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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA

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**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON THE WORK OF ITS ELEVENTH SESSION**

NOTE

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INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 May 1982, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)¹ adopted resolution 114 (IX) on the ECWA medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. In paragraph 4 of that resolution, ECWA recommended to the Economic and Social Council that a Standing Committee for the Programme, composed of all member countries of the Commission, be established as its main subsidiary organ to assist the Commission in discharging its responsibilities in respect of programme planning and review.
2. On 27 July 1984, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1984/80 on the general policy-making structure of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and recalled its resolution 1982/64 of 30 July 1982, by which it established, within the Economic Commission for Western Asia, a Standing Committee for the Programme, and decided to designate it as the Technical Committee and to add to its terms of reference, set out in paragraph 5 of Commission resolution 114 (IX) of 12 May 1982, the consideration of the items on the provisional agenda for the annual session of the Commission, in preparation for the Commission's meeting at the ministerial level.
3. The eleventh session of the Technical Committee is being held pursuant to ESCWA resolution 196 (XVII) of 31 May 1994 on the frequency of sessions of the Commission and the Technical Committee, and in particular the following two paragraphs of that resolution, in which the Commission:
 - "1. *Decides* that the meetings of the Technical Committee shall henceforth be linked with the sessions of the Commission, in accordance with previous practice, and that the Technical Committee shall hold its meeting shortly before the Commission session;
 - "2. *Decides also* that Commission sessions shall be held in odd years, starting in 1995, in conformity with the budget session of the United Nations and with the cycle to monitor the progress achieved in the programmes of work of the system."
4. It was the intention of the secretariat to focus attention on the essential points of the deliberations; consequently, the present report reflects the most important issues raised, briefly summarizing the discussions that took place on each agenda item, without any detailed presentation of the views expressed by individual representatives.

¹ The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was redesignated the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) by Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

A. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SESSION

5. The Technical Committee held its eleventh session in Beirut on 25 and 26 May 1999. The Committee held three meetings, during which it discussed the agenda items listed in paragraph 9 of the present report and submitted its recommendations to the Commission for consideration at its twentieth session.

B. ATTENDANCE

6. The session was attended by representatives of the following ESCWA members:² Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

7. The session was also attended by observers from the following United Nations entities: Regional Commissions New York Office; United Nations Environment Programme; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; International Civil Aviation Organization; World Health Organization; World Bank; Universal Postal Union; World Meteorological Organization; and United Nations Industrial Development Organization. A number of experts attended the session in their personal capacity.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. At its 1st meeting, held on 25 May 1999, the Committee elected His Excellency Mr. Mohamed M. Abdelsattar Issa, head of the delegation of Lebanon, as Chairman of the eleventh session of the Technical Committee; His Excellency Mr. Sayed Kassem el-Masry, head of the delegation of Egypt, and Mr. Muhammad Salih Shilwah, head of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Zuhdi Labib Tarazi, head of the delegation of Palestine, as Rapporteur.

D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Technical Committee adopted the following agenda (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/1) for its eleventh session:

1. Opening of the Technical Committee session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Invitation to States Members of the United Nations and/or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the eleventh session of the Technical Committee.
6. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission:

² For the names of the session participants, see annex I.

- (a) Progress made during 1998 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999 (regular programme and technical cooperation activities);
 - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission adopted at its nineteenth session:
 - (i) Resolution 209 (XIX) on the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997;
 - (ii) Resolution 210 (XIX) on the medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001;
 - (iii) Resolution 211 (XIX) on the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999;
 - (iv) Resolution 213 (XIX) on the establishment of a committee on transport in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;
 - (v) Resolution 214 (XIX) on the establishment of a technical committee on liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region;
 - (vi) Resolution 217 (XIX) on the call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to be held in 1999 in conjunction with its twentieth session, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of global and regional developments;
 - (c) Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings;
 - (d) Summaries of reports of sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies;
 - (e) Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2000-2001;
 - (f) ESCWA draft medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005;
 - (g) Financial status of the Commission's programmes;
 - (h) Programme and organizational changes and modifications made by ESCWA since 1997.
7. Redesignation of the Technical Committee.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its eleventh session.

E. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

10. The Technical Committee adopted the organization of work proposed in document E/ESCWA/C.1/20/L.2. A drafting committee open to membership by the member countries was established to examine agenda item 6 (b) (vi), "Resolution 217 (XIX) on the call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to be held in 1999 in conjunction with its twentieth session, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of

global and regional developments”, and to submit the text of the draft declaration entitled “The region of Western Asia: preparing for the twenty-first century” (Beirut declaration) to the twentieth session of the Commission.

F. ADOPTION BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REPORT
ON ITS ELEVENTH SESSION

11. At its 3rd meeting, held on 26 May 1999, the Technical Committee adopted the report on its eleventh session.

II. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

A. OPENING OF THE SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCWA

12. The eleventh session of the Technical Committee was opened by His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Issa, Director of the Department of International Organizations, Conferences and Cultural Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon, who welcomed the representatives of the member countries attending the session and wished them success in their deliberations.
13. In his opening address, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA welcomed the participants to the eleventh session of the Technical Committee, which was being held for the first time at the headquarters of the Commission. The session also coincided with the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission and would be the Committee's last session in the twentieth century and in the second millennium.
14. The Executive Secretary said that the agenda for the session abounded in subjects for discussion, both recurrent and new. Foremost among them was the draft Beirut declaration, which constituted a landmark in the history of ESCWA as it stood at the threshold of the twenty-first century. The declaration was an attempt to establish a regional outlook encompassing the role of the ESCWA member countries in the next century and represented an important part of the secretariat's celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission.
15. The agenda included items relating to programme planning in ESCWA and various changes that had been made in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and the draft medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005; the latter would be examined by the Committee before being forwarded to the appropriate committees at United Nations Headquarters, owing to the belief that it was necessary to enhance the level of consultation by the secretariat of the Commission with its bodies as well as with the member countries regarding the utility of the activities undertaken by the secretariat and the extent to which they matched the priorities and needs of the countries of the region.
16. In the context of programme planning, the session would discuss the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2000-2001. The programme had been the object of extensive consultations between the ESCWA secretariat, the member countries and the regional offices of various United Nations organizations, programmes and funds regarding the list of basic priorities drawn up by the secretariat to constitute the main themes of its activities for the coming biennium. The ESCWA secretariat was endeavouring to intensify its consultations with the member countries during the programme planning stage in order to learn what their needs were and ensure greater satisfaction of those needs with a view to arriving at a common outlook.
17. The agenda for the current session also contained summaries of the work and recommendations of the sessions of the six subsidiary bodies that had been successively established by the Commission since 1992 to deal with specialized sectoral issues.
18. The Executive Secretary indicated that the transfer of ESCWA from Amman to Beirut in 1997 had not affected the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997. The move had, however, resulted in the loss by the ESCWA secretariat of most of its General Service staff, who constituted its human resource infrastructure. The organization had had to hire new staff to take their place and to provide them with the appropriate training, which had resulted in delays in the completion of some activities within the time limits set for them. Those delays would be offset, however, in the second half of the current year.

19. The Executive Secretary referred to regional follow-up to United Nations global conferences and ESCWA regional meetings, an area of particular importance to ESCWA, for the ultimate objective was a clear formulation of follow-up efforts at the pan-Arab level. He mentioned that the agenda dealt with the process of reform in the United Nations and the measures adopted in that regard at ESCWA.

20. The work of the session was taken over by the new officers. The Chairman thanked the members of the delegations for electing him Chairman of the eleventh session of the Technical Committee and commended the outgoing Chairman and other officers on their excellent efforts in conducting the affairs of the Committee.

