December 1973. Following consultations with the Governments concerned, five candidates from each country were chosen. It is noteworthy here that the United Arab Emirates sent a special request to admit two candidates to the programme at its own expense. The request was granted.

89. The outbreak of the October War in the Middle East necessitated the postponement of the programme to the period 8 January to 28 February 1974. The following courses were given: an introduction to public finance; government budgeting; public revenues; oil revenues; taxation; public debt; tax administration; government accounting; business accounting; national accounts; public utilities and enterprises; and fiscal policy.

90. Workshops and seminars were organized during the programme. Moreover, participants made field visits to the Budget Bureau and the Public Revenues Bureau in the Lebanese Ministry of Finance.
91. The country-based training programmes, which are designed for middle grade or young government officials, were formulated through consultations between the project staff and government officials of the countries concerned during field trips made by the staff members. They are to be implemented according to special schedules.
92. In order to acquaint themselves with the countries of the region and carry out the necessary consultations, the project director, the public revenues expert and the government budgeting and accounting expert made field trips to the three countries concerned. The project director visited Oman, Abu Dhabi, Sana'a and Aden in April and May 1973. The expert in public finance (revenues) visited Aden in December 1973 and the expert in government budgeting and accounting visited Aden and Sana'a between 30 March and 18 April 1974.
93. In order to promote research facilities, the project staff has started to build up a library on public finance in general, and data and reference materials on the countries concerned and on countries at comparable stages of development, in particular.
94. A prospectus summarizing the goals, training programmes, advisory services and other activities of the project was prepared in Arabic and English with the aim of providing precise information about the project in a convenient form.
95. A concise manual of English and Arabic terminology in the field of public finance was prepared for the immediate use of the participants in the first Beirut training programme. This manual is the first publication in a series aimed at providing students of public finance with a comprehensive manual containing a unified terminology in public finance in Arabic, English and French.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

96. The first session of the Commission was held at Beirut from 3 to 8 June 1974.
97. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, chaired the opening meeting and delivered his inaugural speech (see annex I). He then invited His Excellency Mr. Takieddin Al-Solh, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, to address the Commission on behalf of the President of the Republic of Lebanon (see annex II). The Secretary-General then called upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission, who in turn addressed the Commission (see annex III).
98. The session was attended by representatives of the following 12 member countries of the Commission: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
99. In accordance with paragraph 4 of the terms of reference established for the Commission by Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV), the following States Members of the United Nations participated in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission at its first session: Austria, Canada, Egypt, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
100. Representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and the World Food Programme attended.
101. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present: the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the International Telecommunication Union and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization.
102. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations were also present: the League of Arab States, the Arab Cities Organization, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Labour Organization, the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology, and the Council of Arab Economic Unity.
103. A representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-governmental organization in category I, was also present.

B. Election of officers

104. The Commission unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Faud Naffa' (Lebanon) as Chairman, Mr. Mohammed Zakaria Ismail (Syrian Arab Republic) and Mr. Khalil Salim (Jordan) as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Salah Al-Shaikhly (Iraq) as Rapporteur for the session.

105. In accordance with rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure, the officers of the Commission examined the credentials of the delegations and found them in order.

C. Agenda

106. The Commission had before it the provisional agenda (E/ECWA/1 and Add.1). It decided to postpone the consideration of item 7 of the provisional agenda (Site of the headquarters of the Commission) to a special session to be held at Beirut during the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly in order to make a recommendation concerning the choice of the site of its headquarters to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed fifty-seventh session. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that its decision to convene a special session at Beirut would have administrative and financial implications, which would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session. The Commission also decided to postpone item 10 (Applications for membership in the Commission submitted by Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Commission) to a future session. The Commission then adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening addresses on the occasion of the first session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Invitations to States Members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission (paragraph 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV))
5. General statements
6. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Commission
7. Terms of reference of the Commission
8. Programme of work and priorities of the Commission
9. Other business
10. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

107. At its 7th meeting, the Commission adopted the report on its first session (see chap. III B above).

Annex I

INAUGURAL STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

It is with great pleasure that I address the opening session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

The emergence of a new organ of international co-operation is always an event of great importance. In this particular area at this particular time, it is an auspicious occasion not only for the member States and the countries in adjoining regions but for the international community as a whole.

It is significant that this institution comes into being at the very moment that profound and dramatic changes in the established economic order have created a brighter prospect for your member countries than they have enjoyed for a long time.

No one could have foretold even so short a time as a year ago, when the creation of the Commission was voted by the Economic and Social Council, that it would make its appearance under conditions as favourable to the region as those that prevail today.

A change of unprecedented proportions in the terms of trade of the principal export of some of your member nations has not only created a pool of much needed development capital but has placed these countries in a position of great opportunity and high responsibility under conditions which give them an important voice in world economic affairs.

This presents the Commission with an unusual opportunity for constructive initiatives and action. Your region, which has weathered so many fluctuating tides of history, has never lost a sense of identity and historic mission.

