

**224 (XX). Relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western
Asia to its permanent headquarters in Beirut**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 197 (XVII) of 31 May 1994, in which it decided to submit a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council that the permanent headquarters of the Commission should be relocated to Beirut,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/43 of 29 July 1994 on the permanent headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to take all steps necessary to effect the transfer of the permanent headquarters of the Commission to Beirut and to ensure that the transfer was financed within existing resources and primarily from extrabudgetary contributions,

Further recalling its resolution 207 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 on facilitating the relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, in which it called on its member States to take measures to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to secure the necessary resources for the implementation of resolution 197 (XVII).

Recalling further its resolution 215 (XIX) of 7 May 1997 on facilitating the relocation of the Commission to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, in which it requested the authorities concerned within the Secretariat of the United Nations to examine the possibility of utilizing the skills of ESCWA local staff in Amman in other areas within the United Nations or of finding ways to compensate them,

Taking cognizance of the note by the Executive Secretary on the relocation of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut,¹ which deals with all the legal, administrative, logistic and financial aspects of the transfer,

Commending the measures adopted by the secretariat for the implementation of the relocation plan in accordance with a timetable that did not affect the implementation of its programmes and took into account the needs of the staff,

Commending also the measures adopted by the Secretariat of the United Nations to utilize the skills of the local staff in Amman in other areas within the United Nations or to determine ways to compensate them,

1. *Endorses* the action taken by the secretariat for the transfer of the permanent headquarters to United Nations House in Beirut by 31 December 1997, in particular the conclusion of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon concerning the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, signed on 27 August 1997, and the Supplementary Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon relating to the Occupancy and Use of United Nations Premises in Beirut, Lebanon, signed on 9 October 1997;

2. *Endorses also* the action taken by the secretariat to facilitate the transfer of other United Nations offices and agencies in Beirut to United Nations House on 1 December 1998 and to devise internal mechanisms for the sharing of common services and related costs;²

3. *Endorses with satisfaction* the financial arrangements related to the move, made by the secretariat in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/43 of 29 July 1994, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the transfer was financed within existing resources and primarily from extrabudgetary contributions;

4. *Reiterates its expression of gratitude* to the Government of Lebanon for its financial contributions and its efforts to provide a headquarters that satisfies the requirements and needs of the United Nations and for its cooperation in complying with the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement signed on 27 August 1997;

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Kuwait for its financial contribution towards the transfer of the Commission's headquarters and to the Government of Saudi Arabia for the contribution it made to support the activities of the Commission following its transfer to its permanent headquarters;

6. *Reiterates its thanks* to the Governments of Iraq and Jordan for the support offered to the Commission during its stay in Baghdad and Amman, respectively, and to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for facilitating the movement of staff and equipment through its territory.

2nd plenary meeting
27 May 1999

¹ E/ESCWA/20/7/Rev.1.

² Four tripartite memorandums of understanding relating to the occupancy and use of the United Nations premises in Beirut were signed by the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon with three United Nations bodies (the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund) on 23 November 1998 and with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on 11 March 1999, and the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Occupancy and Use of Common Premises by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and United Nations Offices and Agencies in Beirut, Lebanon, was signed on 24 November 1998.