21. No State or agency requested to attend the session as an observer under agenda item 5.

22. The Executive Secretary presented a description of the activities of the Commission, stating that its programmes were prepared for two-year periods and that the current programme of work related to the biennium 1998-1999 and would be completed in 1999. There was a two-part report on the progress made in the implementation of that programme; the first part covered the activities carried out by ESCWA under the respective subprogrammes, and the second part focused on cooperation and coordination with United Nations and other agencies.

23. He described the circumstances surrounding the implementation of the programme, which had begun after the transfer of ESCWA from Amman to Beirut, and noted that, owing to the relocation, a certain amount of time had been required before stability had been achieved. In addition, there had been a 23 per cent vacancy rate for Professional posts, which had later dropped to 17 per cent.

24. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the ESCWA programme of work currently comprised five thematic subprogrammes, whereas there had originally been fifteen. Corresponding to those subprogrammes, he said, there were five substantive divisions within the ESCWA secretariat, each subprogramme being carried out for the most part by one division, though other divisions and sections might share in its implementation. He then reviewed the goals of each of the five subprogrammes and the areas on which each one concentrated, noting that every effort was being made to satisfy the needs of the member countries. He also mentioned, within the context of serving the Commission's members, that the number of specialized subsidiary bodies established by the secretariat had grown to six during the current biennium, adding that each body held regular sessions.

**B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION
(Agenda item 6)**

25. Under this item, the Executive Secretary presented to the Technical Committee the following documents:

(a) Progress made during 1998 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999:

- (i) Regular programme activities (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4(Part I));
- (ii) Report on the survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, 1997-1998: summary (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4(Part I)/Add.1);
- (iii) Report on the survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, 1998-1999: summary (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4(Part I)/Add.2);
- (iv) Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4(Part II));

(b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission adopted at its nineteenth session (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5):

- (i) Resolution 209 (XIX) on the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997 (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.1);
- (ii) Resolution 210 (XIX) on the medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001 (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.2);
- (iii) Resolution 211 (XIX) on the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999 (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.3);
- (iv) Resolution 213 (XIX) on the establishment of a committee on transport in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.4);
- (v) Resolution 214 (XIX) on the establishment of a technical committee on liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.5);
- (vi) Resolution 217 (XIX) on the call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to be held in 1999 in conjunction with its twentieth session, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of global and regional developments (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.6/Rev.2);

(c) Regional follow-up to United Nations global conferences and ESCWA regional meetings (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/6);

(d) Summaries of reports of sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7).

26. A discussion took place under this agenda item, as follows:

(a) There was a need, when speaking of progress made, for a comparison between planned activities and activities actually carried out and also for a statement of the reasons for any deviations from the objectives originally set. In that regard, the secretariat pointed out that such a comparison could be made only at the very end of the period in question. Amendments to the programme of work were made on the basis of resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly or decisions emanating from the subsidiary bodies of ESCWA or by reason of vacancies, any of which might require the addition or cancellation of activities;

(b) Information was requested regarding financial resources for additional activities. The Executive Secretary indicated that ESCWA, in its work, relied heavily on networking with other organizations because it was desirous of strengthening its role of serving the member countries. It worked together with non-governmental organizations. If a workshop was held in a particular field in which ESCWA had contributed studies, for example, ESCWA would attend that workshop and participate by presenting the studies in question. Similarly, it cooperated with the World Bank, the League of Arab States and other organizations in order to project the image of ESCWA prominently on the map of organizations of which the member countries availed themselves. Those activities, however, did not entail any financial burden;

(c) It was suggested that the focus should be on qualitative results rather than on the number of studies done or symposia held. In that regard, the Executive Secretary said that qualitative assessment was an extremely difficult issue: while it was a concrete fact that activities took place, knowing their qualitative

results was extremely difficult. In any case, the quantitative indicator was not without importance, because it showed, for example, the degree of concern with an issue addressed by a particular symposium or workshop or the degree to which the demand for a particular service was increasing; it was not an easy matter, however, to determine the result of the offering of that service;