It is a mission to which the world owes a great deal. The roots of modern medicine and modern mathematics were nourished in your soil. A distinctive architectural style created to meet the artistic aspirations of your citizens was carried by your ancestors through North Africa to Europe, where it merged with other traditions and now forms part of the broad stream of our common culture. The names of your great citizens, ancient and modern, are part of the intellectual heritage of all mankind. Your rivers irrigated valleys from which civilization spread outward to the rest of the world. But perhaps the greatest gift which your region brought to humanity lies in the moral search of its people, which found its profound expression in three of the world's great religions.

The vitality of such traditions causes us to look with confidence upon the significant part which your member countries are called upon to play, not only in the affairs of the region but in the broader political and economic evolution of the world community as a whole.

The challenges which this community faces are on an unprecedented scale. This was the lesson which was demonstrated both dramatically and effectively at the recent sixth special session of the General Assembly, which closed in New York only a few weeks ago.

It is essentially a lesson of interdependence not only of all nations but of all life. It is impossible to deal with the great problems that confront the world individually. Poverty, population, environment, energy, raw materials, natural resources, health, employment, education - each element is interconnected with the others. These are global problems, which require a global response.

At the beginning of the Assembly session I outlined a number of issues which in my view demand immediate action if there is to be any hope of securing the optimum use of the world's natural resources with the basic objective of securing better conditions of social and economic justice throughout the world. I make no apology for repeating them here.

The single most devastating indictment of our current world civilization is the continued existence of stark, pervasive mass poverty among two thirds of the world's population. It permeates every phase of life in developing countries: in the malnutrition of children, in the outbreaks of disease, in widespread unemployment, in low literacy rates, in overcrowded cities.

The increasing population of the world presents a constantly growing demand on our limited natural resources.

Never, in recent decades, have world reserves of food been so frighteningly low. The production of enough food to feed, even reasonably well, people all over the world - leaving aside its transportation and distribution - almost certainly represents the largest single pressure on our natural resources.

The world at large has suddenly realized the critical importance of energy in our daily lives. The natural resources that provide the world's energy represent one of our most valuable heritages. We have to develop an approach to energy that will provide for a more equitable and less wasteful use of our resources.

Another vital element in our problems is the vast current world expenditure on armaments, running at present at an estimated 240 billion dollars a year. This enormous expenditure, which represents three times what the world's Governments spend on health, nearly twice what they spend on education, by itself constitutes yet another heavy burden on our natural resources. The imperative need for substantial disarmament becomes more urgent as each day passes.

An effective world monetary system is essential if our natural resources are to be used to the best advantage. The existing system is not working efficiently. It contains a most dangerous, cancer-like disease - inflation. Unless inflation can be controlled, no international monetary system can work efficiently. Unless inflation can be controlled, it is futile to talk about prices. At present it is impossible for anyone to forecast what may happen in the future.

Each of these problems - all directly related to our natural resources - has a direct bearing on the future peace and stability of the world. No State can insulate itself from their effects. And, as if these problems individually were not bad enough, we must recognize that they are all interconnected and interact on each other, and in so doing have a multiplier effect.

The debate at the sixth special session of the General Assembly was at the highest level and was of an extraordinary quality and interest. It has given us a vivid picture of the world economic situation seen from many different points of view and a great wealth of constructive proposals.

To combine and shape these proposals into agreed policies and plans of action, which would in effect be the foundation of a new world economic system, will obviously be a long and extremely difficult task.

In forming your own regional organization you are in effect preparing to play an important part in this work. The use to which regional commissions have been put by the areas which they serve have been manifold and, at times, extraordinarily productive. Beginning with simple but indispensable tasks such as the joint examination of the various national approaches to economic policy, they have often led gradually to valuable and potentially far-reaching initiatives. Joint industrial planning, co-ordinated agricultural production, reciprocal tariff action and eventually the establishment of free trade areas and even common markets, have had their origins in the work of commissions such as the one you are launching today.

A successful start in your work would appear to hold high promise for your region, which, along with an advantageous geographic location, great mineral wealth and the prospect of large future capital accumulations in the future, enjoys a high degree of ethnic and cultural homogeneity which should not be too difficult to translate into a common sense of purpose. The very unevenness with which the great natural wealth of the region is distributed constitutes a challenge to the Commission to find ways under which co-operative development will benefit all member nations and all classes of their societies.

There is now at least some prospect that the deep frustration felt for so long by the inhabitants of the region may gradually begin to yield to a more hopeful outlook as joint action, in the economic sphere, becomes more and more the order of the day.

Regional commissions have a dual function within the United Nations system. They serve their member States and provide them collectively with a link to the system as a whole. But they are also organs of the United Nations and are expected as such to engage in the energetic pursuit of goals set by the international community as a whole. Our current studies of the operations of those segments of the system which fall within the general compass of the Economic and Social Council will hopefully also yield valuable insights into the most effective way in which regional commissions can enhance the work of the United Nations.

