

83 (VII). Establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the recommendation to establish a Regional Water Resources Council adopted at its First Regional Water Meeting held at Baghdad,

Further recalling the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference, which constitute the Mar del Plata Action Plan, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2115 (LXIII) and 2121 (LXIII), which called upon the regional commissions to expand their activities in the field of water resources,

Further recalling Commission resolution 39 (IV) concerning regional co-operation in the field of water resources development, and the resolution adopted at its Second Regional Water Meeting held at Riyadh,

Noting that the United Nations Water Conference requested the regional commissions "to play a central role in the promotion of intergovernmental co-operation" in the respective regions, as a follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan, and specially recommended in its resolution VIII that they should, inter alia, "assign specific responsibility on water to an existing intergovernmental committee within the regional commission, or, if necessary, create a new one and establish or strengthen, as appropriate, the secretariat units of the commissions dealing with water, which would serve as the secretariat of the intergovernmental committee referred to",

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly, in its resolution 32/197, on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, recommended that "the regional commissions should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level",

Recognizing the important role of water in the over-all socio-economic development of the region and the urgent need for accelerated progress in the development of this vital natural resource,

Having considered the report on the establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council (E/ECWA/96) and, in particular, appendix 15 (the report on the Commission's meeting at Damascus on 17 and 18 September 1979), which provided for the proposed terms of reference of the Water Resources Council to be amended so as to replace its executive functions by co-ordinating functions, in order to avoid duplication of the work of organizations already active in the area of water resources,

Noting with satisfaction the implementation of the tasks referred to in the resolution of the Second Regional Water Meeting held at Riyadh,

1. Decides:

- (a) That the Regional Water Council shall be established;
- (b) That the competence of that Council shall be restricted exclusively to the co-ordination of the efforts of the regional organizations and bodies active in the field of water resources in the region and to the conduct of activities that complement the work of these organizations;
- (c) That the Council's co-ordination efforts shall be discharged through the compilation of information concerning the organizations active in the region and the discussion of that information at its periodic meetings;
- (d) That the Council shall meet once a year, the exact date to be agreed upon between the secretariat and the member States, and that this meeting shall be held at least four months prior to the date of the regular session of the Commission;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary,

- (a) To assess the financial implications of the present resolution and to explore with the member States, regional and international funding agencies, other countries and development institutions the possibility of raising and securing the necessary funds that will enable the secretariat of the Commission to provide adequate secretarial support to the Council,
- (b) To report to the Commission at its eighth regular session on the progress achieved regarding the establishment of the Council, and in particular on the implementation of the tasks mentioned above.

8th meeting
23 April 1980