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FOR WESTERN ASIA**

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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.

E/5969

ABBREVIATIONS

ACSA	Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
AFESD	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
ALESCO	Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization
AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
AOSM	Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology
API	Arab Planning Institute
ATU	Arab Tourism Union
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IDCAS	Industrial Development Centre for Arab Studies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LAS	League of Arab States
OAPEC	Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

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I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. At its 6th meeting, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) adopted for submission to the Economic and Social Council the following draft resolution, in which it called upon the Council to amend article 2 of the terms of reference of ECWA, as contained in Council resolution 1818 (LV):

Resolution 36 (IV). Application by the Palestine Liberation Organization for full membership of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

/For the text of the resolution, see chapter III below./

2. At its 8th meeting, the Commission adopted for submission to the Economic and Social Council the following draft resolution, in which it recommended that the Council approve the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of ECWA:

Resolution 37 (IV). Application by the Arab Republic of Egypt for membership of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

/For the text of the resolution, see chapter III below./

3. At its 10th meeting, the Commission decided to recommend the following resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

1. Takes note of the report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on its fourth session and of resolution 41 (IV) and 42 (IV) adopted at that session on its work programme;
2. Endorses the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1978-1979 as contained in volume II of the above-mentioned report.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH SESSION

Opening of the session

4. The fourth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was held at Amman, Jordan, from 24 to 29 April 1977.
5. The session of the Commission was opened by His Excellency Mr. Abdelrahman Hamad Al-Attieh, held of the delegation of Qatar, with a message from the Chairman of the third session, His Excellency Sheikh Nasser Bin Khaled Al-Thani, who stated that the achievements of the Commission since its previous session, in spite of the difficulties which hampered the progress of its work owing to the events in Lebanon, confirmed the extent of the Commission's response to planning needs and development requirements in the region of Western Asia. They were indicative of the distinctive approach adopted by the Commission in its harmonization of the national and local aspects of development with the requirements of economic integration.
6. H.R.H. Prince Hassan, the Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Viceroy of His Majesty the King, delivered an address in which he welcomed the holding of the Commission's fourth session at Amman. He expressed his appreciation for the diligent efforts being made for the reconstruction of Lebanon. He also called for the co-ordination of efforts between institutions in the countries concerned and international organizations operating in the field of socio-economic development and the utilization of the skills and expertise available in the region. His Highness also referred to the important role that could be played by meetings of technicians and planners, when they were backed by political will, in arriving at common denominators capable of uniting the countries of the region in the pursuit of development.
7. The Executive Secretary then read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, to the Commission at its fourth session, in which he underlined the vital role assumed by the countries of the ECWA region in dealing with the fundamental problems confronting the world community through concerted international efforts. In the statement he further emphasized the region's important contributions to a number of world conferences convened by the United Nations. He noted with appreciation the valuable role played by the Commission in the relief, reconstruction and development programmes in Lebanon in the past year in co-operation with other agencies of the United Nations system. He also pointed out the interregional arrangements which had recently been set in motion to encourage economic and technical co-operation between the countries of ECWA and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as well as the continuous emphasis placed by ECWA on activities in favour of the least developed countries of the region, consistent with General Assembly resolutions.
8. The Secretary of the Commission then read out a message from Mr. Gabriel Van Laethem, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. In his message, the Under-Secretary-General stated that the fourth session of ECWA was taking place at a time when the international community was making efforts, through a number of forums on international economic co-operation, to resume the North-South dialogue which had reached a critical point, and could not be further delayed.

9. In that respect, the industrial countries could not resume regular and lasting growth in a world exposed to abrupt exchange rate fluctuations and payment imbalances, where vast areas of underconsumption and underemployment continued to exist. It was likewise clear that the economic health and stability of the industrial countries were essential to the development of the third world. The main idea which should inspire the dialogue was that of collective security applied to the economic field. It was necessary for the international community to define, create and administer that collective security for its advance towards a new international economic order. Such an effort was necessary and feasible at the world-wide level as well as at the regional and interregional levels.
10. Of all the regions of the developing world, that of ECWA offered the most striking example of those changes. The Governments concerned and their intergovernmental institutions needed to take up the challenge of combating under-development and ensuring a better distribution within the region of the means and opportunities for economic progress as well as of mastering the problems created by the influx of substantial financial resources. The economy of the region was based on the export of an exclusive and non-renewable natural resource, which made it vulnerable. The tasks facing the countries of the region were to lay the foundation for lasting and autonomous development by taking advantage of the exceptional diversity of resources, needs and opportunities offered by the countries of the region. No group of countries had such a striking complementarity of resources and needs in natural resources and primarily energy, capital, labour, competence and space. It pointed out that while these were the long-term objectives, it should not conceal short-term problems and divert attention from immediate needs, which included the reconstruction of Lebanon.
11. Regional commissions had a triple role to play: serving as an advance observation post, an instrument for decentralized action with regard to States, and a tool of economic and technical co-operation among States. For its part, in spite of unfavourable circumstances, ECWA had striven to continue successfully its task. Among the initiatives taken and work done by the Commission specific reference was made to the activities in the field of agriculture, natural resources including water resources, encouragement of co-operation among the countries of the region by establishing relations and carrying out joint activities with the Arab organizations serving the region.
12. As a pivot between different civilizations and continents, the region of Western Asia had long had a vocation for exchange and dialogue. It was again being called upon to achieve that vocation by initiating special relations with the neighbouring countries, particularly those of Africa and Europe. Its solidarity with Africa had already been expressed in recent times and the Arab-African Conference held at Cairo provided a new and spectacular example. Through its oil-producing countries, the region had shown an awareness of its world responsibilities and was in a position to shoulder them.
13. The world also had responsibilities towards the region which had given so much to it during the course of centuries. The first and most urgent of these duties was to promote the return of peace and harmony: not a precarious and armed peace which turned energy and resources away from the paths of development.
14. The Executive Secretary of the Commission delivered an address in which he expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its

unceasing support of the activities of the Commission for having hosted its provisional headquarters at Amman until the passing of the exceptional circumstances in Lebanon, and for its assistance in holding the fourth session at Amman. He stated that there was no alternative to a dialogue based on good intentions and a sincere desire for co-operation between the rich and the poor countries in the resolution of the fundamental economic problems facing those countries. The countries of the region were playing a notable role in that dialogue and making a major effort to strengthen economic co-operation among the developing countries themselves, which had become a matter of urgent necessity, owing to recent world economic developments and the requirements of development in those countries.

15. The Executive Secretary also referred to the socio-economic developments in the region and, primarily, the cessation of the war in Lebanon and the advent of conditions favourable to the initiation of the process of reconstruction. He indicated the important achievements of countries of the region in the economic and social spheres and the potential afforded for the furtherance of development by recent events in the oil sector. He explained the difficulties and bottlenecks inhibiting progress in the region, primarily the imbalance in economic structure, the lack of skilled and unskilled manpower and the problem of the food shortage, which would be difficult to overcome other than in a context of co-operation and integration among the countries of the region in the sphere of which practical and encouraging progress had recently been made. He referred to the adverse effect of the events in Lebanon on the activities of the Commission, in spite of which the Commission had been able to make important achievements, especially in the fields to which priority was being assigned in the region, in the provision of advisory services to member States and in the preparation of studies. He emphasized that the Commission had constantly endeavoured to make its activity complementary to the activities of international and regional organizations in the region with a view to avoiding inconsistency and duplication and bolstering regional economic co-operation.

16. The Chairman of the fourth session stated that the process of economic and social development did not depend for its evolution and progress solely on the provision of the necessary capital but also on the availability of qualified human resources and basic facilities. He pointed to the ties that bind the countries of the region and to the importance of co-ordinating their development efforts within the framework of economic co-operation. He also referred to the role that the Commission could play in determining the possibilities for co-operation and in revealing the best approaches in order to benefit from those possibilities and from their implementation. Likewise, he insisted on the necessity of giving the Commission, as its first priority, the task of co-operation with the planning bodies of the region and with the Arab institutions specialized in monitoring development affairs, especially the regional and national development funds.

Attendance at the session

17. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

18. In accordance with article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, the following States Members of the United Nations participated in the work of the Commission in a consultative capacity: Algeria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Romania, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
19. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) participated in its capacity of permanent observer in the Commission.
20. Representatives of UNCTAD, UNEP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNDP and WFP attended the session, as well as representatives of the following specialized agencies: ILO, FAO, WHO, the World Bank, UNESCO, IMF, IMCO and WMO.
21. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session: the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSA), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Arab Organization for Standardization and Meteorology (AOSM), Arab Planning Institute (API), the Arab Tourism Union (ATU), the Industrial Development Centre for Arab Studies (IDCAS) and the League of Arab States (LAS).
22. A representative of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development attended the session.
23. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also attended the session: International Alliance for Women, International Chamber of Commerce, International Planned Parenthood Federation, League of Red Cross Societies and World Federation of Trade Unions.

Election of officers

24. The Commission unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Najmuddin Dajani, Minister of Industry and Commerce and head of the delegation of Jordan, as Chairman; His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab Joubari, Minister of Economy of Yemen, and Mr. S. Barakat Al-Lamaky, Director General of Industry, Oman, as Vice-Chairmen; and Dr. Ghazi Derwish, Iraq, as Rapporteur for the session.

Agenda

25. The delegation of Kuwait proposed that a separate item on "Co-ordination and co-operation with regional and Arab institutions, funds and organizations" be added to the provisional agenda of the session (E/ECWA/43). It was added as subitem 6 (d) of the provisional agenda.
26. The delegation of Saudi Arabia proposed that Egypt be accepted as a member of the Commission and that the proposal be included in the provisional agenda. It was agreed that the proposal be discussed under item 12 of the provisional agenda.

27. The Commission adopted the agenda, as amended, as follows:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the fourth session of the Commission
5. Application of the Palestine Liberation Organization for full membership of the Commission
6. Report on the activities of the Commission since 15 May 1976
 - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme
 - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission
 - (c) Report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Water Conference, Baghdad, Iraq, 11-16 December 1976
 - (d) Co-ordination and co-operation with regional and Arab institutions, funds and organizations
7. Third biennial review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade
8. Co-operation among developing countries
9. Draft programme of work and priorities of the Commission for the period 1978-1979
10. Mechanisms for the transfer and development of technology in the Arab countries
11. Place of the 1978 session
12. Any other business
13. Annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the fourth session of the Commission

28. The Commission adopted a proposal to invite the States Members of the United Nations listed in document E/ECWA/47/Rev.2, which were not members of the Commission, to participate in a consultative capacity in the fourth session. The delegation of Saudi Arabia expressed its reservation.

Application of the Palestine Liberation Organization
for full membership of the Commission

29. Under item 5, the Commission had before it the application of PLO for full membership of the Commission (E/ECWA/46). The Commission unanimously supported the application and decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council to accept PLO as a full member of the Commission and to amend article 2 of the terms of reference of the Commission, as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV), to that effect. 1/

Work of the Commission since 15 May 1976

30. The Executive Secretary introduced item 6, explaining that the activities of the Commission had been adversely affected by the events in Lebanon, its consequent temporary transfer to Amman and the suspension of recruitment in the Commission. He mentioned that the Commission's work during the period, as stated in document E/ECWA/45 (see annex II below) went beyond the activities scheduled in the programme of work and priorities to include a number of activities outside the scope of the programme, at the special request of the Governments of member States. In that connexion he drew attention to the Commission's reports on the brain drain problem (E/ECWA/45/Add.1), the Euro-Arab dialogue (E/ECWA/45/Add.2), the project for an ECWA documentation centre (E/ECWA/45/Add.3), and the draft statistical abstract of the Arab world (E/ECWA/45/Add.4). He also drew attention to document E/ECWA/48 (see annex II below) concerning the achievements in connexion with the follow-up action on the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its previous sessions and document E/ECWA/48/Add.1 (ibid.) on the United Nations Inter-Disciplinary Advisory Team to Lebanon within the framework of the Commission's resolution 24 (III). He made special reference to the Commission's report on the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Water Conference, held in Baghdad, from 11 to 16 December 1976 (E/ECWA/42/Rev.1), and invited comments from the Commission on the above-mentioned documents.

31. Prior to the discussion of item 6, a number of delegations made statements expressing their gratitude to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for having hosted the session and also to the Commission for its efforts in preparing for it.

32. The representative of Kuwait mentioned the effect of the events in Lebanon on the development of the region, the rapid changes and lack of stability characterizing the world of today, especially in the sphere of socio-economic development and international economic relations, and the consequent need for the developing countries to adopt the methods of the advanced countries and review their relationship both with each other and with the advanced countries. In view of the important role that the region could play in that respect, the Commission should examine ways and means of helping to achieve that aim and reflect them in its work programme. A study should also be made of ways of utilizing and exploiting available resources for the benefit of the region. The delegation further hoped that there would be fruitful co-operation between the Commission and other organizations operating in the region, especially in the field of the processing of oil by-products, the modernization of agricultural systems, the conservation of fishery and animal resources and the development of water resources, and stressed the need for priority to be given to the needs of the least developed member States.

1/ See Commission resolution 36 (IV), contained in chapter III of the present report.

33. The representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen pointed out that in spite of difficulties and financial problems ECWA had been able to provide its services to both Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic in various fields particularly in economic planning, national accounting and state budgeting. He appreciated the provision of resources by ECWA for services to the least developed countries of the region and requested that UNDP should assist ECWA to continue those services, especially in training. He emphasized the importance of subsoil water resources for the agriculture of Democratic Yemen and supported the proposal to create a fund for water resources development in the region. Referring to the work programme of the Commission, he mentioned that emphasis should be given to developing agriculture, fisheries, industry, transport and manpower; the modest resources required for its implementation must be obtained from various sources.

34. The representative of Lebanon pointed out that Lebanon was in need of the help of the sister Arab countries to overcome its difficulties. He mentioned that the current Government had established a Council for Reconstruction and Development. The Council was in dire need of experts to assist it in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it. A fund had been established to assist Lebanon in meeting its urgent reconstruction and development needs. That fund was in need of the assistance of the member countries of the Commission to enable its secretariat to provide the necessary services of experts specified under the proposed project of the Inter-Disciplinary Advisory Team to Lebanon (E/ECWA/48/Add.1).

35. The representative of Oman referred to the need for the Commission to undertake further surveys and studies aimed at resolving problems relating to transport, transit and port congestion in the region. He also took the view that the Commission would be able to assist in establishing a new centre or supporting one of the existing regional centres for desert research and could examine the possibility of co-operation among member States in the search for reserves of ground water, minerals and various raw materials by means of earth satellites.

36. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic referred to the role that could be played by the Commission in the furtherance of economic integration in the region through the establishment of priorities, concentration on selected projects and co-ordination with other bodies and organizations operating in the same field.

37. In his observations on the progress report on the implementation of the Commission's work programme, contained in document E/ECWA/45, the representative of Iraq stressed the need for co-ordination and co-operation with regional bodies and organizations and with specialized agencies, especially those of the Arab League, when undertaking its activities in order to avoid repetition and dissipation of efforts. He affirmed the need for co-ordination within the Commission itself and hoped that the Commission would take into consideration the resolutions emanating from the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Mexico in September 1976, during the course of its work in that field. He also hoped that the Commission would pay due attention to the study of the region's water needs in view of the importance of that aspect in regard to the future development of the region since water needs would increase at a pace commensurate with progress in the development process. He stressed the need for co-ordination with the Organization of Arab Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OAPEC) in the field of energy and for Arab and regional co-ordination in activities related to the transfer of technology and referred to the parallel efforts being undertaken by the non-aligned countries for the establishment of a centre for the transfer of technology. He inquired about the steps the Commission intended to take to secure

the funds needed to ensure the continuity of the project for the provision of training and advisory services in the field of public finance and administration, from which the least developed member States were deriving fundamental benefit.

38. The representative of Iraq referred to the importance of the problem of the brain drain to which he hoped the Commission would accord special attention in view of the significant loss arising therefrom and which far exceeded the assistance provided by the advanced countries to the developing countries. Instead of transferring advanced technology to the developing countries the developed countries were promulgating laws and legislation that produced a technological transfer in their own direction. That contributed to weakening the foundations of the process of technological development in the developing countries and thus widened the scientific and technical gap between them and the advanced countries. A study of that question required a knowledge of the extent of the brain drain to countries offering attractive conditions and incentives therefor, and also of the nature of the talents involved. He indicated that Iraq had promulgated laws and legislation aimed at curbing the brain drain and encouraging the return of talents from abroad. Those laws applied not only to Iraqis but also to other Arab nationals. He also referred to the importance of completing the study begun by the Commission's secretariat on the subject and the need for the study to incorporate specific recommendations.

39. The representative of Iraq mentioned the importance of co-ordinating the Commission's preparations for its documentation centre with regional bodies and organizations and, in particular, with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, which had carried out a feasibility study on the establishment of an Arab documentation centre. He thought that it would be advantageous for the Commission to acquaint itself with the study since its activity in that field was still in the early stages.

40. Regarding resolution 11 (II) adopted by the Commission at its second session, under which the ECWA Voluntary Fund was established, the representative of Iraq asked for clarification of the provision made therein for the Chairman of that session and the Executive Secretary to contact member States in regard to their contributions to the Fund. He also inquired about the manner of disbursement of the amount contributed by Iraq.