It is our hope in the United Nations that the member States as well as the Commission will participate actively and vigorously in the deliberations of two forthcoming United Nations conferences: the World Population Conference, to be held at Bucharest this summer, and the World Food Conference, to be held at Rome in November.

A major world-wide, co-ordinated food production effort, which could result from the Rome conference, could have important and beneficial consequences for your region not only in stimulating agricultural production in new and scientific ways, with the concomitant improvement in rural living standards, but by bringing the

area's oil and particularly its natural gas potential into an expanded effort to push world fertilizer production to new and required higher levels.

Active participation in the affairs of the world community will also have an important side effect. It will inevitably strengthen your links with other regional and interregional bodies and will promote the interchange of views between various parties that tend to form themselves around common interests. If the international community is to act in concert - a need which is becoming daily more overriding - clarity in the definition of joint positions is both a necessary discipline and an effective negotiating tool. This was demonstrated again through the work done by the non-aligned nations at their meetings at Georgetown and at Algiers, which had such an important impact on the sixth special session of the General Assembly.

Finally, of course, regional commissions could usefully nurture a heightened awareness of our interdependence; of the fact that we are all moving rapidly into a single, global economy in which the parts must collaborate closely to assure the working of the whole.

This global role which we are called upon to play may well be of particular significance to those of your member States which are likely to accumulate substantial capital resources in the immediate future. Wisely employed, these funds will not only help to develop your region but could exert a currently much-needed force to see the world economy through a precarious period of transition during which it should become a more effective instrument for an equitable development of the globe as a whole.

Before closing I wish to refer to the latest developments in the region. The conclusion of the agreement between Israel and Syria on the disengagement of forces is another vital and encouraging step toward peace in the Middle East. As you know, the Security Council has immediately authorized the setting up of a United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in accordance with the terms of the agreement, and arrangements are now going forward to deploy that Force. We all know that the main elements of the Middle East problem still remain to be solved. I earnestly hope that the momentum toward a just and lasting settlement will be maintained in the months to come at the Geneva peace conference. Progress towards a settlement is vital not only for the countries and peoples of the Middle East but for the world as a whole.

Mr. Prime Minister, Excellencies, distinguished guests, I take heart from the fact that your important deliberations are taking place here in Beirut, in this beautiful and cosmopolitan capital in which a sense of commercial and financial enterprise combines with an ancient civilization to create an excellent setting for the working out of international understanding.

It is only fitting that I here also pay tribute to Ambassador Ghorra, the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, whose unflagging enthusiasm and skill did so much to help create the organization which is now entering on its important business.

May I, in conclusion, express to you my best wishes for the successful work of your Commission.

Annex II

STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF LEBANON AT THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

I welcome you in the name of the President, Government and people of Lebanon to the opening session of the Economic Commission which the United Nations has established for Western Asia and for whose seat the United Nations has chosen Lebanon.

We very much appreciate the United Nations initiative in establishing this Commission and the over-all interest it is taking in this part of the Arab world. We are convinced that the Commission will perform the constructive role that has been entrusted to it, which is the economic and social development of the region and, as provided in the United Nations Charter, the promotion of international co-operation for the welfare of the peoples of the region and for raising their standard of living.

Lebanon has always adopted a positive attitude toward the United Nations ever since its establishment and considers that, in view of its geographical position, its openness to the world and close co-operation with its sister Arab States, it is capable of playing a positive role towards development, progress and peace in this part of the world.

The area covered by the Commission, which encompasses 12 Arab States, is called upon, in view of both its developmental needs and its available human resources, to contribute to the strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade and to achieve the objectives of the recent United Nations declaration on the establishment of a new international system taking into consideration the interests of all the people and ensuring an equal distribution of wealth to be enjoyed by the whole international community.

Our region has witnessed suffering and has, for the past 25 years, felt neglected as regards the services and expertise which the international organizations have been rendering in order to assist in the co-ordination and implementation of socio-economic development in the region.

The inhabitants of this region, with their ancient civilization, are very eager to participate positively and constructively and with a deep sense of responsibility and awareness of the needs of their peoples in order to achieve social change and development as well as to harness Arab wealth to the service of man wherever he may be.

The development of this region will constitute a strong link within the international development system. It is a source of pleasure for us to witness today growing world interest not only on the political level but also in various domains.

This region could have devoted all its resources and potential to its socio-economic development had it not been for the political circumstances it

suffered and is still suffering as a result of the Israeli aggression, which forced it to allocate a great part of its resources and a significant part of its national income to self-defence purposes.

Lebanon foresees a period in which this Commission, in co-operation with the United Nations and with neighbouring Member States, will work towards ensuring a prosperous future for these countries and their people. We are sure that the member States, which are endeavouring to achieve their development objectives through scientific planning and technological methods are fully convinced that this Commission will achieve all its noble objectives.

Lebanon is happy, indeed, to see the Secretary-General of the United Nations participating in person in this memorable occasion. We warmly welcome him and express our great appreciation for the efforts exerted by him for the establishment of world peace and the strengthening of international co-operation in various areas.