(d) It was proposed that issues of concern to the postal sector should be addressed within the framework of the Commission's activities, for the development and restructuring of that sector required the advisory services of ESCWA owing to the fact that, unlike certain other sectors, it was not accorded adequate priority;

(e) ESCWA printed materials were not reaching certain institutions that needed them in the member countries. The secretariat replied that it sent such materials to the country offices of the United Nations Development Programme and complied with all requests in so far as it was able to do so, but indicated that the matter would be given further consideration;

(f) It was essential to strive for accuracy in the choice of expressions and terms used in documents, to rely on more recent events when referring to the past and to mention certain positive developments and aspects of cooperation. The ESCWA secretariat endorsed those remarks and explained the purpose behind the references to certain events. It stressed that over the previous two years the Commission had published studies on models of constructive cooperation between ESCWA member countries and that it was making efforts to prepare a compendium of relevant worldwide experiences that might prove useful;

(g) Some delegations emphasized the need to obtain data and information from the official statistical organizations in the member countries. They also requested that changes be made in some of the information contained in the "Report on the survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, 1998-1999: summary" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4(Part I)/Add.1 and 2);

(h) Regarding the importance of greater coordination and transparency in the relations between the ESCWA secretariat and the member countries in the process of programming, the Executive Secretary said that the draft programme of work was typically submitted to the Commission's specialized subsidiary bodies and the Technical Committee for approval, after which it was brought before the Commission at its biennial session; during the current year, however, the draft programme of work and priorities had also been submitted to the Advisory Committee and sent to the offices of the United Nations Development Programme in the member countries for discussion with the appropriate authorities there;

(i) On the question of the arrival of session documents, the secretariat indicated that the documents had been sent to ESCWA members six weeks in advance, with the exception of approximately 10 per cent of them, the intention having been to include in certain documents those activities carried out by the secretariat up to April 1999;

(j) A remark was made regarding the appropriateness of studying the economic consequences of the peace process at the current stage of that process and the relationship of that issue to the terms of reference of ESCWA. The secretariat pointed out that the peace process would certainly entail economic consequences and that it was the task of ESCWA to draw the attention of the member countries to those consequences, serving as an early warning system for economic and social issues;

(k) Attention was called to the difficulty of instituting water pricing and the fact that it was not accepted in the countries of the region at the current time. The secretariat pointed out that ESCWA did not interfere in that matter but merely proposed measures that might be taken to help rationalize water resource consumption.

27. The drafting committee convened to reword the draft Beirut declaration and produced a revised text that was adopted by the participants, with a reservation expressed by the delegation of Iraq regarding the content of paragraph 5 (a), beginning: "The achievement of a just and comprehensive peace ...".

28. Under agenda item 6 (c), "Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings", the Executive Secretary mentioned that four regional conferences on follow-up to United Nations global conferences had been held. In addition, a project on integrated regional follow-up had been established to which the United Nations Development Programme was contributing support in the amount of US\$ 600,000. He also mentioned that the implementation of the project had begun, with the participation of a number of other United Nations specialized agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Population Fund.

29. Under agenda item 6 (d), "Summaries of reports of sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies", the Executive Secretary gave a brief presentation of the following seven reports: "Report on the first session of the Committee on Energy" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.1); "Report on the second session of the Committee on Water Resources" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.2); "Report on the third session of the Committee on Water Resources" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.3); "Report on the second session of the Committee on Social Development" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.4); "Report on the first session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.5); "Report on the first session of the Committee on Transport" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.6); and "Report on the third session of the Statistical Committee" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.7). After some discussion, the following decisions were taken:

(a) The term "statement" should be used in lieu of "declaration" in the titles of the annexes to the reports, the term "declaration" being reserved for the draft Beirut declaration to be submitted for adoption at the twentieth session;

(b) There should be no change in the frequency of meetings of the Committee on Transport, as proposed in its recommendations, but special sessions should be held as needed, as provided for in the rules of procedure;

(c) The Technical Committee should submit to the twentieth session a recommendation that the reports should be approved.