41. The representative of Kuwait stressed the importance of water to his country in particular and to the development of the region in general, and the consequent need to work for the development of water resources through the training of national experts and an exchange of information. He stated that Kuwait had acquired a considerable amount of expertise in that respect from which the Commission could benefit in its work in that field. Therefore, before initiating or considering the establishment of new institutes or centres for the development of water resources, support should be given to existing centres and use made of available national capabilities in certain member States. He also emphasized the importance of co-ordination in the field of science and technology and of taking into account the decisions of regional conferences in that respect.

42. The representative of Kuwait stressed the importance of establishing a regional documentation centre attached to the Commission provided that it would be preceded by an investigation and comprehensive survey of similar activities in the region. He pointed out that what was chiefly lacking in the region was the human element qualified to carry out the required tasks.

43. The representative of Kuwait called for co-operation and co-ordination between the Commission and the League of Arab States and the other institutions and organizations involved in the exchange of information, expertise, consultations, research and projects, participation in meetings and discussions and in providing assistance to the national institutions of the member countries. He stressed the importance of pursuing the integration process and explained that integration should not be limited to the act of signing agreements but should go beyond it to take initiative in exploring the opportunities for co-operation.

44. The representative of Jordan in reviewing the item pointed to the need for establishing an order of priorities in the work programme of the Commission. He hoped that the Commission would increase the advisory services it was providing through its experts, and especially its regional advisers. He requested that special importance be accorded to the needs of the least developed members. He also stressed the need for co-operation between the member States and the secretariat in the implementation of the work programme. Concerning co-ordination between the Commission and regional organizations and institutions, he pointed out that that called for the responsive efforts of all parties concerned.

45. On the question of the brain drain in the region, the representative of Jordan emphasized that the treatment of that issue should be within a regional framework, so that the transfer of talents could take place on a well-studied basis and for the benefit of all concerned. He referred to the importance accorded to the question at the international, regional and national levels. He then drew attention to the need for benefiting from the studies on the subject, already completed or in preparation, and recalled that the Seminar on Population, Manpower and Development, which met in Amman, in April 1977, had concluded that the brain drain involved not only a flow in the direction of the developed countries, but also a migration within the region conditioned by local incentives.

46. The representative of the United Arab Emirates emphasized the need to study the causes that led Arab talents to emigrate and the importance of creating the conditions that would attract those talents back to the region. He also emphasized the need to formulate policies to that end, such as the establishment of institutes and centres for scientific research.

47. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization referred to the importance of curbing the brain drain through the provision of suitable work opportunities in the field of scientific research, which was a matter that had not yet received sufficient attention. He hoped that the Commission's studies in that field would cover the brain drain problem among the Palestinian people.

48. The representatives of Yemen, Democratic Yemen and Oman stressed the importance of the continuity of the project providing advisory services and training in the field of public finance and administration, namely, the regional project for public finance and administration, and urged that its activities should extend beyond the end of 1977 and efforts be made to secure the necessary funds for that purpose.

49. At the conclusion of the discussion of item 6 of the agenda, the Executive Secretary made a number of clarifications and responded to the queries and comments that had come up during the discussion. Concerning the project for a regional documentation centre, the Commission sought evidence of other similar endeavours and their state of advancement in the region so as not to waste resources and in

order to benefit from past experience. The preliminary investigations of the Commission revealed that co-operation between existing regional and national centres had been weak and that there was a great deficiency in the needed skills. With regard to the efforts of the Commission in the fields of natural resources and science and technology, experts in those areas had maintained contact with the institutions involved in the problems of water resources in Kuwait and in other member countries. The Commission had also begun implementing a project on the utilization of modern technology in the field of water resources, one part of which examined the use of remote sensing in the search for ground water. That had been done in co-operation with and had taken advantage of the expertise of international organizations.

50. The Commission had tried within the limits of its means to keep in touch with the activities of regional and international organizations in the field of science and technology and to keep those bodies informed of its own activities. It had maintained contact with the international organizations directly concerned, and especially with UNCTAD, UNIDO and UNESCO. With respect to the implementation of the resolution adopted at the second session of the Commission, dealing with the Voluntary Fund it had established, the Executive Secretary indicated its intention to make further visits and contacts in that regard, and to submit to the Commission a report thereon at its next session. With respect to the project relating to training and advisory services in public finance and administration, aimed at assisting the least developed countries, the Commission had attempted with success, so far, to obtain the necessary financing from sources within the United Nations so that the project could continue beyond the end of 1977.

Third biennial review and appraisal of progress in the
implementation of the International Development Strategy
for the Second United Nations Development Decade

51. The Executive Secretary introduced item 7 of the agenda and stated that the relevant report submitted to the Commission (E/ECWA/49) focused on the achievements made during the period 1971-1976 in connexion with specific objectives and policies in the International Development Strategy of importance to the region, such as the growth of production and the changes in its structure, savings and investment endeavours, sectoral developments, the expansion of trade and economic co-operation and social developments.

52. The representative of Kuwait inquired about the achievements made with regard to the objectives and policies contained in the International Development Strategy and whether those targets had been attained or would be attained in the remaining period of the current decade. He also asked about the extent to which the developing countries had met their commitments and whether the advanced countries had fulfilled their promises. Particular reference was made to the fact that the financial aid extended by the oil-producing member States to the developing countries was many times greater than the amount stipulated in the Strategy with regard to the advanced countries, i.e. 1 per cent of the gross national product, and even that proportion had been attained in only two of the advanced countries. That aspect should be taken into account when appraising the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy. One of the main short-comings of the Strategy was that it did not pay due attention to the question of technical co-operation among developing countries.

53. The representative of Iraq referred to a number of positive aspects of the report pin-pointing mainly the short-comings which still characterized economic activity in the region in spite of significant achievements which surpassed the targets of the International Development Strategy. Those weak points included the region's fundamental dependence on the export of a single raw material, namely oil, the increasing reliance on the import of food-stuffs, the low relative importance of the commodity sectors in the national product of certain countries in recent times and the inadequate co-ordination and co-operation and lack of satisfactory growth in trade among the member countries. Consequently, economic integration appeared to be of even greater importance for the furtherance of development in the region and there were many opportunities available for the successful diversification of the resources available in the region, especially financial, human and agricultural resources.

54. The representative of Jordan in turn affirmed the need to specify the contribution made by countries of the region in the provision of financial aid to the developing countries when appraising the Strategy. He also stressed the need to attach due importance to social development since that significant aspect was still being treated as a second priority, and a review should, therefore, be made of the planning philosophy in that regard. Reference was made to the need to devote greater attention to the agricultural sector in which the rate of growth was still far below the required level. He went on to outline the socio-economic developments that had taken place in Jordan during 1976.

55. The representative of the Yemen Arab Republic referred to the importance of agricultural exports and to the basic dependence of a number of the countries of the region upon the export of a single commodity whose prices were subject to fluctuation. He also pointed out the fact that industry, despite its rapid growth, in recent years, was still in the early stages of its development, owing to the narrowness of its starting base.

56. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization called for concentration on agricultural development through an expansion of the area under cultivation and for the securing of an adequate reserve stock of the basic commodities. He underlined the need for the co-ordination of development plans in industry, a sector that was still in its early stages of growth. Despite the efforts of the countries of the region, its pace of development was still being adversely affected by the current world economic conditions.

Co-operation among the developing countries

57. The Executive Secretary in introducing agenda item 8 stated that the Commission had before it document E/ECWA/52 and its annex E/ECWA/52/Corr.1, which dealt with recent major developments in co-operation among developing countries and examined the role of ECWA in promoting such co-operation among its member countries and between them and other developing regions. It also examined arrangements aimed at enabling the Commission to play an effective role in co-ordinating the activities undertaken by the United Nations system. Emphasis had been focused on the desire of the developing countries to strengthen their mutual economic co-operation - a desire manifested in numerous resolutions adopted during their intergovernmental meetings both within and outside the United Nations framework; especially the resolution emanating from the third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held in Manila, in 1976, and the Mexico City meeting of the

Group, held in September of the same year on economic co-operation among developing countries. The document also revealed the growing role played by the regional commissions, in pursuance of resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies in that regard. That was specially true of ECWA, as was reflected in its work programmes and its current and projected activities. He mentioned that the secretariat depended on the support of the Commission to bolster its role in co-ordinating and promoting economic and technical co-operation, thus effectively contributing to the prosperity of the region.

58. The representative of Iraq expressed appreciation of the effort exerted by the secretariat in preparing the valuable report on the item under discussion and in actively contributing to the meetings of the Group of 77, held in Manila and Mexico City. He also thanked the secretariat for its continued efforts to co-ordinate its activities with those of national and regional organizations with a view to elaborating a joint strategy and examining practical formulae which would enable the Commission and those organizations effectively to carry out their challenging tasks. He stressed that the main objective was to avoid duplication of efforts and to enable the countries of the region to take full advantage of the joint efforts made in solving the economic and social problems confronting them.

59. The representative of Qatar commended the efforts made by the secretariat to encourage and promote co-operation among member countries of the Commission. He elaborated on the role played by ECWA member countries, in that connexion, at the international level aimed at assisting in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, the establishment of various funds to facilitate the achievement of its objectives, the negotiation on the debts accumulated in the developing countries and the stand towards the establishment of a new international economic order. He pointed out that in order to consolidate such co-operation it was important to have a programme of action governing the co-operating arrangements of the ECWA member countries with the rest of the developing world.

60. The representative of Jordan stated that the form of co-operation among the ECWA member countries needed to be given due consideration with a view to establishing a sound foundation for future efforts. The efforts of member countries of the region should go beyond promoting co-operation and into integration in various fields in the light of the complementarities existing in the region. ECWA member countries had taken strides in that direction through the regional organizations, particularly the League of Arab States, the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Arab development funds and specialized agencies. There was the need to formulate a joint strategy between ECWA and those organizations in order to enable member countries to benefit effectively from the efforts of the Commission.

61. The representative of Iraq supported the proposal of Jordan and emphasized the need for such a joint strategy. In that connexion, he proposed that the ECWA secretariat should, in collaboration with the Arab funds and regional organizations, carry out a study on the plan of action which would elaborate a joint and clear-cut strategy for co-operation and integration among the countries of the region and between them and the Commission and other Arab and regional organizations. He requested that the study should be presented to the Commission at its fifth session in 1978.

62. The representative of Kuwait, supporting the views expressed by Iraq, Qatar and Jordan, indicated that the issue had become crucial in the last few years and

that document E/ECWA/52 had crystallized the ideas adopted by ECWA for promoting co-operation on the economic and technical levels. Kuwait hoped that the resolutions adopted at the Manila and the Mexico meetings of the Group of 77 would be implemented. With respect to technical co-operation among developing countries, she mentioned that Kuwait attached great importance to the ECWA regional meeting on the subject, which was scheduled to be held in Kuwait (from 24 to 29 May 1977), as part of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, scheduled to be held in Argentina, in March 1978. She pointed out that co-operation among developing countries was a broad concept and, as such, it was necessary to determine and define the scope of technical co-operation and its relation to economic co-operation. Kuwait had stressed in the first preparatory meeting of the Conference on Technical Co-operation, held in New York, in January 1977, the necessity for a programme for an information campaign aimed at enlightening people as to the objectives of the Conference, as well as the need for the Arabic language to be used as an official working language therein. She urged ECWA member States to participate actively in the preparatory meetings and the regional meeting and also in the information programme for the Conference. The developing countries had begun to turn towards each other as part of an over-all effort towards collective self-reliance aimed at achieving their development objectives.

63. The representative of the Yemen Arab Republic stated that the secretariat of the Commission should extend its valuable co-ordinating and collaborating efforts with a view to establishing joint arrangements with other organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

64. The representative of UNCTAD made a statement highlighting its efforts through action-oriented studies and the provision of technical assistance to developing countries in the implementation of their economic co-operation programmes.

65. The Executive Secretary stated, with regard to the proposal of the delegation of Iraq requesting the secretariat to carry out a study on developing a joint strategy which would delineate the form of the co-ordinating role of the Commission, that he hoped that the necessary financial resources would be made available for the preparation of the study.

Programme of work and priorities for 1978-1979 2/

66. The Executive Secretary introduced item 9 of the agenda on the work programme of the Commission for 1978-1979, as contained in documents E/ECWA/44 and E/ECWA/44/Add.1. He stated that in formulating the work programme, every effort had been made to ensure that it responded to the needs of the member countries, as expressed in the resolutions of previous sessions, and was in conformity with the objectives adopted by the developing countries at the numerous meetings and conferences to promote mutual economic and technical co-operation. The work programme had been formulated in accordance with the procedures laid down by the United Nations for the presentation of the Organization's programme budget on a

2/ The text of the programme of work and priorities of the Commission for the period 1978-1979 has been issued as volume II of the present report (Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 10A).

system-wide basis. It covered the substantive programmes of the Commission as contained in its 1978-1981 medium-term plan and incorporated in volume I of the consolidated United Nations medium-term plan for 1978-1981. ^{3/} The work programme included projects of high priority to the region in such fields as agriculture, industry, energy, human resources, communications and population.

67. The Executive Secretary stated that in addition to financial resources requested from the regular budget, the work programme also reflected the anticipated extrabudgetary requirements. Owing to the over-all budgetary constraints, it was not possible for ECWA to obtain the entire resources requested under the regular budget. Some programmes and projects would, therefore, be affected by the inadequacy of resources allocated to the Commission under the regular budget of the United Nations. Document E/ECWA/44/Rev.1 outlined the modifications that might have to be introduced in the Commission's work programme in the event of the non-availability of extrabudgetary resources. It provided a detailed presentation of the programmes and programme elements affected, along with the resource needs which had originally been expected to be met from the regular budget. It was expected that the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies would contribute to the financing of part of the activities requiring additional resources but it was difficult to estimate their contributions at that stage. The secretariat hoped that the development funds, investment institutions and member States able to provide additional resources would help to enable the Commission to carry out the work programme presented at the current session.

68. The representative of Iraq, commenting on the item, indicated that the programme of work and priorities of the Commission for the coming two years was too ambitious. Problems such as those encountered in the provision of the necessary financial resources and in recruitment were likely to persist and thus impede its full implementation. Activities and studies intended to be carried out by ECWA should take into consideration the following points: relevance to resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, and regional conferences affiliated with it; necessity to supplement work previously carried out, or in progress; need to promote economic integration among the Arab countries in such fields of activity as integrated transport and communication, agriculture, industry, to be carried out within the framework of joint ventures among two or more Arab countries; need to develop national cadre; emphasis on finding feasible solutions to the economic and social problems of the least developed countries of the region; need to develop a reliable statistical base to help research in the economic and social fields; and the need to provide feasible recommendations within the framework of available human and financial resources in the region for the solution of the problems encountered by the countries in the region. The latter was specially emphasized bearing in mind the magnitude of resources needed for the implementation of the proposed work programme.

69. The delegation of Iraq welcomed the establishment, within the ECWA secretariat, of the joint CTNC/ECWA Unit on Transnational Corporations and indicated that it should concentrate on issues of direct importance and interest

^{3/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6A and corrigenda.

to the region. In that connexion, he proposed that among priority projects a specific study be undertaken on the oil industry. The delegation of Kuwait supported the views of the delegation of Iraq.

70. The representative of Kuwait stated that the work programme covered most of the sectors of economic and social development in the region. The countries of the region were in need of such activities envisaged in the programme, though views on the ranking of priorities differed from one country to another, reflecting their requirements. The representative stressed the need for the compatibility of the work programme with local conditions, the need to make use of local expertise where available, and the follow-up action, which was as important as the work programme itself.

71. The representative of the Yemen Arab Republic stated that while Yemen appreciated the financial problems facing ECWA, efforts were still needed to emphasize issues of concern to the least developed countries of the region.

72. The representative of Oman indicated that the problems of port management and maritime transport in the region were in need of serious study with a view to eliminating port congestion and reducing transport costs and commodity prices. He suggested closer co-ordination and co-operation with UNCTAD, IMCO and Arab regional organizations in that field. In that connexion, the UNCTAD and IMCO representatives provided further explanation regarding the extent of their organizations' assistance to the countries and organizations in the region and urged closer collaboration with ECWA and some of the Arab funds in carrying out additional activities.

73. In discussing the resource requirements of the work programme, the representative of Kuwait emphasized the importance, to the countries of the region, of the Development Planning, Projections and Policies programme of the Commission. She specifically pointed out the programme element on the Economic Survey of Western Asia and added that if adequate funds were not forthcoming, it would be advisable to defer those activities which were dealt with by other organizations in the region.

74. At the conclusion of the discussion of the item, the Executive Secretary indicated that the Commission's secretariat would do its best to take into account the observations of member States on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1978-1979 when implementing the programme and that it would stress those studies that had a direct and immediate effect in accelerating the economic and social development of the countries of the region, and in hastening its economic integration. He added that the secretariat would try to co-ordinate its activities with the organizations and bodies concerned, so as to avoid duplication and dissipation of effort. With respect to the point that was raised on the programme of the Unit on transnational corporations concerning the accordance of special priority to the study of the situation in the oil industry, the Executive Secretary explained that the work programme of the Unit was formulated in consultation with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, bearing in mind the extent of resources available to the Unit.

75. Special efforts had been made in the preparation of the programme of the Unit to cover the areas considered by the secretariat to be of tangible importance to the region, such as the effect of the operations of transnational companies on the balance of payments, banking operations, and sea transport. Those issues received

the serious attention of the above-mentioned Centre and that fact was of special significance to the effectiveness of the Unit. At all events, the question of according the oil industry a special priority in the programme of the Unit was subject to the will of the Commission.