It also gives me great pleasure to express my warm welcome on this occasion to the ministers and members of the delegations of the neighbouring countries and to wish all of them success during this session of this Commission, whose establishment satisfies an important historical need.

Annex III

STATEMENT MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

At this inaugural session I wish, first of all, to conform with the long established tradition of welcoming very warmly all the distinguished persons who are meeting today here in Beirut on the occasion of the first session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia. With the presence of such a large number of eminent personalities, who have come not only from the countries of the region but from all over the world, I am intensely aware, more than ever before, of the honour that has been extended to me by placing me, as Executive Secretary, at the head of the secretariat of this Commission. I am fully aware of the extent of the responsibilities which this office involves and to which I devote all my energy.

I wish to avail myself of this solemn occasion, and of the atmosphere of goodwill and determination that accompany the early days of a new institution, in order to comment briefly on some of the conditions which, in my view, should be fulfilled if the activities of this Commission, a late-comer on the international scene, are to be crowned with success.

The recent events, particularly the problems of raw materials and energy which have been raised at the recent special session of the General Assembly in New York, have put this region in the limelight more than ever. It has many favourable factors, both political and economic, that make success inevitable. The Commission can fruitfully contribute to the progress of the people of this region if its mandate - which can perhaps be summarized in the formula "to assist national progress through regional co-operation" - is properly fulfilled. The services which the Commission can offer to the member countries are not new at all: documentation, studies and technical assistance to Governments. These are the usual types of activities rendered by United Nations organs. We shall be speaking of these activities in greater detail when discussing the work programme. What I wish to emphasize here, however, is that what seems to me to be more important than the technical aspects or the letter of the mandate is the spirit in which this mandate is going to be carried out and the willingness to make the best use of the available possibilities which, I believe, are very real indeed.

I sincerely hope that the dynamism that characterizes today the economic and social development of each country of the region will continue to manifest itself in the activities of the Commission, notwithstanding the unavoidable delays associated with intergovernmental action. I am firmly convinced that the geographical and cultural features of the region offer, at the outset, the best chances for a fruitful regional co-operation that will accelerate growth in all member countries.

The first necessary condition for achieving this objective is for the governments in the region to consider the Commission as their instrument, as is fundamentally the case, while it remains, of course, a part of the world community. This dual nature of the Commission, on the one hand a regional body reflecting the

aspirations and concerned with development problems of a group of countries, and, on the other hand, a part of a system concerned with the international community at large, does not give rise to any difficulty but calls for a certain number of precautions, particularly at the co-ordination level.

It so happens that this part of Western Asia is well endowed with institutions - intergovernmental and national - having a regional vocation. These institutions all work towards promoting regional co-operation in the Arab world by various means, which can be either strictly technical or financial, or more directly political. The Economic Commission for Western Asia must find its place within this set-up. The secretariat of the Commission can undoubtedly assist in a situation that is certainly very complex, however, it rests with the member States, and with them alone, to define, within the framework of the Commission's mandate, the role which they intend it to play.

I personally expect from this session a first attempt to define this role. I was able to gather a number of indications concerning this point in the course of the official visits which I have made during recent months to most of the countries of the region. Yet it seems clear to me that quite a long time will be required - and a great deal of empiricism - until the Commission finds its bearing within the region. What is important is that during this somewhat uncertain phase the member States should support and give their confidence to the Commission, and consider it as their own instrument for promoting their own development. I would like to express the wish, with a deep personal conviction, that the member States should truly identify themselves with this Commission and associate themselves with its efforts, particularly during the initial phase of its work, and not merely consider it as another part of a great international machine.

The United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, known as UNESOB, was basically an administrative set-up which, however, exerted considerable effort, to which I must pay tribute. The creation of the Commission represents a basic change from both the institutional and political point of view, and I am sure that the member States realize the deep significance of this change and its implications. In my capacity as Executive Secretary, I shall do everything within my power to promote this identification between the member States and the Commission and make sure that the Commission will go beyond the daily administrative routine. I have just used the word co-ordination, and I know well all that this word implies within a complex system such as that of the United Nations. In my previous post, when serving my country at the United Nations in New York, and in the course of these recent months in my capacity as Executive Secretary of this Commission, I came to appreciate the richness and diversity of the experience and knowledge that has been accumulated by the organizations that make up the United Nations family. I consider the Commission, by virtue of its multidisciplinary approach, as a privileged means for the mobilization of this wealth for the greatest benefit of the member States. This is to stress from the very beginning the importance of the relation between the various United Nations agencies and the Commission. The first contacts that have been made so far at the secretariat level seem to be very encouraging for the future. I am certain that the Commission can rely on the highly qualified talents of these technical and financial agencies which have sent high-level representatives to this first session of the Commission, thus indicating their particular interest in this latest member of the family. Their interest is appreciated.