30. During the discussion of the "Report on the first session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region" (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.5), a suggestion was made that the ESCWA secretariat should provide assistance to the member countries in preparing for the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle in November 1999. One representative proposed that the above-mentioned document be amended to include the following recommendation: "The ESCWA secretariat should provide technical support to member countries in preparing for the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization and during the coming trade negotiations and should assist the member countries in complying with any commitments that may arise from those negotiations and in taking advantage of any privileges and additional rights that may result from them with a view to granting developing countries preferential or special treatment". Another proposal called for the inclusion of a similar addition under items 6 (e) and 6 (f) of the agenda. The Executive Secretary announced that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would hold a meeting for Arab States in Geneva prior to the Seattle meeting and that ESCWA might provide assistance in that regard. A discussion was held regarding the time and place of the second session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region. Those assembled were informed of Bahrain's offer to host that session.

31. In connection with the presentation of the "Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2000-2001" under agenda item 6 (e), the Executive Secretary pointed out that ESCWA had carried out extensive consultations with the member countries and organizations operating in the region concerning the list of fundamental priorities, noting that those priorities reflected the needs of the member countries. In that connection, the ESCWA secretariat presented clarifications regarding the programme of work.

32. During the discussion one of the representatives expressed the view that the non-existence of a regional transport network did not constitute the primary reason for the paucity of intraregional trade; rather, it was the absence of studies showing the comparative advantages of the member countries. The Executive Secretary replied that ESCWA would take that into account in its future programmes. He added that the market economy was growing more and more prevalent in a world in which it was difficult to impose particular specializations on the market in any one country or region. Another representative suggested a number of amendments that should be made to the wording of the document on the draft programme of work and priorities. The ESCWA secretariat indicated that it would take the proposed changes into account in so far as it was possible to do so. Another representative drew attention to the importance of emphasizing sustainable development and industrial and technological development.

33. Under agenda item 6 (f), "ESCWA draft medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005", the Executive Secretary explained the objectives of the programmes included in the plan, mentioning the establishment within ESCWA of an integrated information centre that could be used by all within the ESCWA secretariat. He said that the most important thing in preparing any medium-term plan was to leave room for freedom of movement, albeit with guidance. He stressed continuity, with account being taken of new developments that required concentrated efforts. The subsequent discussions focused on the following:

(a) The need to grant the representatives sufficient time to study the plan and to consult with their Governments concerning it;

(b) A number of subjects that should be included in the plan. The Chief of the Programme Planning and Coordination Unit mentioned that the representatives could present their proposals after returning to their countries and consulting with their Governments. Several representatives proposed that certain amendments should be made in the medium-term plan. The representative of ESCWA commented that it was the first time that the medium-term plan was being presented to the Technical Committee with a view to ascertaining the opinions of the member countries before the plan was submitted to the General Assembly. A number of additions to the plan were proposed, relating to Arab economic integration, the encouragement of investment in the region, the Arab common market, and the provision of assistance and support to member countries desirous of joining the World Trade Organization or entering into future multilateral trade negotiations. The representative of the Universal Postal Union proposed the addition of postal services to the list of those services supporting production.

34. In connection with agenda item 6 (g), "Financial status of the Commission's programmes", the representatives took cognizance of the related report of the ESCWA secretariat (E/ESCWA/C.1/20/10). The Executive Secretary mentioned the financial contributions made by Lebanon, by Kuwait to assist in the transfer of ESCWA to Lebanon, and by Saudi Arabia to help finance the activities of the Commission following its relocation to Beirut. The Chief of the Budget and Finance Section gave a brief explanation of various expenditures from the regular budget, extrabudgetary resources, the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities and the Trust Fund for the Operation of ESCWA in Beirut.