Mechanisms for the transfer and development
of technology in the Arab countries

76. The Executive Secretary in introducing item 10 of the agenda said that concern with technology and its transfer to the developing countries at the regional level, had not been translated into specific projects in the region of Western Asia. For that reason the Commission's secretariat had taken the initiative, in close co-operation with UNCTAD, in establishing such a programme for the region. The most important provision of the programme, as contained in document E/ECWA/50, was the initiative to establish, specifically for Western Asia, a Centre for the transfer and adaptation of technology. It was expected that the Centre would serve as a co-ordinating instrument joining national centres and institutes in a network for the pooling of information, the extension of advisory services on research and development projects, and the provision of technical assistance in the field of technology. Also the object of study and appraisal by the Commission at that time was the projected establishment of a centre for the introduction of computer technology and a technological information institute. The first stage of the establishment of the centre for the transfer of technology would involve a preparatory period of one year. Pre-project activities would involve country surveys, consultations with the Governments of the region, feasibility studies and co-ordination with specialized agencies. That would be followed by the step-by-step implementation stage, scheduled to begin in April 1978. While the services of the centre for the transfer of technology were for the benefit of the countries of the region of Western Asia, the Commission could very well consider enlarging its scope to include all the Arab countries.

77. The representative of Iraq pointed out that the decision of ECWA to embark on the crucial mission of establishing a centre for the transfer and development of technology imposed on its secretariat the important responsibility of carrying out necessary studies including the feasibility study on the subject, in co-operation and co-ordination with all Arab and regional organizations concerned. He hoped that the secretariat would prepare a co-ordinated work plan involving Arab and regional organizations and United Nations specialized agencies concerned. The coverage of those studies, he indicated, should encompass not only the ECWA member countries but also Arab countries members of the Economic Commission for Africa as envisaged in document E/ECWA/50. He mentioned that in preparing the work plan for the pre-project activities and its implementation, that point should be borne in mind. He added that although the role of national research centres in that respect could not be denied, there was the need for separate facilities and the co-ordination of the activities at the national and regional levels.

78. The representative of Jordan stated that the subject-matter of the item was of importance to the developing countries in general and to the ECWA countries in particular. Commenting on the proposed centre for the transfer and development of technology, he said that the essential point in the transfer of technology was the availability of local capabilities in the countries of Western Asia; it was not just a one-way process from the advanced countries. There was, therefore, the need to ascertain a basis, a scientific and mental framework to make a census of all the capacities that were available in the region and to formulate training policies.

79. In dealing with the transfer of technology, care should be taken to avoid giving undue bias in favour of any one sector, such as industry or the public sector. The emphasis must be on all productive sectors in both the public and private sectors. Another point which should have been given due consideration dealt with foreign investment which served as a means of technology transfer. Investment included not only capital but also technical know-how and equipment which had a technology content. He added that there was an amalgamation of the immediate and long-range objectives of the proposed centres. Attention should be given to the urgent priorities of ascertaining the technical base and creating the machinery to be followed by the adaptation of technology itself.
80. The representative of Kuwait stated that although the document presented under that item had evaluated technological capacities and examined the concepts of a technology transfer centre for the region, it could not be a substitute for the comprehensive survey of the possibilities and capacities found at the national level within the ECWA region. More recent information and studies were needed to improve the statistical and information base of the document taking into consideration the following points: (a) the capability of research centres to facilitate the transfer of technology; and (b) formulation of a plan of action aimed at co-ordinating efforts with a view to promoting national capacities for the absorption of modern technology. In carrying out its activities relating to the latter point the Commission should give due attention to co-ordinating related efforts with CASTARAB, UNESCO and ALECSO.
81. The representative of Oman stated that the establishment of such a centre would assist in developing a regional policy and proposed that member countries of the Commission should allocate 1 per cent of their national income for that purpose. He emphasized the need for an appropriate machinery to provide training and develop national cadre.
82. The representative of UNCTAD stated that the basic document and its draft proposals contained in E/ECWA/50 were elaborated by the ECWA secretariat in full co-operation. He elaborated on the concern of UNCTAD with various aspects of the subject and the assistance it had rendered in that field to other regional commissions. The question of establishing the regional centre for the transfer and development of technology was of special importance for the ECWA region, which was heavily dependent on a single non-renewable resource.
83. The representative of Jordan added that preparations for the absorption or adaptation of technology was essential and should be taken into consideration especially as its transfer was a matter of phases. In that connexion, he elaborated on the experience of Jordan related to the adaptation of technologies.
84. The representative of WIPO stated in that connexion that his organization was prepared to co-operate with ECWA in the establishment and development of the proposed project.
85. The Executive Secretary provided clarifications on the observations and queries raised during the discussion of the item and explained that the contents of document E/ECWA/50 on the establishment and development of a regional centre for the transfer of technology in Western Asia should not be regarded as a project feasibility study. He stated that the basic functions, priorities, nature of the work and terms of reference of the proposed centre would be determined in the pre-project activities which would include the preparation of a feasibility study

in conjunction and co-operation with UNCTAD and in co-operation and liaison with the international and regional organizations concerned. The feasibility study would be submitted to the seminar which the Commission was preparing to hold in October 1977 on the transfer and development of technology in the ECWA region. It would also be submitted to the representatives of member States in February 1978 in order to ascertain their views prior to its submission to the Commission at its next regular session. He also explained that, in addition to methods for the transfer, development and adaptation of technology, the centre would be concerned with the collection of technological information and training. Furthermore, the reference to the accelerated industrialization of the region as a single objective of the centre should not be interpreted as a bias in favour of that sector since the centre would necessarily pay due attention to the other sectors when finalizing the project feasibility document. Similarly, the emphasis placed in that document on Governments, in connexion with the establishment of the centre, did not signify a bias in favour of the public sector at the expense of the private sector. The centre's activities could extend to Arab States members of ECA if ECWA should so desire. The Commission would co-ordinate its activities in the sphere of the transfer and development of technology with the national, regional and international institutions concerned.

86. With regard to replacing the establishment of the proposed centre by a plan of action to co-ordinate the efforts of the countries of the region in that field, the centre in itself would undoubtedly constitute the best means of achieving that co-ordination.

87. In connexion with the appraisal of national capabilities in the field of technology, the Executive Secretary explained that a comprehensive survey of those capabilities was indispensable and that it would not be confined to the indicators derived from the industrial and commercial sectors. He also pointed out that the Commission was aware of the recent changes in the field of science and technology in the region and would take into consideration the available potential and expertise when dealing with the question of the transfer and development of technology.

Place of the 1978 session

88. The Chairman of the fourth session introduced item 11 of the agenda and referred to the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/51).

89. The head of the delegation of Lebanon stated that since the ECWA secretariat was moving back, next June, to its provisional headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon looked forward to hosting the fifth ordinary session of the Commission in 1978. The Commission unanimously agreed on Beirut as the place for its fifth session.

Other business

90. In accordance with the proposal submitted at the current session by the delegation of Saudi Arabia (E/ECWA/43/Add.2), the Commission unanimously agreed to the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of ECWA. 4/

4/ See Commission resolution 37 (IV) contained in chapter III of the present report.

91. During the deliberations of the items of the agenda, the following draft resolutions were submitted to the Commission:

- (a) Application by the Palestine Liberation Organization for full membership of the Economic Commission for Western Asia;
- (b) Application by the Arab Republic of Egypt for membership of the Economic Commission for Western Asia;
- (c) A programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region;
- (d) Regional Co-operation in the Field of Water Resources Development;
- (e) The reconstruction and development of Lebanon;
- (f) Draft Programme of Work and Priorities of the Economic Commission for Western Asia for the period 1978-1979;
- (g) The practices of transnational corporations in the oil industry in the region;
- (h) Co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa;
- (i) Use of the Arabic language in the Economic Commission for Western Asia;
- (j) The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund;
- (k) Co-operation among developing countries;
- (l) Regional co-operation and co-ordination;
- (m) Economic survey of ECWA countries;
- (n) Statistics and data needed for the implementation of the work programme of the Commission;
- (o) Participation of the developed countries in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade;
- (p) Establishment of a Western Asia centre for the transfer and development of technology.

92. After a discussion of the draft resolutions and the amendment thereto, the Commission proceeded to adopt the resolutions set forth in chapter III.

93. During the discussion of the draft resolutions, the secretariat of the Commission submitted a statement on the administrative and financial implications of a number of the draft resolutions (see annex I below).

94. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic indicated its reservation on the adoption of resolution 39 (IV) on regional co-operation in the field of water resources development.

95. Statements were made during the course of the session by representatives of States invited to participate in the session in a consultative capacity, United Nations specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. They expressed their interest in the work of the Commission and desire for increased co-operation with it and with the countries of the region.

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

36 (IV). Application by the Palestine Liberation Organization for full membership of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Affirming the growing importance of the economic and social role of the Palestinian people in the region of Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 12 (II) which accorded the Palestine Liberation Organization permanent observer status on the Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/46) regarding the request submitted by the State of Bahrain and the Government of Democratic Yemen to accord full member status to the Palestine Liberation Organization on the Economic Commission for Western Asia, after it had been accorded full membership of the League of Arab States,

Having considered article 2 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973,

Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to amend article 2 of its resolution 1818 (LV) to read as follows:

- "2. The members of the Commission shall consist of the States Members of the United Nations situated in Western Asia, which used to call on the services of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, and of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Future applications for membership by member States shall be decided on by the Council upon the recommendation of the Commission."

6th meeting
26 April 1977

37 (IV). Application by the Arab Republic of Egypt for membership of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered the application by the Arab Republic of Egypt for membership of the Commission,

In accordance with the proposal made by the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its note to the Executive Secretary dated 24 April 1977 (E/ECWA/43/Add.2),

Having considered article 2 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council approve the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

8th meeting
28 April 1977

38 (IV). A programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 26 (III) in which it urged the Executive Secretary "to consult with the United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation and the United Nations Development Programme with a view to finding a method of obtaining adequate funds for a reasonable planning period so that the United Nations regional project for public finance and administration may continue its services during its second phase in order to meet the requests of Governments, recipients of the services of the project",

Taking into consideration the contents of document E/ECWA/48 concerning the follow-up action on resolution 26 (III),

Appreciating the services which the Commission's secretariat has provided and is continuing to provide by means of this regional project in the field of training and advisory services in public finance and administration in favour of the least developed countries of the region,

Recognizing the need of the recipient countries for the services of this project and their support for its continuation and expansion so that it can continue to provide its services during its second phase which should cover a reasonable planning period of not less than three years,

Conscious of the obligation in principle to avoid jeopardizing a project of proven value to the countries concerned, namely the Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the Sultanate of Oman, which are all among the least developed of the developing countries receiving special consideration from international organizations,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to convey to the United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation and to the United Nations Development Programme the desire of the Economic Commission for Western Asia that they reconsider their position on the financing of the project so as to ensure its continuity;
2. Urges the countries of the ECWA region that have the financial capability, and also the Arab Funds and the League of Arab States, to make appropriate contributions within the limits of the budgetary estimates submitted by the Executive Secretary;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue this matter and to submit a report thereon at the fifth regular session of the Commission.

8th meeting
28 April 1977

39 (IV). Regional co-operation in the field of water resources development

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the important role of water in the over-all socio-economic development in the region,

Realizing the imperative need for accelerated progress in the investigation and development of water resources and its integrated management for efficient use,

Aware of the urgent need for collaboration and co-ordination of activities in the field of water resources development and management for the benefit of all member countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the action proposals contained in the report on the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Water Conference held in Baghdad, Iraq, with emphasis on regional co-operation and institutions,

Further taking note of the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations Water Conference held in Mar del Plata, Argentina,

1. Takes note of the report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the United Nations Water Conference (E/ECWA/42/Rev.1);
2. Urges that all action proposals of this meeting be taken into consideration particularly on the national and regional levels, by all member States;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take the initiative in contacting all member States in order to ascertain which of them may wish to establish a water resources council, and to convene its first meeting as soon as possible;
4. Calls upon the secretariat of the Commission to serve as the secretariat of the council and at the expense of the member countries of the Council, in the event of its establishment;
5. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
28 April 1977

40 (IV). The reconstruction and development of Lebanon

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling resolution 24 (III), inviting the Executive Secretary of the Commission to extend all possible assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon,

Expressing its appreciation of the significance of the measures so far taken by the Executive Secretary in order to extend to Lebanon, under difficult circumstances, various types of assistance and advice of which the country is in the greatest of need,

Mindful of the necessity to continue and intensify assistance to Lebanon without adversely affecting the regular programmes of the Commission,

Recognizing the importance of, and urgent need of Lebanon for, a United Nations Inter-Disciplinary Advisory Team which can, inter alia, (a) prepare position papers for urgent policy decisions; (b) serve as the nucleus for the preparation of Lebanon's medium-term plan; and (c) pave the way for studies on the long-term development prospects of Lebanon and the broad options available to it for growth, under conditions of economic and social stability,

Welcoming the establishment by the Lebanese Government of the Reconstruction and Development Council, as an effective instrument for development, and the necessity for the Advisory Team to work closely with the Council in the interest of Lebanon,

Appreciating the decision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a Special Fund for Lebanon, designed to assist the Lebanese Government in its urgent relief problems,

1. Invites the Executive Secretary to initiate immediate consultations with the President of the Reconstruction and Development Council with a view to establishing a technical assistance development programme in accordance with the priority requirements of the Council, and to undertake the necessary consultations to this effect;

2. Further invites the Executive Secretary to co-ordinate his development activities with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Lebanon, with a view to avoiding duplication and achieving the maximum benefit to Lebanon from the funds disbursed.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

41 (IV). Draft programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Western Asia for the period 1978-1979

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the importance of developing the organs and the activities of the secretariat of the Commission for the benefit of the over-all development of the countries of the region,

Having discussed the draft programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Western Asia for the period 1978-1979 (E/ECWA/44 and Rev.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Rev.1),

Affirming the necessity of formulating its projects in accordance with the financial and technical resources available to the Commission, whether from its regular budget or from additional resources,

1. Approves the contents of the above-mentioned work programme, subject to the following provisos:

(a) The formulation of projects in accordance with the financial and technical resources available to the Commission from its regular budget and from other additional resources that it is able to acquire;

(b) Full co-ordination and co-operation, in the preparation of studies, with Arab and regional organizations and bodies so as to avoid duplication and overlapping of efforts;

2. Affirms the need to adopt the following priorities in the implementation of projects:

(a) The completion of studies and projects that are as yet unfinished;

(b) Projects that are of concern to the least developed States of the region, especially the joint projects of two or more of these States;

(c) Projects that contribute to the development of talents and the training of technical cadres;

(d) Statistics related to the economic and social activities of the Arab States;

(e) Projects that contribute to the development of the process of economic integration in the Arab States;

(f) Studies for the formulation of regional investment projects;

3. Urges the United Nations Secretariat and the organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, to increase their contributions to the development of the capabilities and organs of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the implementation of its projects.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

42 (IV). The practices of transnational corporations
in the oil industry in the region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the extreme importance of the oil industry to the economies of the region,

Taking note of the programme of work and priorities for 1977 and the biennium 1978-1979 for the Joint CTNC/ECWA Unit on Transnational Corporations (E/ECWA/44/Add.1),

Decides that the practices of transnational corporations in the oil industry in the region should be included among the issues covered in the above-mentioned programme and given top priority.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

43 (IV). Co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the operative paragraph of its resolution 14 (II) on regional co-operation,

Further recalling the various resolutions adopted at the first Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo in March 1977,

Taking note of the secretariat's reports on progress in ECWA's activities and follow-up to resolutions (E/ECWA/45 and E/ECWA/48),

Noting with satisfaction the efforts and accomplishments of the secretariat of the Commission in this field,

Expressing its appreciation of the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary with his counterpart in the Economic Commission for Africa in signing a Memorandum of Agreement on co-operation between the two Commissions,

Requests the Executive Secretary to work out arrangements for further co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

44 (IV). Use of the Arabic language in the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 20 (II), on languages and documentation,

Noting that the Arabic language is one of the working languages of the General Assembly of the United Nations and of a number of its specialized agencies,

Recognizing the importance of facilitating the Commission's contacts with Arab and regional organizations and bodies in the region and also with Arab States members or non-members of the Commission,

Taking into consideration the importance of using the Arabic language along with the other working languages of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the preparation by the secretariat of an Arabic translation of all the documents,

1. Decides that all documents to be submitted to the Commission should, as far as possible, be drafted in Arabic;
2. Further decides that, when making appointments to posts in the Commission, given equal qualifications, preference should be given to those candidates with a good command of the Arabic language in addition to one of the other working languages of the United Nations, except in the case of experts, consultants and staff seconded to the Commission by the United Nations and its various organs.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

45 (IV). The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the special importance of financing in its endeavours to achieve its objectives and implement its projects,

Appreciating the significance of the voluntary contributions made by its members and the Arab funds in providing the necessary financial resources,

Recalling its resolution 33 (III) regarding the establishment of the Voluntary Fund,

Noting with appreciation the achievements of the secretariat of the Commission, its experts and organs in carrying out projects and studies of particular significance for the socio-economic development and progress of the region,

1. Decides that the agenda of its sessions shall include a financial report from the Executive Secretary clarifying, for the period between sessions, the financial status of the programmes of the Commission, of financing available for these programmes, the sources of such financing and his proposals regarding the strengthening of the financial resources of the Commission;

2. Urges member States to make voluntary contributions towards the general financing of the programmes of the Commission, or the financing of specific projects considered to be of importance by the contributing State;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to invite member States of the Commission six months before the date scheduled for the holding of its session to determine the amount of their contributions towards the resources of the Voluntary Fund;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to submit a financial statement of the Voluntary Fund for the approval of the Commission at each session