There is another matter which seems to be particularly important for the success of the Commission, namely, the establishment of a genuine dialogue between the secretariat of the Commission and the political and administrative authorities

of the member States. I am not unaware of the difficulties involved, but I believe we should create, from the very beginning, the most favourable conditions for such a dialogue. Development is an extremely human oriented subject and cannot be merely a matter of cold technique. I believe that the Commission can prove to be even more efficient by succeeding in weaving a web of confident relations between the secretariat and the member States at all levels, from the ministerial to the working ranks. Moreover, this dialogue should be maintained all the year round and not only on periodic occasions. The Commission should thus become an active meeting centre and its headquarters a place for the exchange of contacts.

For this reason I personally attach great importance to the establishment of the shortest possible circuits of communication with the Governments, in order to create and maintain the close relations I have just mentioned and in order to avoid seeing the best ideas and intentions vanish into the quagmire of administrative procedure and formalities which each of us has experienced in a world that may yet need to rediscover a sense of a more direct and warm human contact.

I have mentioned here, however, voluntarily, only a few of the general conditions that should be met in order to make this Commission an efficient instrument servicing the member States and their peoples. I conclude by requesting His Excellency the President of the Council of Ministers to accept the assurances of our gratitude for the hospitality which the Lebanese Government has extended to the first session of the Commission. I would also express to all the representatives of member States present here my personal wishes for the complete success of this first meeting.

Annex IV

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

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PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. SESSIONS

Dates of sessions

Rule 1

Sessions of the Commission shall be held:

- (a) Normally annually, beginning on the third Monday of April;
- (b) Within 45 days of the communication of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council (the "Council");
- (c) At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, after consultation with the Secretary-General;
- (d) On such other occasions as the Chairman, after consultation with the other officers, the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General, deems necessary.

Place of sessions

Rule 2

The sessions of the Commission shall normally be held at its headquarters. It may, with the concurrence of the Secretary-General, hold a particular session elsewhere.

Alteration of the dates and place of a session

Rule 3

At the request of a majority of the members of the Commission, or in special cases, the dates and place of a session may be altered by the Chairman after consultation with the other officers, the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General.

Notification of sessions

Rule 4

The Executive Secretary shall notify the members of the Commission of the date and place of the first meeting of each session at least six weeks before the commencement of the session. Such notification shall also be made to the specialized agencies, to the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 66, to the non-governmental organizations in category I and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category II or on the Roster.

II. AGENDA

Drawing up of the provisional agenda

Rule 5

1. The Executive Secretary shall draw up the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission, in consultation with the Chairman.
2. The provisional agenda shall include all items required by these rules or proposed by:
 - (a) The Commission;
 - (b) The Council;
 - (c) A member of the Commission;
 - (d) The Executive Secretary;
 - (e) A specialized agency;
 - (f) An intergovernmental organization referred to in rule 66;
 - (g) A non-governmental organization in category I, subject to rule 67.
3. Before the Executive Secretary places an item proposed by a specialized agency or an intergovernmental organization on the provisional agenda, he shall carry out with the agency or organization concerned such preliminary consultation as may be necessary.
4. Agenda items shall be arranged in an integrated manner so that similar or connected issues can be discussed in one debate and under a single heading.

Communication of the provisional agenda

Rule 6

The Executive Secretary shall communicate the provisional agenda of a session at least six weeks before its commencement to the members of the Commission, to the specialized agencies, to the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 66, to the non-governmental organizations in category I and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category II or on the Roster.

Supplementary items

Rule 7

1. The inclusion of supplementary items in the provisional agenda may be proposed by the Council, a member of the Commission, the Executive Secretary, or, subject to paragraph 3 of rule 5, a specialized agency. The proposal shall, except

if made by the Council, be accompanied by a supporting statement from the authority initiating it, indicating the urgency of the consideration of the item and the reasons that precluded its submission before the communication of the provisional agenda.

2. The supplementary items shall be placed by the Executive Secretary on a supplementary list and communicated to the Commission together with the supporting statements and such observations as the Executive Secretary may wish to offer.

Adoption of the agenda

Rule 8

1. The Commission shall at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Chairman as required under rule 12, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda and of the supplementary list referred to in rule 7.

2. An organ of the United Nations, a member of the Commission, a specialized agency, an intergovernmental organization or a non-governmental organization that has proposed the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda or the supplementary list shall be entitled to be heard by the Commission on the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

3. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, if the documentation relating to an item of the agenda has not been circulated to its members, in all the working languages, six weeks before the opening of the session, the item shall be automatically postponed to the following session, except in the case of the report of a subsidiary body on meetings which have been concluded 12 weeks or less before the opening of the session of the Commission.

Revision of the agenda

Rule 9

During a session the Commission may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only urgent and important items shall be added to the agenda during a session.

III. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Representatives, alternates and advisers

Rule 10

Each member of the Commission shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Credentials

Rule 11

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary not less than three days before the first meeting which they are to attend. The officers of the Commission shall examine the credentials and submit a report thereon to the Commission.