35. Under agenda item 6 (h), "Programme and organizational changes and modifications made by ESCWA since 1997", the Executive Secretary pointed out that ESCWA had successfully implemented programme reforms and was currently applying itself to the implementation of administrative reforms being carried out throughout the United Nations system. He also referred to the merging of the Programme Planning and Coordination Unit with the Technical Cooperation Division to facilitate the integration of

normative and research programmes with operational activities, and to the merger of the ESCWA United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) with the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) at Headquarters.

36. With regard to agenda item 7, "Redesignation of the Technical Committee", it had earlier been decided, on the basis of a request by the Committee at its tenth session, that the possibility should be examined of renaming the Committee to avoid the confusion caused by its current name owing to the existence of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, also considered technical committees. Following a review of a number of proposals in that regard, it was decided that a recommendation should be made to the twentieth session to rename the Committee as the Preparatory Committee.

37. At its 3rd meeting the Technical Committee adopted the report on the work of its eleventh session, to be submitted to the Commission at its twentieth session, which would be held on 27 and 28 May 1999.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBERS

Bahrain

Mr. Sadiq al-Sheihabi
Assistant Undersecretary, Social Affairs
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Mr. Abdel Razak Zain al-Abedin
Director of Foreign Trade
Ministry of Commerce

Mr. Abdullah Mohamed Saad al-Romahi
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Mr. Suleiman Awad
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Second Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Yasir 'Alawi
Third Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohamed Yehia Negm
Third Secretary
Embassy of Egypt in Lebanon

Iraq

Mr. Hisham Abd al-Razzaq Ibrahim
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Jordan

Mr. Salem Odeh Ghawi
Assistant Secretary-General
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Sufuyan al-Qudah
Consul of Jordan in Lebanon

Mr. Mohammad Abdalla al-Shoha
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Mr. Abd al-Rahman Khalil Ibrahim
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Mr. Habib Khawaja
Director of Social Development
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Samir el-Chami
Director of Plant Resources
Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Hassan Muhyi al-Din Sha'ban
Technical Adviser
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Georges el-Khoury
Chief, Department of Economic Studies
and Industrial Development
Ministry of Industry

Mr. Ali Ahmad Sarhal
Chief, Department of Programming
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Ms. Najwa Yaacoub
Statistician
Directorate of Central Statistics

Oman

Mr. Muhammad bin Khalil al-Jazmi
Chargé d'affaires
Embassy of Oman in Lebanon

Mr. Mohammed ben Yahya al-Shabibi
Director, Arab and International
Economic Organizations Department
Ministry of National Economy

Mr. Hani Dawood al-Bahrani
Director, Special Division
Ministry of Finance

Palestine

Mr. Zuhdi Labib Tarazi
Director General, International
Organizations Affairs
Political Department
Palestine Liberation Organization

Mr. Samih Hussein Karakra
Undersecretary
Ministry of Planning
and International Cooperation

Mr. Mohammed Ghadayah
Director General, Human Development
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation

Qatar

Mr. Mohamed Nasr al-Nasr
Director, Department of Organizations,
Conferences and International
Conventions
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ahmed Saleh al-Mohannadi
Head, International Economic Relations
Section
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Trade

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Faisal Hassan Trad
Head, International Economic Relations
Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohammed Fida'a el-Din al-Idriss
General Director, Coordination Sectors
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Abdullah al-Nafisa
Economic Adviser
Ministry of Commerce

Mr. Saud Mohammed Arafat
Engineering Supervisor
Ministry of Industry and Electricity

Mr. Motlaq Motlaq al-Hantoosh
General Manager for Community
Development
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim al-Haizan
Senior Specialist, Economist
Ministry of Finance and National
Economy

Saudi Arabia (continued)

Mr. Rasheed Ali al-Zeid
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Khalid F. Aboheimed
Supervisor, Department of Science Policy
and Planning
King AbdulAziz City for Science and
Technology

Mr. Fahad M. Sabbagh
First Secretary
Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Lebanon

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Tawfik Ismail
Deputy Minister of State, Planning
Affairs