9th meeting
28 April 1977

46 (IV). Co-operation among developing countries

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3362 (S-VII) on regional economic co-operation, 3442 (XXX) and 31/119 on economic co-operation among developing countries, 31/179 on technical co-operation among developing countries, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI) on strengthening the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation,

Recalling resolution (I) of the third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held at Manila in February 1976, the Economic Declaration of the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries, held at Colombo in August 1976, and the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City in September 1976,

1. Endorses the Executive Secretary's report on the role of the regional commissions in promoting co-operation among developing countries (E/ECWA/52);
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to intensify his efforts in promoting co-operation among developing countries at the regional and interregional levels;
3. Urges member States to participate effectively in the forthcoming Regional Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be held in Kuwait from 24 to 29 May 1977 as well as in the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be held in Argentina in early 1978;
4. Further urges member States to establish or support focal points in order to give further impetus to their activities for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

47 (IV). Regional co-operation and co-ordination

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the importance of co-operation and co-ordination in its activities with Arab and regional organizations and bodies and with the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations in connexion with the activities of the latter in the region,

Taking note of the report entitled "The role of regional commissions in promoting co-operation among the developing countries" (E/ECWA/52), and of what was stated therein regarding Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI) on promotion by the regional commissions of regional and interregional co-operation,

Taking into consideration Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) entitled "Establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia" and the contents of the first paragraph thereof,

Noting with appreciation the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary in contracting Arab and regional bodies and organizations and the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations, and the agreements which he reached and the steps which he took to promote co-operation and co-ordination between them and the Commission,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to study the regulation of the Commission's relations with Arab and regional organizations, bodies and funds, including the identification of common objectives; the establishment of a strategy and plan of action; the proposal of practical formulae for effective co-operation and co-ordination between the Commission and Arab and regional organizations, bodies and funds within their common sphere of activity;
2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to study co-ordination and co-operation between the Commission and the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations, especially with regard to their intersectoral, regional and subregional activities and the role of the Commission in this respect;
3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Governments of the region, to co-ordinate efforts to this end;
4. Urges the countries of the region to accord special importance to this issue and to advocate support therefor from Arab and regional organizations and bodies and also from the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations;
5. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its fifth session a detailed report on the progress achieved in this respect.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

48 (IV). Economic survey of the countries members of the
Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the importance of keeping under continuous review economic trends and development planning efforts in the countries members of the Commission,

Recognizing further that the economic survey of the countries of the region will be a basic source of reference on national and regional economic trends contributing to a better understanding of development problems by the Governments and regional and international institutions concerned,

1. Considers that the preparation of an economic survey of the countries members of the Commission is an urgent matter and, therefore, should be given high priority in the work programme of the Commission;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to draw the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the need for this survey with a view to obtaining from the United Nations budget the resources required to carry out this survey on an annual basis, as is the case in the other regional commissions.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

49 (IV). Statistics and data needed for the implementation
of the work programme of the Commission

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Affirming that the implementation of the work programmes of the various divisions of the Commission is fundamentally dependent on the provision of the requisite statistics and data,

Reaffirming its resolution 8 (II) relating to statistical data and information, wishes to indicate that the non-availability of the requisite information and statistics or delays in obtaining them have an adverse effect on the implementation of scheduled work programmes,

Urges member States to increase their co-operation with the secretariat by supplying it with the data and information needed for the implementation of the programmes of the various divisions.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

50 (IV). Participation of the developed countries in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling document E/ECWA/49 regarding the third review of the assessment of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Recognizing the need of the developing countries for financial resources with which to cover the deficits in their balance of payments,

Noting with dissatisfaction the persistence of imported inflation affecting the prices of products and services exported by the industrialized countries to the developing countries,

Noting the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly regarding the allocation of 1 per cent of the gross national product of the industrialized countries to assist the developing countries,

1. Notes with great satisfaction the allocation by the oil-producing countries of the region of a proportion far in excess of 1 per cent of their national income to assist the developing countries;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to draw the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the importance of these considerations and to request that he urge the industrially developed countries to meet their obligations as stipulated in the International Development Strategy by allocating 1 per cent of their gross national product for the developing countries, and by taking the necessary measures for mitigating the adverse effects of inflation upon their economies.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

51 (IV). Study of the possibility of establishing a Western Asia centre for the transfer and development of technology

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing that technology plays an important role in the process of accelerating the development of the countries of the region; that transfer and development of technology appropriate to the needs of the countries in the region are some of the most important requisites for fuller utilization of resources; that improvements in technological capabilities would contribute to socio-economic development, raising the standard of living and strengthening mutual co-operation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3507 (XXX) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2034 (LXI), which calls, inter alia, upon United Nations bodies to take appropriate action regarding the establishment or strengthening of national, subregional and interregional centres for the development and transfer of technology,

Taking note of the initiatives in other developing regions regarding the setting up of regional centres for the transfer and development of technology and the need, when preparing the study of the possibility of establishing the centre, to draw on the experience of those regions where similar centres are being set up such as those of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and particularly the region of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Further taking note of the report entitled "Mechanisms for the Transfer and Development of Technology in the ECWA region" (E/ECWA/50), and the observations made by the delegations of member States in this regard,

Noting with appreciation the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary in deciding upon a joint ECWA/UNCTAD co-operative programme in the field of transfer of technology and his exploration of possible co-operation with other United Nations bodies concerned; and inclusion of this field in the work programme of the Commission under the regular budget,

1. Decides that the Executive Secretary shall submit a study on the possibility of establishing a regional centre for the transfer and development of technology and consult and co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and with the Arab organizations and bodies concerned in investigating the possibility of widening the scope of this study in order to make the centre an Arab centre for the transfer and development of technology;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for an immediate start to be made on the preparation of this study;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to contact all regional, Arab and international organizations concerned with a view to examining the possibility of their participation in this study;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to associate the Governments in the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in the closest possible manner in the preparation of the required study;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to report on progress made in the implementation of these tasks to the Commission at its fifth session.

9th meeting
28 April 1977

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

96. At its 10th meeting, on 29 April 1977, the Economic Commission for Western Asia adopted the draft report on its fourth session, as amended during its discussion, for submission to the Economic and Social Council.

ANNEXES

Annex I

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS FOURTH SESSION

Note by the secretariat

1. As required under rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the secretariat prepared the present statement on financial implications relating to draft resolutions submitted to the Commission at its fourth session.
2. Except for certain observations listed in the following paragraphs, draft resolutions E/ECWA/L.49 to E/ECWA/L.64 can be implemented from within the resources available, thereby requiring no additional financing.
3. The relevant observations relating to some draft resolutions are as follows.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE APPLICATION BY THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ECWA (E/ECWA/L.53) a/

By this draft resolution, the Commission recommends that the Economic and Social Council approve the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is currently a full member of the Economic Commission for Africa. This is the first time the admission of a new member which is already a full member of another Commission is being considered by the Economic Commission for Western Asia and, as such, the scope of activities to be covered by the Commission and the related implications will have to be studied. Full consultations with the authorities at United Nations Headquarters and with the Economic and Social Council are therefore expected to be carried out by the Executive Secretary on the subject.

In the circumstances, no financial implications can be prepared until the scope of coverage and the related activities resulting from this admission can be properly assessed. Such financial implications will therefore be prepared at a later date for submission to the Economic and Social Council.

a/ Adopted as resolution 37 (IV).

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WESTERN ASIA CENTRE FOR
TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY (E/ECWA/L.52) b/

By this draft resolution, the Commission requests the Executive Secretary to submit a study on the possibility of establishing a regional centre for the transfer and development of technology, and to consult and co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Arab organizations concerned, with a view to widening the scope of the study so as to make the centre an Arab centre for the transfer and development of technology.

On this basis and for the time being, ECWA is expected to be engaged solely in pre-project activity, as stated in document E/ECWA/50, particularly in the carrying out of a feasibility study. Upon the completion of this study, the size of the centre, along with its budgetary requirements, will be determined, and an appropriate budget will be submitted at a later date for the purpose. Consequently, no financial implications other than those related to the utilization of resources at the authorized level in the regular budget are expected at this time.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL CO-OPERATION AND
CO-ORDINATION (E/ECWA/L.55) c/

By this draft resolution, the Executive Secretary is requested to:

- (a) Study the regulation of the Commission's relations with Arab and regional organizations, bodies and funds, including the identification of common objectives, the establishment of a strategy and plan of action, the proposal of practical formulae for effective co-operation and co-ordination between the Commission and Arab and regional organizations, bodies and funds within their common sphere of activity;
- (b) Study co-ordination and co-operation between the Commission and the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations, especially with regard to their intersectoral, regional and subregional activities and the role and activity of the Commission in this respect.

It was originally estimated that there would be some financial implications relating to this draft resolution to cover official travel and other expenses. However, based on the amendments introduced to this draft resolution to the effect that the Executive Secretary is now requested only "to study" and report (instead of "to prepare" two specific studies), and on the assumption that the proposed study can be carried out by the secretariat in conjunction with its regular work, no financial implications are expected from the regular budget at this time.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE IN THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (E/ECWA/L.59) d/

By this draft resolution, the Commission decides that all documents to be submitted to the Commission should, as far as possible, be drafted in Arabic. It

- b/ Adopted as resolution 51 (IV).
- c/ Adopted as resolution 47 (IV).
- d/ Adopted as resolution 44 (IV).

further decides that, for recruitment purposes and given equal qualifications, preference should be given to those candidates with a good command of the Arabic language in addition to one of the other working languages of the United Nations when making appointments to posts in the Commission, except in the case of experts, consultants, and staff seconded to the Commission from within the United Nations and its various organs.

The additional resources for the implementation of this resolution cannot be properly assessed at this time. Until sufficient experience is gained, no financial implications can be prepared for submission to the Commission.

Annex II

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION SINCE 15 MAY 1976 a/

A. Progress report on the implementation of the work programme b/

1. The implementation of the 1976-1977 work programme of the Commission continued to be adversely affected by the prolongation of the civil war in Lebanon during much of the period under review. The consequential extended evacuation of staff members and the freeze on further recruitment impeded the desired pace of progress in the implementation of the work programme. Some deviations from the work programme were, therefore, inevitable resulting in the carry-over of some projects into the next biennium (see E/ECWA/44). In spite of the difficulties encountered under those circumstances, a significant headway has been made in most of the substantive programmes of the Commission.

2. The following is a brief account of the major activities carried out by the Divisions/Units of ECWA under the various substantive programmes and/or subprogrammes of the Commission, since its last session.

A. Development Planning Division

3. During the period under review, the major activities undertaken within the Division's four programmes are presented below.

4. Under the Development Planning, Projections and Policies Programme, the Division prepared the outline of the regional report on the third biennial review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (project 4.1.3, E/ECWA/28). In addition to making substantive contributions, under its four programmes, to the report, the Division was responsible for the substantive editing and consolidation of the above-mentioned report, by incorporating the contributions from the various ECWA substantive divisions (see E/ECWA/49).

5. In response to General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX), and in co-operation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters, ECWA has already begun to prepare "studies on the long-term trends in and forecasts of the economic development" of the ECWA region. The preparation of such long-term trends for the region is also of considerable importance to the Committee for Development Planning and for the Project 2000, initiated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs under the supervision of Professor Leontief. The twelfth session of the Committee for Development Planning (29 March-7 April 1976)

a/ The following progress reports of the Commission are also relevant in this regard: E/ECWA/45/Add.1, Add.2, Add.3 and Add.4. These documents are available in English in a limited number of copies for delegations, on request.

b/ Originally issued as document E/ECWA/45.

and the Leontief Seminar (October 1976) at United Nations Headquarters were attended by the Chief of the Development Planning Division.

6. Work is in progress on the "brain drain" project in the ECWA and ECA regions. Arrangements have been made with the ECA secretariat for the coverage of the Arab countries in Africa (see E/ECWA/45/Add.1).

7. As a follow-up action to the first report of ECWA at its third session and pursuant to Commission resolution 23 (III) on the Euro-Arab dialogue, extensive discussions were carried out with the secretariat of the League of Arab States on possible areas of ECWA assistance and on ways and means of co-operation between the two organizations in matters related to the dialogue. The discussion concentrated on three main areas of importance, namely, trade, transfer of technology, and transport. Discussions were also carried out with the corresponding Divisions of the Economic Commission for Europe, with a view to co-ordinating efforts in various areas related to the dialogue (see E/ECWA/45/Add.2).

8. The Development Planning Division actively participated in the Jordan Development Conference, by presenting a paper on the Five-Year Plan (1977-1981) of Jordan, and its chief served as the rapporteur of the Economic Committee of the Conference, and prepared the report of the Committee.

9. The staff member under the Development Planning, Projections and Policies Programme has been serving as a member of the task force established at ECWA for the implementation of Commission resolution 27 (III) on the "General study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people", and Economic and Social Council resolution 2026 (LXI) on "Assistance to the Palestinian people" (see E/ECWA/43).

10. A brief was prepared for the January 1977 session of the meeting of Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions dealing with the review of recent developments within and outside the United Nations system in the establishment of the new international economic order.

11. Under the International Trade and Development Programme, the Division served as the focal point within ECWA for the operations of the regional project on multilateral trade negotiations, including the provision of substantive support.

12. Within the framework of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, a paper analysing the structure of trade barriers facing products of export interest to the ECWA countries in three developed markets was prepared. The project has been extended through 1977. A regional seminar is envisaged within the context of this project during the first half of 1977.

13. The compilation, tabulation and analysis of trade and payments flows in member countries continued. A progress report on the achievement by the countries of the region of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in the field of trade was prepared in connexion with the third biennial review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the Strategy (see E/ECWA/49).

14. Work is in progress on the study on the liberalization of non-tariff barriers affecting exports from the region. Work is also expected to be carried out on the

study of "Trade expansion and economic integration", mainly as it relates to the identification and analysis of existing bilateral and multilateral trade agreements in the region.

15. Under the Development Finance and Administration Programme, work continued on the preparation of the public finance profiles of ECWA member countries and on the implementation of the project "Evaluation of government budgetary systems and practices in ECWA member countries and the need for reform" (item 4.2.2 (a), E/ECWA/28). Preparations are under way for a regional survey to be conducted in connexion with this project in the latter part of 1977.
16. In connexion with the Development Finance and Administration Programme above, and as a part of the requirements of project 4.2.4 in the Division's work programme in this field (E/ECWA/28), a detailed project document was prepared for the Division's forthcoming "Working group meeting on budget classification, budget-plan harmonization and management in countries of Western Asia". The project document has been submitted for extrabudgetary financing by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Work is under way for the preparation of the meeting to be held early in 1978.
17. A detailed note on "Major problem areas in Lebanese development finance and administration systems" was prepared for consideration and inclusion in the post-civil-war reconstruction programme for Lebanon.
18. At the request of the Government of Lebanon, advisory services and assistance were extended in connexion with the preparation of the law for the establishment of the Development and Reconstruction Council of Lebanon within the framework of government machinery replacing the Planning Ministry.
19. The over-all survey report on the use of computers and computer-based management techniques in countries of Western Asia was completed for a joint ECWA/ILO submission to the three countries concerned, namely, Jordan, Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic. In order to develop a complete regional picture, assess over-all national and regional needs and develop the necessary related activities in this fast-moving field, ECWA, under its appropriate programmes, is studying the extension of the scope of the survey to cover other countries of the region.
20. The Division, under this programme, represented the ECWA secretariat at the sixteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which examined, among others, the 1978-1981 medium-term plan of the Commission and prepared the Commission's part of the special analysis in volume I of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981, which was subsequently issued as document A/31/6/Add.1/Corr.5.
21. A background paper by ECWA on promoting economic co-operation among developing countries was prepared in connexion with the Manila Declaration and the development and implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 for promoting economic co-operation among developing countries. The paper identified and proposed various areas and corresponding specific projects for promoting economic co-operation among the countries of the region and between them and other developing countries.
22. The Division, under the programme, represented ECWA in the meeting of representatives of the regional commissions at United Nations Headquarters and

participated in the preparation of the joint position paper entitled "The programme of action for economic co-operation among developing countries: contribution of the United Nations regional commissions". The paper was subsequently submitted, by the Executive Secretary of ECLA on behalf of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, to the Conference of the Group of 77 on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City, from 9 to 21 September 1976.

23. Under this programme, the Division assisted the Programme and Co-ordination Unit in, inter alia, the over-all presentation, co-ordination and finalization of the programme of work and priorities of the Commission for the period 1978-1979, which was before the Commission in documents E/ECWA/44 and Add.1. The various substantive divisions of the secretariat have been fully involved in the preparation of their respective substantive programmes, following the temporary stationing of the secretariat at Amman.

24. The Division also participated in and supervised the Commission's preparatory work related to the forthcoming ECWA regional meeting on technical co-operation among countries of Western Asia, in preparation for the 1978 United Nations Conference on the subject. The work carried out includes preparation of the detailed outline of the major background paper prepared by a consultant for the regional meeting, scheduled to be held in Kuwait in May 1977, and a review of the first draft of the document.

25. The Division prepared the substantive briefs for the January 1977 meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, covering such topics as co-operation (both economic and technical) among developing countries, interregional co-operation concerning the programme of work in the field of transnational corporations and co-operation between regional commissions secretariats in carrying out General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX).