IV. OFFICERS

Election and term of office

Rule 12

The Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Acting Chairman

Rule 13

1. If the Chairman finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the vice-chairmen to take his place.

2. If the Chairman ceases to be the representative of a member of the Commission, or is incapacitated, the remaining officers of the Commission shall designate one of the vice-chairmen to take his place until the election of a new Chairman.

Powers of the Acting Chairman

Rule 14

A Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Voting rights of the Chairman

Rule 15

The Chairman, or a Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission in that capacity and not as the representative of the member by whom he is accredited, which may instead be represented by another representative who shall exercise its vote.

V. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Establishment

Rule 16

1. The Commission may, after consultation with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such standing subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them.

2. The Commission may establish such ad hoc subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Membership

Rule 17

Unless the Commission decides otherwise, the members of subsidiary bodies of limited membership shall be nominated by the Chairman, subject to the approval of the Commission.

Officers

Rule 18

Unless the Commission decides otherwise, subsidiary bodies shall elect their own officers.

Rules of procedure

Rule 19

Unless the Commission decides otherwise, these rules shall apply to subsidiary bodies as far as appropriate.

VI. SECRETARIAT

Duties of the Executive Secretary

Rule 20

1. The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. He may designate another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

2. The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and shall be responsible for all arrangements necessary for their meetings.

3. At the beginning of each session the Executive Secretary shall present a report on the work programme of the secretariat since the last session.

4. In the periods between sessions, the Executive Secretary shall see that, in so far as possible, the members of the Commission are informed of developments in the work of the secretariat.

5. The Executive Secretary shall keep the members of the Commission informed of any questions that may be brought before it for consideration.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary, in carrying out his functions, shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 22

The secretariat shall, in accordance with these rules:

- (a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;
- (b) Receive, translate and circulate the documents of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies;
- (c) Publish and circulate the records of meetings, the resolutions of the Commission and the required documentation;
- (d) Have custody of the documents in the archives of the Commission;
- (e) Generally perform all other work that the Commission may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 23

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Estimates of expenditure

Rule 24

Before any proposal which involves expenditure from United Nations funds is approved by the Commission or by any of its subsidiary bodies, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to the members of the body concerned, as early as possible, an estimate of the cost of implementing the proposal. The chairman of the body concerned shall draw the attention of the members to this estimate and invite discussion on it when the proposal is considered by that body.

VII. LANGUAGES

Working languages

Rule 25

Arabic, English and French shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Interpretation

Rule 26

1. Speeches made in a working language shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

2. A representative may make a speech in a language other than a working language if he provides for interpretation into one such language. Interpretation into the other working languages by the interpreters of the secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

Language of records

Rule 27

Records shall be drawn up in the working languages.

Language of formal decisions and annual reports

Rule 28

All resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the annual reports referred to in rule 34, shall be published in the working languages.

VIII. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principles

Rule 29

The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be held in public unless the Commission or the body concerned decides otherwise.

Communiqués on private meetings

Rule 30

At the close of a private meeting the Commission or subsidiary body holding the meeting may issue a communiqué through the Executive Secretary.

IX. RECORDS AND REPORTS

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 31

Sound recordings of the meetings of the Commission shall be made and kept by the secretariat. Such recordings may also be made and kept of the meetings of subsidiary bodies if so decided by the Commission.

Summary records of meetings

Rule 32

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall not normally be kept. However, the Commission may request the secretariat to prepare summary records for any discussion that requires special treatment.

Rule 33

1. If summary records of meetings of the Commission or a subsidiary body are requested pursuant to rule 32, they shall be prepared by the secretariat in the working languages. They shall be distributed in provisional form as soon as possible to all members of the body concerned and to any others participating in the meeting, who may, within three working days of their receipt, submit corrections to the secretariat; at the end of a session and in other special circumstances, the chairman of the body may, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, extend the time for submitting corrections. Any disagreement concerning such corrections shall be decided by the chairman of the body, after consulting, where necessary, any sound recordings of the proceedings. Separate corrigenda shall not normally be issued.

2. Summary records of public meetings, with any corrections incorporated, shall be distributed promptly to the members of the Commission, to the specialized agencies and to the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 66.

3. Summary records of private meetings, with any corrections incorporated, shall be distributed promptly to the members of the body concerned and to any other participants in those meetings. They shall be made public at such time and under such conditions as the Commission may decide.

Annual report

Rule 34

The Commission shall once a year submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of its subsidiary bodies.

Communication of formal decisions and annual reports

Rule 35

The text of all resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the annual reports referred to in rule 34, shall be distributed promptly to the members of the Commission, to the specialized agencies, to the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 66, to the non-governmental organizations in category I and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category II or on the Roster.

X. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 36

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

General powers of the Chairman

Rule 37

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Chairman, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Commission and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He shall rule on points of order. He may propose to the Commission the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to representatives and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

2. The Chairman, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Commission.

Points of order

Rule 38

1. Subject to rule 54, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the Chairman in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the Chairman shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

2. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Speeches

Rule 39

1. No one may address the Commission without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairman. Subject to rules 38, 41 and 42-44, the Chairman shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Commission, and the Chairman may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Commission may limit the time allowed to speakers and the number of times the representative of each member may speak on any question. Each intervention on procedural questions shall be limited to a maximum of five minutes. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the Chairman shall call him to order without delay.

Closure of list of speakers

Rule 40

During the course of a debate the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Commission, declare the list closed. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no more speakers, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure pursuant to rule 43.

Right of reply

Rule 41

Notwithstanding rule 40, the Chairman may accord the right of reply to any member. Such statements shall be as brief as possible and shall, as a general rule, be delivered at the end of the last meeting of the day.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 42

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to one representative in favour of and to one opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 43

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 44

Subject to rule 54, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted, and they shall be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 45

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 46

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the members of the Commission in all working languages. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, proposals and substantive amendments shall not be discussed or put to the vote for at least 24 hours after copies have been circulated to all members.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 47

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced immediately by any representative with its original priority.

Decisions on competence

Rule 48

A motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Commission to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 49

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Commission, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

XI. VOTING

Voting rights

Rule 50

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 51

1. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

2. For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 52

Subject to rule 59, the Commission shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the Arabic alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairman. The name of each member shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

Explanation of vote

Rule 53

The Chairman may permit representatives to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot. He may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon.

Conduct during voting

Rule 54

After the Chairman has announced the commencement of voting, no representative may interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connexion with the actual conduct of the voting.

Division of proposals

Rule 55

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be voted on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal which are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments

Rule 56

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be considered as including amendments.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 57

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. If no amendments are adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 58

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Commission decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Commission may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 59

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Commission decides otherwise in an election where the number of candidates does not exceed the number of elective places to be filled. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one representative, after which the Commission shall immediately proceed to the election.

Rule 60

1. If, when only one elective place is to be filled, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken, confined to the two candidates having obtained the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the Chairman shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held among such candidates for the purpose of reducing their number to two; similarly, in the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held. If a tie again results in the special ballot, the Chairman shall eliminate one candidate by drawing lots, and thereafter another ballot shall be taken in accordance with paragraph 1.

Rule 61

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the majority required and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, provided that if only one place remains to be filled the procedures in rule 60 shall be applied. The ballot shall be restricted to the unsuccessful candidates having obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, but not exceeding twice the number of places remaining to be filled. However, in the case of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to the required number; if a tie again results among more than the required number of candidates, the Chairman shall reduce their number to that required by drawing lots.

3. If such a restricted ballot (not counting a special ballot held under the conditions specified in the last sentence of para. 2) is inconclusive, the Chairman shall decide among the candidates by drawing lots.

Equally divided votes

Rule 62

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

XII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Participation of non-member States

Rule 63

The Commission may invite any Member of the United Nations or of a specialized agency that is not a member of the Commission to participate in its deliberations on any matter which the Commission considers to be of particular concern to that State. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Commission.

Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies a/

Rule 64

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled:

(a) To be represented at meetings of the Commission;

(b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Commission.

Rule 65

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda or the supplementary list contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving co-ordinated use of the resources of the organizations concerned.

a/ When the term "specialized agency" is used in these rules, it refers to specialized agencies brought into relationship with the United Nations; it also includes the International Atomic Energy Agency and on a de facto basis the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

2. When in the course of a meeting of the Commission a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives of the agencies concerned, draw the attention of the Commission to the implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Participation of other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 66

Representatives of intergovernmental organizations accorded permanent observer status by the General Assembly and of other intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or continuing basis by the Council or the Commission may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Commission on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.

XIII. CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Provisional agenda

Rule 67

Non-governmental organizations in category I may propose items for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization intending to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least nine weeks before the commencement of the session and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments the Executive Secretary may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not later than seven weeks before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Attendance at meetings

Rule 68

Non-governmental organizations in categories I and II may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Written statements

Rule 69

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission may be submitted by non-governmental organizations on subjects for which those organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members of the Commission subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The statement shall be submitted in one of the working languages:
- (b) The statement shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;
- (c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation, before transmitting the statement in final form;
- (d) A statement submitted by an organization in category I shall be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Longer statements shall be circulated in full if the organization supplies sufficient copies in all working languages, or upon a specific request of the Commission. Otherwise a summary shall be circulated if the organization provides the text thereof in a working language;
- (e) A statement submitted by an organization in category II shall be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Longer statements shall be circulated in full upon a specific request of the Commission. Otherwise a summary will be circulated if the organization provides the text thereof in a working language;
- (f) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself, may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements.
- (g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages.

Hearings

Rule 70

1. The Commission may consult with non-governmental organizations in categories I and II either directly or through a committee established for the purpose. Such consultations may be arranged at the request of the organization.
2. On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary made in consultation with the Chairman, or at the request of the Commission, consultations may be arranged with organizations on the Roster.