Mr. Ibrahim Ali
Director, Central Bureau of Statistics

Mr. Ibrahim Issa
Director, Economic Administration
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ahmad Hassan
Deputy Director, Scientific and Technical
Cooperation
State Planning Commission

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Muhammad Salih Shilwah
Office Manager
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Ali 'Ubaid al-Ghazal
Computer Programmer
Ministry of Planning

Yemen

Mr. Abdullah al-Muhalwi
Minister Plenipotentiary
Embassy of Yemen in Lebanon

B. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT BODIES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Regional Commissions New York Office

Ms. Sulafa Ibrahim Al-Bassam
Chief

United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Habib Nicolas El-Habr
Deputy Regional Director
Regional Office for West Asia

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

Ms. Huda Itani
Administrative Programme Assistant

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Atef Khalifa
Director, Country Support Team
for Arab States and Europe

United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Mr. Abdalla Ramadan Bibtana
Director, Doha Office
UNESCO Representative in the Arab
States of the Gulf

International Civil Aviation Organization

Mr. Ahmed Zerhouni
Regional Director, Middle East Office
Cairo Office

Mr. M. Zarroug
Regional Air Transport Officer
Cairo Office

World Health Organization

Dr. Abdelhay Mechbal
Representative
Lebanon

World Bank

Mr. John Wetter
Country Officer and Country Economist

Universal Postal Union

Mr. Hashem Al-Qudah
Regional Adviser

World Meteorological Organization

Dr. Selim Catafago
Adviser to the Permanent Representative
Lebanon

United Nations Industrial Development
Organization

Mr. Mehdi Al-Hafedh
Representative
Lebanon

C. EXPERTS

Mr. Abdullah al-Alem
Expert

Mr. Riad Tabbarah
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Center for Development Studies and Projects (MADMA)

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
 AT ITS ELEVENTH SESSION**

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/L.1	3	Provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/L.1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/L.2	4	Proposed organization of work
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/3	5	Invitation to States Members of the United Nations and/or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the eleventh session of the Technical Committee
	6	Reports of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission
	6 (a)	Progress made during 1998 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4 (Part I)		(i) Regular programme activities
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4 (Part I)/Add.1		(ii) Report on survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, 1997-1998: summary
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4(Part I)/Add.2		(iii) Report on survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, 1998-1999: summary
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/4 (Part II)		(iv) Technical cooperation activities
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5	6 (b)	Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission adopted at its nineteenth session
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.1		(i) Resolution 209 (XIX) on the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.2		(ii) Resolution 210 (XIX) on the medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.3		(iii) Resolution 211 (XIX) on the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.4		(iv) Resolution 213 (XIX) on the establishment of a committee on transport in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.5		(v) Resolution 214 (XIX) on the establishment of a technical committee on liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.6/Rev.2		(vi) Resolution 217 (XIX) on the call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to be held in 1999 in conjunction with its twentieth session, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of global and regional developments [includes the draft Beirut declaration]
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/6	6 (c)	Regional follow-up to United Nations global conferences and ESCWA regional meetings
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7	6 (d)	Summaries of reports of sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.1		(i) Report on the first session of the Committee on Energy
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.2		(ii) Report on the second session of the Committee on Water Resources
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.3		(iii) Report on the third session of the Committee on Water Resources
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.4		(iv) Report on the second session of the Committee on Social Development
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.5		(v) Report on the first session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.6		(vi) Report on the first session of the Committee on Transport
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/7/Add.7		(vii) Report on the third session of the Statistical Committee
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/8	6 (e)	Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2000-2001
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/9	6 (f)	ESCWA draft medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/10	6 (g)	Financial status of the Commission's programmes
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/11	6 (h)	Programme and organizational changes and modifications made by ESCWA since 1997
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/12	7	Redesignation of the Technical Committee
E/ESCWA/C.1/20/13	9	Report of the Technical Committee on the work of its eleventh session