26. The Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration was able, in spite of the circumstances in Lebanon, to continue successfully its activities during the period under review. Its international staff, endeavouring to fulfil its aims, continued to work first at Beirut and then at neighbouring Damascus, thus making it possible to accomplish the following:

(a) Training programmes:

Centrally based programme

PROPFAD arranged for a centrally based training programme in Damascus from 1 May to 30 June 1976. The central programmes are designed to acquaint finance officials at the decision-making level with the fundamentals of public finance and the relevant practical problems.

Senior finance officers from the three beneficiary countries of the region, namely, Democratic Yemen, Yemen and Oman, and the finance officers from the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain participated in the programme. It is to be noted that participants from the latter two countries were financed by their own Governments. The courses given were: introduction to public finance, government budgeting, public revenues, taxation, tax administration, government accounting, business accounting, public utilities and enterprises, public debt, principles of economic development and principles of planning.

Appropriate workshops and seminars were also arranged during the programme. Ten well-known experts in the field of public finance assisted PROPFAD's own experts in conducting the training programme.

Country-based training programmes

The programmes are specially tailored to meet local needs and are mainly devoted to operational activities in the field of public finance in each of the countries served by the Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration. Three such programmes were organized, during the period under consideration, as follows:

Aden-based training programme. A training programme in Aden was arranged for the period 26 February to 5 April 1977. Upon the request of the Ministry of Finance, the programme was wholly devoted to customs legislation and administration. Thirty-five employees working at the supervisory level in the Ministry of Finance and the General Directorate of Customs have participated in the programme, which covered the following courses: customs legislation, customs duties, customs contested cases, customs regulations, by-laws of customs administration, by-laws and regulations of customs force, free-zone regulations, customs tariff and related explanatory notes.

Muscat-based training programme. A training programme in Muscat was arranged during the period 9 April through 18 May 1977. The programme covered four subjects: the public budget, government accounting, business accounting and government stores and purchases. Fifty-five trainees participated in the programme, 20 of whom were chosen from the supervisory level and 35 from the sub-supervisory one. Each group, however, had separate classes and a different treatment of the subjects.

The Sana'a-based training programme. A training programme in Sana'a was arranged for the period April-May 1977. The subjects covered were: taxation, government accounting, business accounting and government stores and purchases. Thirty-five trainees from the supervisory level and 35 from the sub-supervisory level participated in the programme. Each group, however, had separate classes and a different treatment of the subjects.

(b) Field trips:

Experts of the Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration made field trips to the three countries served by the project, during the last quarter of 1976. They visited different departments in the ministries of finance and civil service authorities seeking first-hand knowledge of the local problems and collecting necessary data. They met with top-level officials to discuss the findings and arrange for the expected training programmes and advisory services.

(c) Advisory services:

Upon the request of the Ministry of Finance in Democratic Yemen, the Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration rendered advisory services in the field of customs legislation and administration in early March 1977. These services were a follow-up and a completion of the services rendered a year ago in the same field.

Upon the request of the General Directorate of Finance in Oman, the Regional Project started, in April 1977, a study of the current situation of the General Directorate of Finance and an assessment of its role and activities in the light of the new fiscal system in Oman. Such services are to be taken up again in the last quarter of 1977.

27. Under the Labour, Management and Employment Programme, the Division prepared and serviced the joint ECA/ECWA Preparatory Meeting for the World Employment Conference which was held at Tunis from 4 to 7 May 1976. ^{a/} This included the preparation of a paper on "Selected employment problems in countries of Western Asia", which was submitted to the meeting, as well as participation in the preparation of the final report which included recommendations of the meeting to the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution and Social Progress and the International Division of Labour. That Conference, which was held at Geneva from 2 to 17 June 1976 and which prepared a "Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action", was attended by a staff member of the Development Planning Division.

28. At the request of the Government of Lebanon, assistance is being extended, within the area of competence of the Programme, to the Government. A member of the Programme staff has been designated as the ECWA representative to the High Commission for Relief established by the Government of Lebanon.

29. The Division under this Programme represented ECWA at the Sixth Annual Conference of the Arab Labour Organization, held at Alexandria from 6 to 15 March 1977. It also participated actively in the Seminar on Population, Employment and Development, held at Amman from 4 to 7 April 1977, and co-sponsored by the National Council for Planning in Jordan and the International Labour Organisation with the participation of representatives from Jordan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic as well as other international and regional organizations. A paper on "Employment and development" was prepared and submitted to the Seminar for its consideration.

30. As part of the continuing process of monitoring developments in the region, the Division, among other activities, prepared a report reviewing economic and social conditions in the ECWA region with particular emphasis on the recent period and covering growth of output, prices, sectoral developments (agriculture, manufacturing and petroleum), external trade and payments, planning, the social situation and regional and interregional co-operation. In addition, a brief on economic and social conditions in the ECWA region was prepared in connexion with the meeting of the Executive Secretaries in July 1976.

31. The Division, under very difficult conditions, arranged to have three experts (one each in development planning, the establishment of training institutes for mineral resources, and the export of sea products) go to Aden, at different times and for different periods, in order to advise the Government on the proper action in these three fields.

32. An agreement was signed between the Executive Director of the Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Executive Secretary of ECWA, with a view to

^{a/} This activity was not fully reported at the third session of the Commission as it immediately preceded the Conference.

establishing a Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations. The size, composition and work programme of this Unit have already been agreed upon. The resources required for its activities will be provided by the Centre at Headquarters, (see E/ECWA/44/Add.1). The Unit will operate within the structure of the Development Planning Division, the Chief of which had already attended an interagency meeting on the subject at Headquarters last November.

33. Pursuant to ECWA resolution 24 (III), the Executive Secretary took immediate action, as soon as hostilities stopped, in order to "extend all possible assistance for the co-ordination of efforts made for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon". In response to the request of the Government of Lebanon, the Executive Secretary strengthened the ECWA staff at Beirut by moving the Development Planning Division back to Beirut in order to facilitate the rendering of advisory services officially requested by the Government within the framework of the assistance to Lebanon by the United Nations system.

34. The Executive Secretary, along with the Chief of the Division, entered into intensive substantive consultations with the Government of Lebanon, with a view to extending immediate and urgent assistance to Lebanon. At the request of the Prime Minister, the Chief of the Division prepared a request (project document) for a United Nations Inter-Disciplinary Advisory Team to Lebanon which is expected: (a) to conduct quick surveys and position papers for urgent policy decisions on the economic and social problems of concern to the Lebanese authorities; (b) to serve as the nucleus for the preparation of Lebanon's comprehensive medium-term plan; and (c) to prepare the ground for studies in the long-run development prospects of Lebanon and the broad options available to it for growth, under conditions of economic and social stability. Through its staff and regional advisers, and working under the supervision of the Chief of the Division, ECWA was also able to assist in the establishment of the Housing Bank and the Reconstruction and Development Council. In the latter case, a senior staff member from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at United Nations Headquarters also joined the Council in an advisory capacity. Moreover, ECWA extended advice on the rehabilitation and construction of Lebanon's railroad system and is continuing advisory services through membership in Lebanon's Relief Committee and in the Preparatory Committee related to the operations of the Housing Bank. Finally, as per the instructions of the Executive Secretary, and operating within its resource constraints and the requirements of its programmes, ECWA will continue to give Lebanon priority consideration (see E/ECWA/48 below).

B. Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division

35. Activities under the Agriculture Programme of the Commission were concentrated mainly on the following five subprogrammes:

1. Establishment of a reliable data system

36. In this connexion, efforts were confined to the preparation of the annual review and appraisal of agricultural development in the region. The framework designed by the joint division for sector review and monitoring could not be implemented owing to prevailing circumstances.

2. Improvement of agricultural planning

37. Under this subprogramme, progress was made in the following:

(a) A study of the long-term agricultural potential for East Jordan. This study was undertaken in response to a special request from the National Planning Council. It involved a reconsideration of agricultural development strategies in the context of long-term perspectives reflecting the country's maximum resource potentials. The study adopted a new approach based on sector segmentation and considered alternative development strategies geared to specific ecological zones in rain-fed areas and to identified segments of irrigated agriculture. The scope of the study covered mainly crop production and livestock enterprises, giving particular attention to desirable structural changes in land use and range management.

(b) A policy framework for irrigation water charges in Yemen. This study was carried out at the request of the Government and in close co-operation with the Tihama Authority, which administers the Wadi Zabid irrigation project. The study outlined a policy framework for incorporating distributional and other activities in the assessment of water charges and benefit taxes, and also for determining the desirable level of rent and cost recovery in that region.

(c) Participation in the FAO Country Programming Development Mission to Iraq (December 1976). The contribution of the joint division concerned specifically the preparation of a project document on the improvement and development of industrial crops such as oilseeds, cotton, tobacco and sugarbeets. All these crops at present fall short of Iraq's requirements and the deficit is met by imports. The proposed project gives special attention to new oilseeds such as sunflower, soybean, linseed, rape and mustard, safflower, and sesame seed.

3. Enhancing food security

38. Work under this subprogramme involved expanding the scope of the study on the short-term possibilities for expanding food production in selected countries of the ECWA region, initiated in 1975. This has been in direct response to increasing interest in food policies and to growing concern about food security in various countries of the ECWA region.

39. It was also possible to complete a pilot study on food security: the case of wheat in East Jordan. This represents the first pilot work concerned with risks and uncertainties related to fluctuating annual rainfalls and their adverse effect on cereal production under dry farming conditions. One objective of the study is the development of an early warning system based on the intensity of early rainfalls. Another major objective is the design of well-conceived policies on stock reserves, together with their respective probabilities of success or failure. Apart from its usefulness to the country concerned, the study has made a positive contribution by developing a methodology which can be used under similar conditions prevailing in other countries of the ECWA region.

4. Promotion of agricultural integration

40. Two important contributions were made under this subprogramme. The first involved a direct heavy input to the UNDP/Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) project relating to the seminar on agricultural integration among Arab countries,

to be held at Cairo from 2 to 7 April 1977. The input was in the form of 12 man-months contributed by officers from the joint division and was manifested in the preparation of several technical papers on various aspects of agricultural integration in the Arab region. The seminar reflects a joint FAO/ECWA/CAEU effort which should open the way towards an action-oriented programme for agricultural integration based on the comparative advantages of member States.

41. As one of the prerequisites for the above-mentioned seminar, the joint division collaborated with FAO headquarters and its Cairo regional office in the preparation of comprehensive agricultural trade matrices covering all countries of the ECWA region as well as other Arab countries, and canvassing on a wide range of agricultural commodities. The trade matrices are both in quantity and value units for the period 1971-1973. Preliminary analysis of the computer printouts has already started and a position paper is in preparation. Among other things, it includes an intraregional analysis of agricultural trade flows, an examination of terms of trade, implications for food security and self-sufficiency, and possibilities for expansion of intraregional trade through the diversion of trade flows. The position paper should identify major problem areas meriting further study and providing the background material for an intergovernmental meeting on agricultural trade flows and food security issues which is planned for the latter part of 1977.

5. Identification of investment opportunities

42. Progress under this subprogramme was limited to participation in an identification mission launched by the FAO/IBRD investment centre to study the further development of the Wadi-Tuban irrigated region in Democratic Yemen. Particular stress in that mission was put on the development of suitable cropping patterns reflecting higher intensity and the introduction of new crops. Later in 1976, this effort was followed by a project formulation mission.

43. Among other activities, the joint division played the catalytic role in the preparation of the ECWA contribution to the United Nations Conference on Desertification. This involved co-ordinating the work related to three country case studies in the ECWA region, and also finalizing a study on the socio-economic effects of desertification.

44. The joint division participated in a training course on agricultural planning organized by the Arab Planning Institute for Social and Economic Development. This participation included lectures on plan implementation and monitoring of agricultural projects.

45. The joint division took part in the workshop on perspective planning which was organized by FAO in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and held at Islamabad in January 1977.

C. Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division

46. Efforts under the Industry Programme of the Commission were mainly focused on the implementation of the joint IDCAS/UNIDO/ECWA "Techno-economic study for the development of the fertilizer industry in the Arab world". Work on the study proceeded according to schedule, as revised and agreed upon by IDCAS, UNIDO and ECWA.

The second phase of the study was carried out and completed by international consultants. Work under this phase, which was financed by IDCAS, consisted of an analytical assessment of the survey completed as part of the first phase and of the formulation of an over-all development plan for the fertilizer industry in the Arab countries.

47. Preparatory work is under way for the implementation of the third phase of the project, which consists of an intergovernmental meeting to be jointly sponsored by the three organizations concerned. The meeting will be held during the second half of 1977 and will, inter alia, examine the document prepared by the international group of consultants under phase two of the project.

48. At the request of the Government of Iraq, short missions were undertaken by the Regional Adviser in the Formulation of Industrial Projects to Iraq in order to assist the Government in the evaluation of specific projects with a view to preparing a master plan for the chemical industry. At the request of the Government of Jordan, advisory services were rendered in connexion with the assessment and formulation of export-oriented industries. In both cases, the advisory services also covered the preparation of drafts, outlining the terms of reference for engaging management and/or engineering consultants for specific jobs, setting up a plan of action for the implementation of specific projects, etc.

49. At the request of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Regional Adviser assisted in drawing up a programme and the terms of reference for a consultant who is to carry out a detailed study of the Regional Farm Machinery Project.

50. The Regional Adviser also represented ECWA at the Second Arab Seminar on Petrochemicals, held in Abu-Dhabi, the Seminar on Industrial Development in Kuwait, the Seminar on the Sugar Industry in Iraq, and the First Consultation Meeting on Fertilizers Industry, held at Vienna.

D. Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division

51. Under the water resources subprogramme of the Division, work continued on the implementation of the remaining part of the 1975 as well as the 1976-1977 work programmes. In this respect, the first basic study on the project entitled "Development of water resources in the ECWA region" was completed. That project was included in the 1975 work programme and work on it was initiated late in 1975 but its actual implementation was carried out in 1976. For the purpose, visits to all member countries were organized by the Division under the water resources subprogramme with a view to collecting the necessary technical and statistical data on water resources development.

52. The study concerns the following aspects of water resources development in the ECWA region:

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

(b) Stock-taking of present and expected availability of surface and underground water;

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

53. Certain aspects of the above-mentioned project, namely, the projections of water demand for the region until 1990, were implemented by a highly experienced consulting firm, which is developing a suitable model for the region to be used for future water demand projections. The model was actually prepared and the projections published as part of a more general report entitled "Preliminary report on the development of water resources in the ECWA region".
54. It should be noted, however, that these projections are only tentative and will be revised in the light of the improvements and refinements that will be introduced to the model on the basis of new additional and more reliable data expected to become available from different sources, particularly from water resources authorities of member countries and regional and international organizations concerned with water resources development.
55. Only one aspect of this project, falling under item (c) and concerned with indicating the order of magnitude and priorities for the investment that may be needed to cope with the water gap problem, could not be implemented owing to shortage of time and lack of adequate expertise.
56. The final output of the above-mentioned activity consisted of "A preliminary report on the development of water resources in the ECWA region". The report was revised in the light of additional information obtained from country reports and various sources as well as the comments and suggestions received from water experts. It has been circulated to member countries with a view to disseminating information on water resources development and providing member Governments with guidelines on the present and future situation in some aspects of water resources development in the ECWA region.
57. The idea of a United Nations Water Conference was first brought to the consideration of the Committee on Natural Resources of the Economic and Social Council at the Committee's first session in 1971. Recognizing the vital role that water played in the economic development of nations and the range and future implications of the water problems confronting mankind, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1761 C (LIV) of 18 May 1973, in which it approved the holding of a United Nations Water Conference in Argentina in 1977. The resolution requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to explore the possibility of convening regional preparatory meetings under the auspices of the regional commissions.
58. The ECWA secretariat, accordingly, contacted all member Governments, in order to explore the possibility of having one of them host the meeting for the ECWA region. The only offer came from the Government of Iraq, expressing its willingness and readiness to host the meeting which was then convened at Baghdad.
59. The substantive preparations for the meeting included the preparation of country reports along a suggested outline drawn by the secretariat of the United Nations Water Conference. Member Governments were expected to prepare their own country contribution. However, in a number of cases, assistance was provided to member countries by the staff of the water resources subprogramme and through a highly experienced consultant recruited by the secretariat for the preparation and finalization of the above-mentioned reports. With the close collaboration of the water resources staff, the consultant also prepared a draft regional report for the preparatory meeting of the United Nations Water Conference which also included a chapter comprising recommendations at the national, regional and international

levels and which was subsequently submitted to the ECWA regional meeting for discussion and adoption.

60. The meeting took place at Baghdad, from 11 to 16 December 1976. It was attended by all member countries of the ECWA region, with the exception of the United Arab Emirates. It was also attended by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Water Conference, representatives of the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, as well as observers for the USSR and Iran. Invitations to the meeting were also extended to five international water experts in their own personal capacity. The latter procedure proved extremely useful to the meeting in view of the valuable comments and suggestions that the five experts made on the various papers that were circulated at the meeting and their active participation in the discussions that took place on various aspects of water resources development. Furthermore, the regional water meeting contributed significantly to the establishment and strengthening of new and existing contacts between the ECWA staff of the water resources programme and senior water experts of member countries, universities and regional and international organizations.

61. The draft regional report, including the draft recommendations, was, with few amendments, unanimously adopted by the participating countries. The final regional report was then circulated to member countries and forwarded to the United Nations Water Conference. It is being presented to the fourth session of the Commission in document E/ECWA/42/Rev.1. Under the water resources subprogramme, the division will participate in the United Nations Water Conference to be held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 14 to 25 March 1977.