Special studies

Rule 71

Subject to rule 24, the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization having special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of paragraphs (d) and (e) of rule 69 shall not apply in this case.

XIV. AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

Amendments and suspensions

Rule 72

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended in accordance with rule 73 or 74, provided that the proposed amendment or suspension does not attempt to set aside the terms of reference of the Commission as established by the Council.

Method of amendment

Rule 73

These rules may be amended by the Commission after its officers have reported to it on the proposed amendment.

Method of suspension

Rule 74

These rules may be suspended by the Commission provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no member objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Annex V

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ADOPTION OF THREE
WORKING LANGUAGES BY THE COMMISSION: STATEMENT SUBMITTED
BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. In the terms of reference a/ of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), the Economic and Social Council authorized the Commission to adopt its own rules of procedure. The Executive Secretary has submitted draft rules of procedure (E/ECWA/2) to the members of the Commission for their consideration. In that draft, rule 25 reads as follows:

Rule 25

Arabic, English and French shall be the working languages of the Commission.

2. Should the Commission adopt the above rule of procedure, and should it be approved by the Economic and Social Council, there would be financial implications, since in the statement he submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fifth session b/ the Secretary-General had assumed that only English and French would be required and therefore no provision for Arabic translation services was included in the 1974-1975 ECWA budget.

3. In estimating the requirements for providing services in three languages the following assumptions have been made:

- (i) That there would be one annual session of the Commission;
- (ii) That, beginning in 1975, there would be five subsidiary bodies of the Commission which would each hold one meeting annually;
- (iii) That documentation to be submitted in Arabic, English or French for translation into the other two languages in connexion with and between sessions of the various bodies would amount to the following number of pages in 1976-1977:

<u>Arabic</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>French</u>
1,300	2,000	800
900	4,000	1,200
2,200	6,000	2,000

a/ See Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973.

b/ E/L.1497/Rev.2/Add.1/Rev.1.

Accordingly the workload can be projected as follows:

	<u>Pages</u>
English into Arabic	6,000
French into Arabic	2,000
Arabic into English	2,200
French into English	2,000
Arabic into French	2,200
English into French	6,000

4. Furthermore, it is proposed that the staffing of the translation service of ECWA should reflect the principles that are applied at the other regional economic commissions, which would imply, inter alia, that:

- The translators and revisers would be recruited through competitive examination at the following levels:
 - Assistant translators P-2
 - Experienced translators P-3
 - Revisers P-4
- The Chief of the Service would be recruited at the P-5 level;
- The ratio of revisers to translators would be one to two;
- There would be one typist per translator and, in addition, a few reference clerks and secretarial assistance, including a secretary for the Chief of Section.

5. On the basis of the above assumptions and principles, the manning table proposed for the ECWA language services would consist of:

	<u>P-5</u>	<u>P-4</u>	<u>P-3 a/</u>	<u>LL</u>
Translation services	1	5	10	15
Editorial services		1	3	3

a/ Junior translators will be recruited at the P-2 level for a two-year probation period. Upon satisfactory completion of that period, they will, in accordance with United Nations practice, be promoted to P-3.

6. The cost of providing the level of services in three languages has been estimated taking into account the unavoidable delays and difficulties in the recruitment of language staff. A deduction for delayed recruitment, calculated at the rate of 50 per cent for Professional posts and 35 per cent for Local Level posts, has accordingly been applied to the estimated requirements for 1975, it being understood, however, that ECWA would enjoy a measure of flexibility with regard to the timing of recruitment against these new posts. Furthermore, it

has been assumed that the translators to be recruited will include equal numbers of experienced and junior translators. Lastly, the estimates are based upon the existing salary scales projected through 1977, taking into account expected increases in the cost of living in Beirut.

7. The estimate of these costs, including salary and wages, contractual services, travel and reproduction, is as follows:

	<u>US dollars</u>
1975	342,000
1976-1977	1,558,000

No provision has been made for major fluctuations in exchange rates.

8. The additional costs to be incurred by the United Nations as a result of increasing the number of working languages in ECWA from two, as initially assumed, to three, and of establishing the required translation services, have been estimated at \$205,000 for 1975 and \$935,000 for 1976-1977, considering that of the translation workload of 20,400 pages shown above about 60 per cent consists of translations from English and French into Arabic and from Arabic into English and French.

Annex VI

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED FOR THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/1	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
E/ECWA/2	Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/3	Terms of reference of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/4	Programme of work and priorities of the Commission proposed by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/5	Applications for membership in the Commission submitted by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/5/Add.1	Applications for membership in the Commission submitted by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/7 and Add.1 and 2	Site of the headquarters of the Commission
E/ECWA/8	Agenda adopted by the Commission
E/ECWA/L.1	Administrative and financial implications of the adoption of three working languages by the Economic Commission for Western Asia under its rules of procedure
E/ECWA/L.2	Invitations to States Members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/L.3	List of documents