62. The first draft of the 1978-1979 work programme in the field of water resources was also prepared by the secretariat and presented at the regional water meeting for discussion. The views of representatives of member countries and the substantive comments of the five international water experts were taken into consideration in formulating the revised 1978-1979 water resources work programme. The activities under the revised 1978-1979 work programme are designed to implement the recommendations of the regional water meeting in the ECWA region. Furthermore, the selection of some of the activities was based on informal discussions between members of the secretariat and authorities concerned in the countries of the region, which revealed that most of these countries suffer from a lack of hydrometeorological as well as hydrogeological data, trained indigenous manpower and the absence, in most cases, of an administrative and legislative infrastructure to implement water resources policies.

63. The division under the water resources subprogramme participated actively in:

(a) The meeting which was held in Rome, from 26 April to 1 May 1976, to discuss the current and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development. The meeting was sponsored by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). One of the main goals of the meeting was to identify gaps and overlapping of activities;

(b) The special session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Water Resources Development, which was held at United Nations Headquarters from 26 to 29 October 1976;

(c) The meeting of experts sponsored jointly by UNEP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and convened in Kuwait, from 6 to 10 December 1976, at

the invitation of the Government of Kuwait. The purpose of the meeting was to lay the foundations of a plan of action for the development of the coastal area of the Arabian Gulf and the protection of the marine environment;

(d) The second special session of the Committee on Natural Resources, which was held in New York, from 3 to 7 January 1977, to discuss the preparatory work for the United Nations Water Conference.

64. Under the mineral resources subprogramme, progress achieved included the completion of a survey report on the situation pertaining to the development of mineral resources in the countries of the region. In that connexion, fact-finding missions were organized by the staff of the subprogramme to almost all member countries with a view to collecting the necessary information to be used as inputs for the project.

65. The above-mentioned survey report deals with the following aspects of mineral resources development:

(a) General geological features determining the location of various kinds of mineral deposits and occurrences in the region;

(b) Economic assessment of the mineral resources endowment and development of member countries. This part of the study covers the most important metallic and non-metallic raw materials in the region and deals with the description of such mineral deposits and occurrences in Western Asia, their geologic features, characteristics of their ores, evaluation of their reserves and an analysis of their present and future utilization;

(c) Administrative and institutional machinery responsible for the development and management of mineral resources in the region;

(d) Mining legislation in the countries of the ECWA region;

(e) Possibilities for regional co-operation in the development of mineral resources in Western Asia;

(f) Recommendations at both the national and regional levels.

66. The output of this project, which consists of a preliminary report entitled "Survey of the situation pertaining to the development of mineral resources in countries of the ECWA region", was completed in February 1977 and sent to member countries with a view to contributing to the dissemination of information on mineral resources in the ECWA region and providing member States with up-to-date analyses of mineral resources endowment and development at both the national and regional levels in the ECWA region.

67. Under the energy resources subprogramme of the Division, the project on "Basic energy statistics and review of developments in the energy and oil sector in the ECWA region" was implemented in a somewhat modified version. To that end, a fact-finding regional survey was undertaken in 1976 through visits to member countries, with a view to collecting the information, pin-pointing and identifying priorities and problem areas in energy resources development, and discussing energy policies. The information thus collected was revised and processed, before being published in the Statistical Abstract of the Arab World. The second part of the project, namely,

the review of energy and oil developments, was prepared in a much less extensive manner than had been originally planned, was issued as a part of the third review and appraisal of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy in the ECWA region, and was submitted to the current session as document E/ECWA/49.

68. The changes in the project relative to the original version as outlined in document E/ECWA/28 under activity 2.1.2, were brought about in the context of a comprehensive reconsideration of the energy work programme for the coming few years, which took place towards the end of 1976 on the occasion of the preparation of the 1978-1979 work programme. Such reconsideration was done with the help of a consultant (Professor Edith Penrose of London University), who is a world-renowned expert in the energy affairs of the Middle East. That arrangement contributed substantively to the revision of the 1976-1977 energy work programme and the preparation of the 1978-1979 work programme under the energy subprogramme, which has been incorporated in E/ECWA/44, a document that has been submitted to the Commission for its consideration.

69. Intensive consultations were carried out with the secretariats of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), with a view to establishing effective co-operation and co-ordination links between those organizations and ECWA in the energy field.

70. In the case of OAPEC, co-operation and co-ordination are under way in view of the joint implementation efforts of the activity concerning the collection, processing and dissemination of basic energy statistics and other related data for the countries of the region and the Arab world. The specific lines of such co-operation and co-ordination are expected to be agreed upon in 1977.

71. In line with the relevant recommendations of the third session (see document E/5785, in particular para. 54), close links were established with the United Nations Secretariat Representation Office in Paris, which covers the work of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC) and its four commissions. In that connexion, the Division under the Energy Resources Subprogramme was represented at some of the meetings of the Energy Commission of the CIEC in Paris.

72. Consultations were also held at Vienna with members of the secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on questions relating to the non-energy uses of oil.

73. At the request of the Ministry of Industry and Planning in Democratic Yemen, advisory services were provided through a private consultant on the legal aspects of oil refining.

74. Under the Science and Technology Programme, the Division was involved in the preparation of the report on the "Review of the status of science and technology in the ECWA region". The review was initiated with the collection of information and data during visits to all member States in the region in late 1975 and early 1976. During the period under review, activities for the preparation of the review - analysis and synthesis - were continued. The report contains a review of:

- (a) The socio-economic setting of science and technology in the ECWA region;

- (b) The transfer of technology processes in the ECWA region;
- (c) Science and technology in the development process in the ECWA countries;
- (d) Selected technology applications;
- (e) Regional co-operative efforts in the ECWA region.

75. The review along with relevant recommendations will be discussed at the Seminar on Technology Transfer and Change in the ECWA Region to be organized by ECWA from 9 to 14 October 1977.

76. Progress was also made in connexion with the preparatory work for the Seminar on Technology Transfer and Change in the ECWA Region. That Seminar, previously entitled Expert Meeting on Co-operative Research and Technology Projects in the ECWA Region, had been scheduled for July 1976. Owing to the temporary disruption of ECWA activities and the need for adjustment, the Seminar will now take place from 9 to 14 October 1977. Preparations for the Seminar, undertaken with the assistance of a consultant, are proceeding well. Approximately 40 experts in various fields of science and technology from within and outside the ECWA region have been invited to participate in that activity. The objectives of the Seminar are essentially technical, i.e. to present descriptions and analyses of how activities are performed, to indicate existing and relevant opportunities for rendering some functions more effective and productive and to relate technologies to instruments and policies. Scientific papers currently under preparation will focus on:

(a) Channels for technology. This subject will include the following tentative topics: establishment of patterns of technology acquisition in the region; possible processes for technology transfer; impediments to the technological development of the oil sector and natural resources; the role of engineering firms in technology transfer; transfer of technological skills to the labour force; a technology package for a rural community (to deal with agricultural impediments, food storage, water purification, sewage disposal, housing and road construction); impediments to the technological development of agriculture in the Middle East;

(b) The acquisition of specific techniques and technologies in selected areas such as agriculture, water and transport; under this heading, the following topics will be considered: water desalination technologies; agricultural water use; water conservation (surface retention, storage, aquifer recharge); regional basin monitoring system; impact of agricultural policies on technology acquisition; relevance of agricultural research in the region to agricultural problems; agricultural tools, implements, seed, machinery: current status, opportunities for change and needs; desertification and climate changes; transportation: problems and alternatives for the future; harbours: cargo handling, processing and management; the production, acquisition and diffusion of technological information in the region; engineering industries with emphasis on agricultural equipment, desalination plants and transport vehicles; the prospects and scope for solar energy; project management and technology transfer; values, social organization and technology changes; review of the status of science and technology in the ECWA region;

(c) ECWA country experiences in the application of technologies; regarding this subject, the major topics will include: review of desalination experiences of Kuwait; review of irrigation practices in the United Arab Emirates; experiments on

new sources of energy; transportation bottle-necks; impact of technical education during the past 10 years on technical change in a specific sector; availability of information for decision-making, use, exchange, and flow of information; government plans and policies regarding science and technology; current research projects and future expectations; university curricula in relation to technology change; the role of labour unions or professional organizations in the transfer of skills to members of the union; role of engineering firms in technology transfer.

77. Specific activities in the different areas of development and management of land and water resources started only in January 1977 following the recruitment of a Senior Scientific Affairs Officer. A review, analysis and assessment of the various prospects and appropriate technologies in the development and management of land and water resources in the ECWA region are being conducted. Field trips and discussions with those concerned in the countries of the region are carried out. Co-operation in and co-ordination with the relevant activities of international, regional and national institutions are maintained. The output of the Seminar on Technology Transfer and Change in the ECWA Region will provide specific lines of action and some definite appropriate technologies in the field for application in the countries of the region.

78. The promotion of technology transfer was pursued at both the international and regional levels. At the international level, ECWA participated in and contributed to the activities of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Information Exchange and Technology Transfer. In this respect an Expert Group met at Vienna from 12 to 16 April 1976 and discussed guidelines for the establishment of a world-wide network for the exchange of technological information. Subsequently, the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force at its second and third sessions, held at Geneva from 10 to 13 May and from 29 November to 3 December 1976, respectively, formulated a programme for establishing the proposed network at both the international and regional levels. At the regional level, ECWA also initiated a co-operative programme with UNCTAD in the field of technology transfer which will lead eventually to the possible establishment of a centre, network or any other appropriate mechanism for the efficient transfer of technology to and within the ECWA region. Details of that programme are outlined in the special paper on "Possible arrangements for strengthening co-operation among Arab countries in the field of transfer and development of technology".

79. The promotion of the application of computer technology and its diversification was initiated with "A survey of the use of computer technology in the ECWA region", conducted by the Development Planning Divisions of ECWA and ILO. An incomplete ILO version of the report was issued in June 1976. The survey which covered only three countries, namely, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and Kuwait, will be expanded to include other countries in the region. Following the survey, a clearer picture will emerge with regard to prospects in the field of computer application in the various countries of the region, and the possibilities for co-operative programmes in co-operation with international computer centres will be identified. The participation in and contribution of ECWA to the United Nations Ad Hoc Working Group on Computer Technology will continue with the view of promoting international co-ordination and planning in the field. The inputs of ECWA in the field will increase with the addition of an expert on the subject to its staff.

80. Through its science and technology programme, ECWA participated in the Conference of Ministers of Arab States responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (CAST ARAB), held at Rabat from 16 to 25 August 1976.

The follow-up to decisions taken at that conference pertaining to the member States of the region will be carried out by ECWA in co-operation with UNESCO and the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).

81. ECWA also participated in the twenty-second session of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST), held at Geneva from 22 November to 3 December 1976. In the context of that session, a meeting of the ACAST regional group of Western Asia was held to discuss problems relevant to the region. During the same period and at Geneva, ECWA attended the twenty-third session of the Sub-Committee on Science and Technology of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), which discussed the possibility of joint planning in the area of technology transfer, development and adaptation within the United Nations system.

82. Under the Science and Technology Programme, ECWA also participated in the special session for the preparatory work to the second United Nations Conference on Science and Technology which was held in New York from 31 January to 11 February 1977, the fifth session of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Information Exchange and Technology Transfer, held in New York from 14 to 18 February 1977, and the ACC Sub-Committee on Science and Technology.

83. At the request of the Government of Democratic Yemen, the Chief of the Natural Resources and Science and Technology Division visited Democratic Yemen between 26 January and 3 February 1977 to advise them on certain economic policies.

E. Population Division

84. The population programme of ECWA covers the following areas of activity: (a) population data collection; (b) compilation and analysis of demographic and related statistics of the region; (c) research into interrelations between population and development; (d) activities dealing with formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies; and (e) training, advisory services and dissemination of information.

(a) Data collection: the results of the socio-demographic survey of five cities of Oman, the field work of which had terminated in 1975, were processed and analysed at Amman, with the co-operation of the Deputy-Director of the Department of Statistics of Oman and were presented to the Government in September 1976. In addition, the preparatory expert group meeting on the survey of Palestinians which was scheduled in 1976 is expected to take place in May 1977 and preparations are also under way for holding the preparatory meeting for the survey of Arab scholars.

(b) Demographic analysis: a good deal of effort was spent during the period on the compilation and analysis of demographic and related socio-economic data for the countries of the ECWA region (which is now a continuing activity under the ECWA Population Programme). The first demographic socio-economic data sheets containing recent and most reliable data on 53 indicators (relating to population, labour force and education) for each country of the region were reproduced and widely disseminated. That information now forms part of the data collection and projection activities of the United Nations system. Work is under way on updating the information, expanding its coverage and estimating the values of the missing parameters. A set of demographic socio-economic country profiles is in preparation for each of the 12 countries of the ECWA region and will contain, in addition to the relevant

statistical information, information on population policies based largely on the results of the Third Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development which was made by the United Nations in co-operation with the regional commissions.

(c) Population and development: two research projects on the interrelations between population and development are contained in the 1976/77 population programme of work of ECWA, namely, a study of the correlates of the differential morbidity and mortality in selected countries and research into the socio-economic determinants of desired family size and fertility in the ECWA region. Both studies have been initiated and are expected to be completed, at least in draft form, by the end of 1977.

(d) Population policies: one of the continuing activities of ECWA in the field of population policy is its participation, within the framework of the United Nations system, in the monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and the recommendations of the post-World Population Conference consultations. The first report on monitoring was presented to the Population Commission in January 1977 and contained the contributions of all organizations of the United Nations including the regional contribution of ECWA. That report will be presented to the Economic and Social Council in the summer of 1977. Furthermore, active preparations are now under way for the preparation of reports on the review and appraisal which will be undertaken by the Council in 1979. The two research studies on population policy contained in the 1976/77 programme of ECWA, namely, the study on integration of population goals and inputs in development plans and programmes and the study on decision-making in population policy have been initiated in 1977 as envisaged in the programme of work. Those studies are expected to be completed on schedule in late 1977 and early 1978.

(e) Training, advisory services and dissemination of information: in the area of training and dissemination of information, the two major activities that were envisaged in the programme of work have been undertaken. First, a seminar on demographic data collection and analysis (previously named the regional training course on demographic data collection and evaluation) was held at Amman, from 30 October to 10 November 1976. In addition to country representatives, the seminar was attended by faculty members of several universities of the region and open lectures were organized in which participation was extended to still other individuals interested in the field of population and development. A number of internationally recognized scholars from within and outside the region presented the papers on the various topics of the seminar and those contributions are being published in book form in both Arabic and English. That publication will be widely disseminated with special concentration on technicians working in the region and on social scientists in the universities and institutes of the region who are interested in training and research in demography and population studies.

85. Secondly, a special issue of the Population Bulletin of ECWA, comprising issues Nos. 10 and 11, is scheduled to appear in March 1977 in both Arabic and English. The special issue contains 20 scientific papers on various aspects of demographic data collection and estimation with special reference to methods of estimating demographic parameters from defective statistics. Those papers were prepared by internationally recognized experts from inside and outside the ECWA region and presented to the ECWA regional seminar on techniques of collecting, evaluating and estimating demographic parameters which was held at Amman, from 27 to 31 January 1976. In addition to its usefulness for population researchers and technicians, the volume may be considered the first up-to-date textbook in Arabic in

the field and will therefore be distributed in sufficient quantities to the universities and institutes of the region dealing with demographic and related training, as well as to the two thousand, or so, social scientists and institutes around the world who are on the mailing list of the Population Programme of ECWA.

86. Finally, two advisory missions have been undertaken, so far, the first to the Syrian Arab Republic and the second to Yemen. Those missions, which were undertaken at the request of the two Governments, assisted in the evaluation and streamlining of the national population programmes and in formulating project requests for possible financing by UNFPA.

F. Transport, Communications and Tourism Division

87. Under the transport, communications and tourism programme of the Commission, efforts were directed at completing a preliminary survey of the port facilities in the ECWA region. The survey covered nine ECWA member countries. Lebanon, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia could not be included owing to the prevailing situation in Lebanon and the lack of time available for the latter two countries. The survey includes taking stock of existing port facilities, expansion of the work under way and port operations. The survey report has been circulated to member Governments for comments, updating and additional information, as required, before its completion. The survey report, when completed, is expected to provide a useful input to studies on integrated transport and development of shipping services in the region.

88. During the period under review, the following advisory services were rendered to member countries, in the field of transport, communications and tourism:

(a) At the request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Regional Adviser in Transport and Communications visited Aleppo in July 1976, to advise the Syrian Railways Organization (CFS) on strengthening the railway operations department and on training the various cadres of staff, to enable them to deal with the greatly expanded traffic expected to be served on the newly completed line linking Lattaquie, Aleppo and Qamichlie.

(b) At the request of the Government of Jordan, the Regional Adviser rendered advisory services in August 1976 to the government agencies on the following projects:

(i) Municipality of Amman

Undertook a feasibility study on improvement of road maintenance, strengthening of staff of the Road Department and modernization of road maintenance equipment. On the basis of the feasibility study thus produced, the Municipality obtained the release of JD. 360,000 (\$1,081,500) from the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development to purchase the new equipment required

Assisted the Municipality of Amman in formulating a UNDP-supported technical assistance project and to provide advisory services in operating and servicing the road maintenance equipment and training of local personnel in connexion with the project

(ii) National Planning Council, Jordan

Appraised a feasibility study report prepared by a consultant on the construction of a third highway, linking Amman to the Syrian border and to be connected with the proposed new highway in the Syrian Arab Republic from Damascus to the Jordanian border. The appraisal led to a recommendation for the consultant to revise substantially his traffic projection, route assignment and, subsequently, the over-all project implementation phasing

Evaluated and revised another consultant's feasibility study report on the construction of a new regional highway in the Aqaba region, to provide for road traffic serving the new industrial zone near the Saudi Arabian border so as to avoid heavy tracking along the existing coastal highway, which has been earmarked for tourism development

Advised on the terms of reference for a feasibility and engineering design study, with respect to the proposed third bulk berth in the port of Aqaba, which will meet the needs of the steady increase in phosphate exports.

(c) At the request of the Government of Lebanon, the Regional Adviser rendered advisory services to the Ministry of Planning on revising and modernizing the railroad system of the country, for the specific purpose of suburban passenger traffic, the demand for which has greatly increased owing to the migration of population from one area to another. The civil war has made it impossible to run essential services and industrial plants located in the different parts of the affected areas.

(d) At the request of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, advisory services were provided on the feasibility and evaluation of a port project in the Comoros with a financial outlay of \$10 million.

(e) Advisory services were also rendered to the Government of Yemen on maritime national policies.

G. Social Development and Human Settlement Division

89. In the field of social development, work continued on the following projects of the 1976-1977 work programme.

90. In connexion with the project on the preparation of Youth for Development (item 6.1.2, E/ECWA/28), the Division completed the case study of youth in Democratic Yemen and Yemen. The final report of the study is entitled "The situation and needs of youth in Democratic Yemen and Yemen Arab Republic". The study included a survey of youth opinions and experiences. Recommendations based on the findings of the study include the formulation of a national policy on youth, development of policies on manpower and migration and the need for plans for in-country training. The Division initiated a survey of planning for youth in the ECWA region, with special reference to national development plans. The study will pay special attention to educational, training and employment opportunities for youth.

91. The Division continued to work on the Participation and Integration of Arab Women in Industrial Development (item 6.1.3, E/ECWA/28) by collecting quantitative data aimed at depicting women's educational, social, legal and employment status in the region. The Division participated in the resumed twenty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at Geneva from 6 to 17 December 1976. Advisory services were provided to the Government of Yemen with regard to the development of women's associations and programmes for women. The Division also participated in the FAO Regional Training Course in Home Economics Extension/Family Life Education (Rural Women Programmes) held in Iraq from 6 to 20 November 1976.
92. In connexion with the project on Social Welfare Planning and Programming (item 6.1.4), the Division initiated a study on social welfare planning and programming in Lebanon and Kuwait, with an additional country to be selected. A related survey of voluntary programmes in Jordan and their role in social development was carried out as preparation for a national seminar on this subject. The report was completed and will be presented at the seminar in April 1977.
93. The Division participated in an interagency meeting on the rehabilitation of the disabled, held at Geneva in December 1976. It is planned to provide advisory services to the ECWA countries in the field of rehabilitation, especially to Lebanon.
94. Activity on the Drug Abuse and Drug Control project (6.1.5) has been suspended, pending the results of a search for extrabudgetary funds to support the project. Consultations were held with the United Nations Division of Social Affairs at Geneva, with the Division of Narcotic Drugs and with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, with a view to securing such funds.
95. Under Social Aspects of Integrated Rural Development (item 6.1.6), the Division completed a study entitled "Social aspects of integrated rural development projects in Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic". The study surveys: (a) incentives for mobilizing popular participation in rural development projects and programmes, and (b) the main problems confronting the two Governments in the implementation of rural development programmes and projects. The Division assisted the University of Jordan in two socio-economic surveys of the north-eastern Badia region of Jordan. The aim of the two surveys is to identify the problems and needs of the nomadic population in those regions with a view to formulating an integrated development plan. The expected completion date of the two surveys is in late 1977. The Division has initiated a survey of rural development programmes in the ECWA region. The aim of the study, which is to be completed at the end of 1977, is to investigate the extent to which the integrated approach to development is being followed in the implementation phase. In the FAO Regional Training Course referred to in paragraph 91, four lectures were presented, prepared by the Division on topics in the field of agricultural extension.
96. The Division prepared a report on training and research for social development in the ECWA region as part of the preparation for the projected Regional Centre in Social Development.
97. The Division participated in the Working Party on the Migration of Trained Personnel, held at Geneva in December 1976 and in the Fourth World Congress for Rural Sociology, held at Torun, Poland in August 1976.

98. Among the advisory services provided by the Division were the following: to the Government of Bahrain, on the formulation of a project for the study of the needs of children and youth; to the Government of Iraq, on the socio-economic returns of national literacy; to the Government of Jordan, in the planning of the newly constructed Centre for Community Development in Allan. A pilot project for training, research and the provision of community services was prepared. Advisory services were also provided to the Government of Oman, in formulating and implementing a pilot programme in community development, in collaboration with UNICEF; also, in revising the curriculum for primary schools; to the Government of Qatar, on ways to improve the social services in the country and to make professional social workers fully aware of local cultural needs; also, in establishing the role of sociological studies and social work in the Gulf countries and in supporting development plans; to the Government of Saudi Arabia, on the need for establishing day-care centres for pre-school children in urban cities; to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in areas of their interest related to population issues, family planning and responsible parenthood. Advisory services were also provided in the organization and implementation of two training programmes in social welfare. Advisory services were provided to the Government of the United Arab Emirates, on instruction in a regional training seminar on social planning for the Gulf States. The seminar was organized jointly by the Government and UNICEF.

99. Advisory services were also provided to the following regional and intergovernmental organizations: to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in the preparation of educational television programmes for children, children's books and educational textbooks for post-secondary education and vocational training, as well as in planning an open-university project for the Palestinian people; to the World Bank Technical Assistance and Special Studies Division in connexion with the Bank's literacy project in Saudi Arabia; to the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait, in presenting a course on manpower and educational planning as well as assistance in revising curricula in the field of social development planning; and to the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, through membership in its Board of Advisers. The Division also participated in the following meetings: the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, held at Alexandria; the League of Arab States Seminar for Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, held at Riyadh; the Second Conference of Deans of Schools of Social Work in Arab Countries, which emphasized developmental social work practice; and the Arab Expert Group Seminar, held in Kuwait, on Problems of Youth and School Leavers in Arab Countries.

100. Under the Human Settlement Programme of the Commission, the Division initiated work on a study evaluating housing finance in the ECWA region, with particular reference to the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan.

101. A project document was prepared for a regional institution for urban development in the Arab States. Discussions were carried out concerning this project with the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning of the United Nations and the Governments of the ECWA region. Discussions and preparatory work were also carried out for the United Nations project on metropolitan planning for the city of Amman. This project may be part of a much larger project involving bilateral assistance to Jordan.

102. At the request of the Government of Lebanon, assistance was provided on reconstruction activities in the field of housing, building and planning. This assistance is expected to continue throughout 1977.

H. Statistics Unit

103. Under the Statistics Programme of the Commission, the Unit initiated work related to the Study of Comparative Real Income in ECWA Countries (4.3.1) and the Comparative Costs of Living in ECWA Countries (4.3.2).

104. In view of the importance attached to these activities and despite the lack of funds, the Unit has followed up a preliminary study on prices essential to such activities which it had initiated earlier. After careful examination of the national accounts and price statistics of the ECWA member States, a peculiar phenomenon characterizing those States was observed. That phenomenon is that their economic structure and prosperity depend for the most part on the price level of their exports and their consumption depends largely on their imports. For some ECWA countries, exports represent almost 100 per cent of the gross domestic product, whereas imports represent an unusually high percentage of the private final consumption expenditure. Most of the ECWA countries depend on imports for food. The degree of this dependence is steadily on the rise due to the rise in the level of living. Thus, the economy of these countries is governed by two opposing factors: the prices of imports and the prices of exports. Those factors, especially the latter, also play an important role in determining the prices of local products.

105. The unusually high rise in prices in the ECWA countries during the past few years and its corresponding effect on the magnitude of the gross domestic product estimates has rendered the classical time-to-time comparisons of the gross domestic products of any one country quite misleading for assessing economic growth. The use of such estimates for country-to-country comparisons has been even more misleading, since the problem is further complicated by the use of official exchange rates, which usually do not reflect the relative purchasing power of currencies, in converting estimates from one national currency to another.

106. Furthermore, the unusually high rise in prices in the ECWA countries, whose major population consists of traditional farmers, labourers and white-collar city workers, has led many Governments to intervene by fixing the prices of essential food commodities and gasoline. Thus, a good part of their budgets went for subsidies, and prices lost their meaning. With the lack of adequate studies on prices and the effect of their fluctuation, Governments adopted spontaneous unplanned economic policies with undesirable effects.

107. This situation calls for a carefully planned co-ordinated system of price and quantity statistics, as well as a system of reasonably accurate comparisons of intercountry differences in production, incomes and purchasing power of currencies. The Statistics Unit, in an effort to help the member States adopt sound pricing policies and obtain international real product and purchasing power comparisons is now in the process of drafting a paper, to be submitted to the National Statistics Departments of the member States for comments and suggestions, entitled "Towards an integrated system of price and quantity statistics and a system of international comparisons of gross product and purchasing power in the ECWA region".

108. The study will contribute to the two activities of the work programme mentioned above, by presenting a summary of "A system of international comparisons of gross product and purchasing power". That system has been applied by the United Nations International Comparison Project which, in its second phase covered 10 countries from different continents and has proceeded to the third phase extending its

geographical coverage by adding more countries to the study. The Syrian Arab Republic has been chosen to be among the selected group of countries for this phase.

109. In addition to its contribution to the two activities, the study will assess the existing price and quantity statistics and their coverage in each of the ECWA countries and will suggest necessary changes and improvements, after introducing the principles underlying the system of price and quantity statistics. Thus, this study is also a partial fulfilment of the activity discussed in paragraph 110.

110. Assistance has been rendered to several ECWA countries in the implementation of the United Nations System of National Accounts. The Statistics Unit helped in setting up the 1974 national accounts of Syria and in the establishment of the balance of goods and services (supply and disposition of goods and services) for 1,500 groups of commodities. Assistance was also rendered in revising the national accounts of Yemen and establishing the national income at current and constant prices for the period 1969/70 through 1975/76. Moreover, the Statistics Unit has been co-operating since October 1976 with the National Accounts Section of the Department of Statistics in Jordan in introducing the new System of National Accounts (SNA) to Jordan by setting up the national accounts of the East Bank of Jordan for the year 1975 in the frame of the new SNA. This activity will continue and will cover more years.

111. Work on the Annual Statistical Abstract of the Arab World was resumed in Amman in October 1976. Since this activity leans heavily on the national and international statistical publications usually available in the ECWA library, work on it has been greatly hampered by the fact that the acquisitions, by ECWA in Amman, of statistical publications are very few. Moreover, work has been hampered by the fact that the Unit has not received the statistical information on some of the African Arab countries from the Economic Commission for Africa with whom it has been co-ordinating this activity.

112. In view of the above, only a draft of volume I of the first issue of the Abstract will be ready by the date of the fourth session of the Commission. The final version will be published later in the year after the comments and suggestions received from member States, regional institutions and the substantive Divisions of ECWA have been studied and incorporated. Volume I is a statistical country profile of the Arab world, whereas volume II, which is expected to be ready at the end of 1977, is a regional sector profile covering all sectors of the economy.

113. After there has been consultation with the Arab Fund, the Abstract will cover all the Arab world and will include indicators on energy and primary commodities, industry, construction, international trade, prices and finance, national accounts, housing, labour, education, health and population.

114. Preparatory work for the Working Group on Production Accounts, Commodity Balance and Input-Output Analysis at Current and Constant Prices is in progress. The meeting of the Working Group which will be held at Amman, from 15 to 19 October 1977 is aimed at helping national accountants of member States to review the state of national accounting in the countries of the region, to study the nature of the production, consumption and capital formation accounts and tables of the SNA, and to discuss the compilation of the accounts and tables at current prices. The long-range objective is to provide member States of the Commission with an indispensable tool for the elucidation of many problems of development planning. In particular, a contribution will be made towards obtaining useful information on an

equilibrium between available resources and their uses and towards a balanced growth in all sectors of the economy.

The Working Group will be concerned mainly with the following three items:

1. Scope and structure of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA)
2. Formation and compilation of the production, consumption expenditure and capital formation accounts of the SNA at current prices
3. Country experience (practices, difficulties, problems and solutions) in setting up the accounts in 2 above in the case of:
 - (a) Agriculture, industrial activity, distributive trades and services;
 - (b) Non-marketed production;
 - (c) The public sector: enterprises and public corporations and government services.

Invitations have been sent to the member States for their participation and preparation of "country papers". Consultants have been asked also to prepare papers on the experience of some countries of the region which have applied the SNA. The FAO has been asked to submit a paper and another paper will be prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office. The Statistics Unit is preparing a paper examining the regional experience in setting up the production, consumption expenditure and capital formation accounts at current prices, discussing problems and the difficulties encountered and suggesting solutions.

I. Technical Co-operation Unit

115. Notwithstanding the events in Lebanon during 1976, the Unit continued to provide technical assistance and supporting services to the countries of the region and to the projects decentralized to ECWA. The assistance of UNDP to two of these projects has ceased, namely, the Assistance in Development Planning and Execution (Baghdad) as of July 1976, and the Planning Institute for Economic and Social Development (Damascus) as of 1 January 1977. Terminal reports for these projects are in preparation and will be completed shortly.

116. The UNDP assistance to the Arab Planning Institute, Kuwait, under phase I was concluded in August 1976. A UNDP/United Nations/ECWA evaluation mission was established in November 1975 in which the Unit participated on behalf of ECWA. The evaluation mission recommended the continuation of UNDP assistance to the Arab Planning Institute for a further period of five years. Because of the current financial difficulties of UNDP, an arrangement was reached between the Institute and UNDP whereby assistance by the latter will be extended through June 1977, pending negotiations for further assistance through June 1981. The relationship between ECWA and the Institute is the result of UNDP assistance. ECWA was asked to execute the UNDP assistance on behalf of the United Nations during phase I of the project operation. In that capacity, ECWA has become a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute. The Board recommended in its meeting in January 1977 that ECWA continue its role as executing agency for phase II of UNDP assistance to the Institute, i.e. for the period 1977-1981.

117. The question of regional commissions becoming executing agencies for regional projects is gaining support and various resolutions were passed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the latest being Council resolution 2043 (LXI) which dealt with this subject and, more generally, with ways and means of strengthening the secretariats of the regional commissions. However, the question has not been definitively resolved and the attention of the Governments of the ECWA region is drawn to its importance, in order for them to take whatever action they may deem suitable at the level of the Commission and through their representatives in other United Nations bodies, particularly the UNDP Governing Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Moreover, this question should be dealt with at the national level inasmuch as the Governments who participate in a regional project are also a party to the decision concerning the designation of the executing agency for that project. Thus, the Regional Institute for Training and Research in Baghdad, was established in 1976 and the United Nations Secretariat in New York was designated the executing agency. The ECWA and the United Nations Secretariat are negotiating the question of decentralization of the executing responsibilities. It is also essential to know the views on this matter of the Governments participating in the project. In line with the policy of co-operation with regional institutions, ECWA is responding favourably to requests for assistance from the Institute. It has loaned the services of its Regional Adviser in Statistics for a period of two months from 20 February 1977.

118. The Programme for Public Finance and Administration continued to provide training and advisory services to the three beneficiary countries, namely, Oman, Democratic Yemen and Yemen. The Unit was in touch with UNDP and the Office of Technical Co-operation of the United Nations, in pursuance of ECWA resolution 26 (III) of 14 May 1976, concerning the possibility of obtaining adequate funds from UNDP to enable the Programme to continue its services to the above-mentioned countries. Discussions with UNDP on the matter did not produce the desired results. UNDP (i.e., the Bureau for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East) advised that, because of their current financial difficulties and the fact that Public Finance is not a priority area in the regional programmes for the 1977-1981 cycle, they would not be able to assist this project. On the other hand, the United Nations (OTC) was agreeable to maintaining its annual assistance of \$US 200,000 from the regular budget for 1977 but without any promise for the years to come. The assistance from the United Nations is appreciated but does not offer a firm prospect for continuity. The matter is therefore referred to the member States of ECWA for appropriate action.

119. Advisory services continue to be an important aspect of direct technical assistance to the countries of the region. Experience has shown that with the proper selection of the adviser and of the field of activity, this type of assistance can be very effective in terms of contributing to the solution of specific problems. The services rendered during the period under review were described under the performance of the different substantive divisions of ECWA. It is, however, useful to mention here that ECWA has regional advisers in the following fields: Human Resources Development; Statistics and National Accounts; Transport and Communication Development; Population Statistics; Social Aspects of Population Policies; Industrial Project Formulation and Evaluation.

120. The following regional adviser posts are vacant and candidates are being sought for: development planning; public finance and administration; statistics; ports and harbours development; agricultural projects formulation and evaluation; and demography.

B. Follow-up action on the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its third session c/

The Commission, at its third session, adopted a number of resolutions with provisions calling for action by the secretariat. The present document describes in brief the necessary follow-up action taken towards the implementation of those provisions during the period under review.

c/ Originally issued as document E/ECWA/48.

Resolution 23 (III): The Euro-Arab dialogue

1. The Commission, in paragraph 2 of the resolution, invited "the Executive Secretary to consult with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on ways and means which could enable the Commission to assist in achieving the objectives of the Euro-Arab dialogue".
2. Pursuant to the above provision, the secretariat of the Commission carried out intensive consultations with the secretariats of the League of Arab States and the Economic Commission for Europe (for a detailed report of the issues discussed, see E/ECWA/45/Add.2).

Resolution 24 (III): Reconstruction and development of Lebanon

1. The Executive Secretary, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 24 (III), took immediate action, as soon as hostilities had stopped, to "extend all possible assistance for the co-ordination of efforts made for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon".
2. In response to the request of the Government of Lebanon, the Executive Secretary reinforced the staff of ECWA in Beirut by moving the Development Planning Division back to Beirut, in order to facilitate the rendering of advisory services which had been officially requested by the Government of Lebanon within the framework of the assistance to Lebanon by the United Nations system.
3. The Executive Secretary, with the Chief of the Development Planning Division, entered into intensive substantive consultations with the Government of Lebanon, with a view to extending immediate and urgent assistance to Lebanon. At the request of the Prime Minister, the Chief of the Division prepared a project document (see a brief version of the project in E/ECWA/48/Add.1) for a United Nations Interdisciplinary Advisory Team to Lebanon which is expected to (a) conduct quick surveys and prepare position papers for urgent policy decisions on the economic and social problems of concern to the authorities in Lebanon; (b) serve as a nucleus for the preparation of Lebanon's comprehensive medium-term plan; and (c) prepare the ground for studies on the long-range development prospects of Lebanon and the broad options available to it for growth, under conditions of economic and social stability. The request could not be fulfilled so far, owing to financial and other considerations.
4. Through its staff and regional advisers, and working under the supervision of the Chief of the Division, ECWA was able to assist in the establishment of the Housing Bank and the Reconstruction and Development Council. A senior staff member from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations also joined the Council in an advisory capacity. Moreover, ECWA offered advice on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Lebanon's railroad system and is continuing advisory services through membership in the Lebanon Relief Committee and in the Preparatory Committee related to the operations of the Housing Bank.
5. At the request of the Government of Lebanon, ECWA has already begun a study on a housing policy in Lebanon. This study is designed to be action-oriented and to contribute to the establishment of a long-range policy for the implementation of low-cost housing in Lebanon.

6. As per the instructions of the Executive Secretary, and operating within its resource limitations and the requirements of its programmes, ECWA will continue to give Lebanon priority consideration.

Resolution 26 (III): A programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region

1. In paragraph 1 of the resolution, the Commission urged "the Executive Secretary to consult with the United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation and the United Nations Development Programme with a view to finding a method of obtaining adequate funds for a reasonable planning period so that the United Nations regional project for public finance and administration may continue its services d/ during its second phase in order to meet the requests of Governments, recipients of the services of the project".

2. Pursuant to the above provision, ECWA carried out consultations with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation with a view to obtaining adequate funds from UNDP to enable the project to continue its services to the three beneficiary countries, namely, Oman, Democratic Yemen and Yemen. Discussions with UNDP on the matter did not produce the desired results. UNDP (i.e., the Bureau for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East) informed ECWA that, because of their current financial difficulties and the fact that public finance and administration is not a priority area in the regional programmes for the 1977-1981 cycle, they would not be able to assist in the project. On the other hand, the United Nations (OTC) was agreeable to maintaining its annual assistance of \$US 200,000 from the regular budget for 1977 but without any promise for the years to come. The assistance from the United Nations is appreciated but it does not offer a firm prospect for continuity. The matter is therefore referred to the member States of ECWA for appropriate action.

Resolution 27 (III): General study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people

1. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Commission requested "the Executive Secretary to make arrangements to carry out a comprehensive study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in accordance with the broad outline" in the ECWA report on the subject (E/ECWA/32/Add.1).

2. Upon the relocation of ECWA at Amman, a task force was formed of representatives of the Office of the Executive Secretary and the various divisions or units directly concerned to observe the implementation of ECWA resolution 27 (III) and prepare progress reports thereon. Inasmuch as circumstances permitted, the task force maintained regular contacts with the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on the matter.

3. The first major step in the work of the task force was the recruitment of the Consultant/Study Director who would prepare the appropriate methodology and approach

d/ For a brief report on the activities of the project during the period under review, see E/ECWA/45, pp. 5-8.

to the study and direct and supervise its implementation. The qualifications of such a consultant were of crucial importance in order to ensure the objectivity of the study and guarantee that it would be as comprehensive as possible. A number of highly qualified individuals were selected in consultation with the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and letters were addressed to them inquiring about their availability.

4. Names of candidates for the two posts of senior researchers and two of research assistants were also collected and studied. Appropriate steps have been taken for their recruitment. Job descriptions for all the posts mentioned above were prepared.

Resolution 28 (III): Census of Palestine Arab people

1. The Commission, in paragraph 1 of the resolution, urged "the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to furnish the material support necessary for beginning implementation of this project before the end of 1976, and in paragraph 2 called "upon the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps, in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, for beginning the population census operations as soon as possible after the meeting of the preparatory committee to be held in 1976".

2. Pursuant to the above provisions, contacts were made with the representatives of PLO and UNFPA to undertake the census of the Palestine Arab people. An amount of \$US 10,000 was allotted by UNFPA to hold a preparatory meeting in 1976. UNFPA has been contacted to authorize the expenditure of that amount in 1977, a proposal to which the Fund has already agreed in principle.

3. All administrative and technical arrangements have been undertaken to hold the meeting early in May 1977, subject to the timely receipt of UNFPA authorization. A list of experts has been prepared including PLO representatives. The meeting will discuss mainly the questions of definition and methods of data collection. A draft study on the above questions has been prepared by ECWA and the final draft will be a working paper for the meeting.

4. As agreed by UNFPA, a project document will be prepared after the meeting which will be the basis for discussion with the Fund on the financing required for undertaking the field work and related matters.

Resolution 31 (III): Co-operation with regional institutions

1. The Commission, in paragraph 1 of the resolution, called "upon the secretariat of the Commission to define the modes and principles of the proposed co-ordination and co-operation with regional institutions, to make arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation with them in consultation with these institutions and to undertake to notify the Commission at its next meeting of the steps taken in this connexion". In paragraph 2, it called "upon the secretariat of the Commission to make arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation with regional institutions in the form of agreements where these institutions so request".

2. Pursuant to the above provisions, the secretariat of the Commission undertook the following:

3. A memorandum of understanding on relations and co-operation between the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS) and ECWA was concluded and signed in October 1976. It mainly provides for consultations between the two secretariats with a view to identifying areas and modalities of co-operation and co-ordination on a case by case basis within the framework of their work programmes, and in other particular cases. It also calls for consultations on the most advantageous ways to promote the co-ordination of the industrialization efforts of the countries being assisted by them both. Moreover, the two organizations shall exchange data, studies and reports and invite each other to conferences, meetings and seminars of mutual interest. Discussions were held at the headquarters of IDCAS on the progress achieved in the implementation of the joint project on the fertilizer industry in the Arab countries. Other subjects of mutual concern were also discussed.

4. An agreement for co-operation between the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) and ECWA was to be signed in April 1977. However, due to unavoidable circumstances, the signing is now expected to take place very shortly. It mainly establishes the general framework for co-operation between the two organizations and co-ordination of their respective activities. Taking into consideration their respective terms of reference and work programmes, the two organizations will undertake continuous consultations on matters of mutual concern and encourage the exchange of data and documentation as well as co-ordinate joint projects and activities. Specific agreements on their joint activities will be concluded on a case by case basis. Arrangements have already been made to attend conferences and meetings held under the auspices of both organizations.

5. Notwithstanding the delay in concluding the formal agreement for co-operation between the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and ECWA, due mainly to the difficult circumstances through which ECWA had to pass last year, practical steps have been taken in that direction. On the basis of exchange of their work programmes, proposals for co-operation in concrete projects have been made by the CAEU which are still under consideration by ECWA. Other concrete proposals for co-operation in the field of transport and communications are also being considered.

6. Pursuant to the 1975 joint statement on co-operation between the Arab League and ECWA, a delegation from the League held discussions with ECWA officials on ways and means of giving effect to the areas of possible collaboration as contained in the statement. A number of concrete proposals for joint undertakings emerged. The League, in particular, sought ECWA collaboration in the presentation of an Arab strategy in the field of transport and in the establishment of an Arab money and capital market. Agreement in principle has been given for ECWA collaboration and details are expected to be worked out in due course.

7. A number of meetings were held between ECWA and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to discuss the progress of execution of the three projects partly financed by the Funds, namely the Documentation Centre, the Annual Statistical Abstract of the Arab World, and the "brain drain". For further details, see E/ECWA/45 and E/ECWA/45/Add.1 and 2.

8. In that connexion, the positive outcome of the visit to the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at Addis Ababa by the ECWA Executive Secretary was brought to the attention of the Funds. Agreement has been reached by the two Executive Secretaries to collaborate in the implementation of the three projects by extending their coverage to the eight Arab countries in Africa. Practical steps have been taken in that direction and fruitful results are expected soon.

9. Possibilities for the execution of other joint projects with ECA were agreed upon and details will be worked out by the competent divisions of the two secretariats for initiating their implementation.

10. Co-operative efforts are expected to be strengthened in 1977 between ECWA and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), mainly in the collection, processing and dissemination of energy statistics.

11. Contacts have been established between ECWA and the secretariats of the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD), and the Arab Organization for Administrative Sciences (AOAS), with a view to concluding working arrangements for co-operation.

C. UNITED NATIONS INTERDISCIPLINARY ADVISORY
TEAM TO LEBANON e/

Project document

Title of project: United Nations Interdisciplinary Advisory Team to
Lebanon

Participating country: Lebanon

Government agency: The Reconstruction and Development Council

Date of submission: December 1976

Government contribution: LL 554,000

Project duration: One year, with possibility of extension

Executing agency: ECWA

Project starting date: As soon as possible

United Nations contribution: \$716,000

I. BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

A. Justification for the project

Lebanon has gone through almost two years of civil war which resulted in serious destruction of physical assets, collapse of a large number of private and public institutions, disruption of economic activities in almost all parts of the country, and emergence of a large number of economic and social problems, the solution of which will require concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels.

Last spring, when conditions in Lebanon took a positive turn, the Secretary-General of the United Nations announced the establishment of a \$50 million Fund for Lebanon's Reconstruction and Development. He also appointed Mr. William Buffum, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs, as the Co-ordinator of aid to Lebanon at United Nations Headquarters and Dr. Mohammad Said Al-Attar, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), as the Co-ordinator of aid in Lebanon.

In addition to urgent United Nations assistance for medicine, food and shelter, and the country's large need for finance for the purpose of the reconstruction of the war-devastated areas and facilities, the Government of Lebanon feels strongly the need for advice from a United Nations Interdisciplinary Advisory Team whose functions will, inter alia, be (a) to prepare quick surveys and position papers for urgent policy decisions in the economic and social problem areas of concern to the Lebanese authorities; (b) to serve as the nucleus for the

e/ Originally issued as document E/ECWA/48/Add.1.

preparation of Lebanon's comprehensive medium-term plan; and (c) to prepare the ground for studies on the long-range development prospects of Lebanon and the broad options available to it for growth, under conditions of economic and social stability.

In his address to the Lebanese people on 21 November 1976 His Excellency, the President of the Lebanese Republic defined the role of the State as the regulator and the promoter of economic activities in the private sector; pointed to the necessity of having a comprehensive development plan; and indicated the need to establish a Reconstruction and Development Council as a public institution with broad responsibilities and authority.

The requested Advisory Team will serve as an important United Nations contribution to the difficult task of reconstruction and development in the coming months when the authorities concerned will need impartial and sound judgement on the numerous economic and social problems of Lebanon. In the performance of these important functions, the Advisory Team will establish close contact with the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the relevant regional Arab institutions, with a view to seeking their advice and assistance for the benefit of Lebanon.

B. Institutional framework

After close to two years of civil war and the large-scale destruction and economic losses to the country, Lebanon is now embarking on a new development strategy which will necessarily involve planning as an important development instrument. This is clearly reflected in the President's recent address and his indication that he wishes to create a Reconstruction and Development Council. The requested Advisory Team will work directly with the Council.

C. Provision for Government follow-up

Follow-up action on the activities and services of the proposed Advisory Team will be the responsibility of the Government of Lebanon through the Reconstruction and Development Council.

D. Other related activities

The United Nations Interdisciplinary Advisory Team will, in the interest of Lebanon, co-operate closely with similar United Nations or other regional activities.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

A. Long-range objective

To prepare the ground for studies on the long-range development prospects of Lebanon and the broad options available to the country for growth, under conditions of economic and social stability.

B. Immediate objective

The immediate objective of the project is twofold: (a) to prepare quick surveys and position papers for urgent policy decisions in the economic and social problem areas of concern to the Lebanese authorities; and (b) to serve as the nucleus for the preparation of Lebanon's comprehensive medium-term plan.

III. WORK PLAN

A. Description of project activities

The activities of the project will include:

1. Advisory services

The first and primary responsibility of the project will be to extend quick advice on the critical economic and social problems of Lebanon to the authorities concerned.

2. Research

The project will be responsible for undertaking research (both the survey and non-survey type) which is designed to elucidate the problems under investigation, preparing the required quantitative picture for a plan-frame and an eventual medium-term plan, as per the strategy directives of the policy-makers and, preparing the necessary investigations leading to the development of the long-range growth prospects of Lebanon and the options available to it under alternative sets of conditions.

3. Training

The project will, in the course of its investigations, make special efforts to train counterpart staff in various areas of specialization relevant to the objectives of the project and in harmony with its skill composition. Seminars of short duration to select Lebanese officials on special topics will also be organized, as appropriate.

4. Miscellaneous

The project will co-operate closely with other national, regional and international organizations concerned with the reconstruction and development of Lebanon.

B. Location of the project

The project will be located at Beirut and will report, through the head of the team (Project Manager), both to the Executive Secretary of ECWA and the Reconstruction and Development Council.

C. Description of United Nations inputs

(i) Internationally recruited experts:

<u>Field</u>	<u>Duration man/months</u>	<u>Estimated cost US dollars</u>
Senior development economist (head of team/Project Manager)	12	45,600 ^{a/}
Development planning	12	45,600
Social development	12	45,600
Financial planning	12	45,600
Regional planning	12	45,600
Manpower planning	12	45,600
Development administration and administrative reform	12	45,600
Statistician	12	45,600
Housing policy and programming	12	45,600
Project evaluation and feasibility studies	12	45,600
	Subtotal	456,000
(ii) Consultants (24 m/m)		100,000
(iii) Equipment		100,000
(iv) Travel		10,000
(v) Miscellaneous		50,000
	Total \$US	716,000

^{a/} Based on the assumption of a pro-forma figure of \$3,800/month.

D. Description of government inputs

(i) Counterpart staff

	<u>Duration man/months</u>	<u>Estimated cost Lebanese pounds</u>
Development planning	12	18,000
Social development	36	36,000
Financial planning	12	12,000
Regional planning (3)	36	58,000
Manpower planning (2)	24	24,000
Development administration and administrative reform (2)	24	24,000
Statistics (3)	36	58,000
Housing policy and programming (2)	24	24,000
Project evaluation and feasibility studies (2)	24	30,000
	Subtotal	284,000

	<u>Estimated cost</u> <u>Lebanese pounds</u>
(ii) Equipment	20,000
(iii) Clerical staff	100,000
(iv) Office facilities	100,000
(v) Miscellaneous	50,000
Total	<u>554,000</u>

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMISSION AT ITS FOURTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/42/Rev.1	Report of the ECWA Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Water Conference
E/ECWA/43	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/43/Rev.1	Agenda
E/ECWA/43/Add.1 and Add.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECWA/43/Add.2	Note by the Executive Secretary regarding the application by Egypt for membership of the Commission
E/ECWA/44 and Rev.1	Draft programme of work and priorities of the Commission for 1978-1979
E/ECWA/44/Add.1 and Add.1/Rev.1	Joint CTNC/ECWA Unit on Transnational Corporations (Programme of Work and Priorities for 1977 and the biennium 1978-1979)
E/ECWA/45	Progress report on the implementation of the work programme
E/ECWA/45/Add.1	"The Brain Drain Problem: Causes, Consequences and Remedies" (Progress report)
E/ECWA/45/Add.2	The Euro-Arab Dialogue (Progress report) May 1976-April 1977
E/ECWA/45/Add.3	ECWA Regional Documentation Centre (Progress report, May 1976-February 1977)
E/ECWA/45/Add.4	Statistical abstract
E/ECWA/46	Application of the Palestine Liberation Organization for full membership of the Economic Commission for Western Asia
E/ECWA/47 and Rev.1 and 2	Applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission, to participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/48 and Corr.1	Follow-up action on the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its third session in May 1976
E/ECWA/48/Add.1	United Nations Interdisciplinary Advisory Team to Lebanon
E/ECWA/48/Add.2	ECWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities
E/ECWA/48/Add.2/Corr.1	ECWA Voluntary Fund for Regional Activities
E/ECWA/49	Third biennial review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in Western Asia
E/ECWA/50	Mechanisms for the transfer and development of technology in the ECWA region
E/ECWA/51	Place of the 1978 session (Note by the Executive Secretary)
E/ECWA/52 and Corr.1	The role of regional commissions in promoting co-operation among the developing countries
E/ECWA/53	Note by the Executive Secretary on co-ordination and co-operation with regional and Arab institutions, funds and organizations
E/ECWA/L.49-L.64	Draft resolutions
E/ECWA/L.65	Draft report to the Economic and Social Council
E/ECWA/INF.15 and Add.1	List of documents
E/ECWA/INF.16 and Rev.1	Notes for the information of participants
E/ECWA/INF.17	Provisional list of participants
E/ECWA/INF.17/Rev.1	List of participants