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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR WESTERN ASIA**

**REPORT ON THE NINTH SESSION**

( 8 - 12 May 1982 )

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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NOTE

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

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period since the eighth session. It was adopted by the Commission at its eighth meeting, held on 12 May 1982, in the form as amended during the discussion.

I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

2. At its eighth meeting held on 12 May 1982, the Commission decided to bring the following resolutions to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

107(IX) International assistance to the flood-stricken areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen <sup>1/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Noting with deep regret the extensive loss of human life and property and the destruction of economic and social infrastructures caused by three consecutive floods during 1981 and 1982 in all six governorates of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on the efforts that are being made by the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to deal with the disaster; and having taken note of the report of the representative of the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO),

m Noting with appreciation the prompt assistance rendered by member States of the Commission and other countries, as well as by the United Nations system and other national and international organizations, in providing relief aid to the victims of the flood-stricken areas,

Noting further with appreciation Economic and Social Council resolution dated 28 April 1982, which urges all member States of the United Nations, international and regional organizations and voluntary agencies to participate in relief operations and to lend their support and assistance to programmes for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas,

Deeply concerned that, despite the immediate relief assistance offered so far, the magnitude of the damage caused by the floods and the reconstruction and rehabilitation requirements have confronted the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen with severe economic difficulties,

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<sup>1/</sup> See paras. 93-96 below for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

Considering that the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, being a least developed country, is unable to sustain the mounting burden of providing prompt and adequate food and shelter for the large number of homeless people and undertaking rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in the affected areas,

Considering also that the magnitude of the disaster is of such a scale that the development efforts and prospects of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen have been adversely affected,

1. Strongly supports the provisions of the Economic and Social Council resolution and urges the international community to intensify efforts towards their speedy implementation;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to adopt a resolution calling for the urgent establishment of a programme, including the creation of a special fund, for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, in line with the provisions of the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the Least Developed Countries;

3. Urgently appeals to the member States of the United Nations and, in particular, the member States of the Commission, to expedite and facilitate the urgent establishment and implementation of the programme and to contribute generously to the proposed special fund;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to follow-up on the implementation of this resolution and submit a report to the tenth session of the Commission.

7th meeting

11 May 1982

114(IX). The ECWA Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989<sup>1/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, particularly its provisions regarding the role of the regional commissions in the promotion of co-ordination at the regional level and regarding their tasks and responsibilities in the programme planning and review process,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 36/228 of 18/12/1981 on Programme Planning, particularly its section (A),

Mindful of ECOSOC resolution 1981/64 of 23 July 1981 which called upon all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to apply the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade as a policy framework in the formulation and implementation of their programmes of work and medium-term plans,

Recalling also its resolution 56(V) on the definition of long-term development objectives and regional development strategy and its resolution 84(VII) of 23 April 1980 by which it established an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee with a view, inter alia, to advising the Commission regarding institutional arrangements, including the creation of technical bodies, for the effective implementation of the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989,

1. Emphasizes the need to ensure that the programme planning and review processes of the Commission reflect more fully and consistently the development priorities and requirements of the States members of the Commission;

2. Adopts the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan and the recommendations contained therein<sup>2/</sup>;

3. Endorses in that context the Commission's Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989<sup>3/</sup>;

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<sup>1/</sup> See para 53 for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

<sup>2/</sup> E/ECWA/142/Rev.1

<sup>3/</sup> E/ECWA/142/Add.1

4. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council to establish a Standing Committee for the Programme, composed of all member countries of the Commission, as its main subsidiary organ to assist the Commission in the discharge of its responsibilities for programme planning and review;

5. Recommends further that the terms of reference of the Standing Committee will be as follows:

(a) The Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Commission for reviewing, planning, programming, evaluation and co-ordination;

(b) The Committee shall

(i) Review the programmes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia as defined in the Medium-term Plan;

(ii) Review the totality of the work programme(s) of the Commission in the light of the availability of resources;

(iii) Recommend an order of priorities among the programmes and subprogrammes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia as defined in the Medium-term Plan;

(iv) Give guidance to the Executive Secretary on the design of the programme;

(v) Recommend guidelines to the agencies of the United Nations system maintaining programmes and activities in the region taking into account their respective functions and responsibilities and the need for coherence and co-ordination;

(vi) Consider and develop evaluation procedures and their use in the improvement of programme design and implementation;

(c) The Committee, in discharging its responsibilities, shall

Consider the programme of the Commission as a whole or as appropriate on a sector-by-sector basis and may for this purpose convene ad hoc subject-oriented meetings, and

Assist the Commission in achieving compatibility and complementarity of its work programme with those of other regional intergovernmental organizations in the region;

(d) The Committee shall meet annually prior to the regular session of the Commission and whenever it deems it desirable to do so for the proper discharge of its responsibilities. It may invite for this purpose United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to attend its meetings;

(e) The Committee, shall be guided as appropriate by the reports of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and relevant reports of other United Nations bodies;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult with the heads of the United Nations bodies and agencies maintaining programmes in the region with a view to strengthening arrangements aimed at improved co-operation and co-ordination of activities carried out or sponsored by the United Nations system in the region, particularly in the context of the preparation of the respective programmes of work and medium-term plans of the bodies involved;

7. Requests also the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its tenth session on the implementation of this resolution.

8th meeting

12 May 1982

## II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE EIGHTH SESSION

### A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. The Commission has not yet established any subsidiary bodies.

### B. Other activities

4. For information on the activities of the Commission, reference should be made to documents E/ECWA/138, E/ECWA/138/Add.1, E/ECWA/138/Add.2, E/ECWA/139, E/ECWA/139/Add.1, E/ECWA/140, E/ECWA/141, E/ECWA/142, E/ECWA/142/Rev.1, E/ECWA/142/Add.1 and E/ECWA/155.

### C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

5. In planning and implementing its activities, the secretariat maintained close co-operation with and received assistance from various United Nations specialized agencies and organizations, such as UNIDO, FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

6. In the field of industry and within the context of the agreement with UNIDO, the joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division continued the ongoing programme of in-depth country studies in close co-ordination with UNIDO which provided assistance for the publication of the country studies of Iraq, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and for the preparation of an in-depth study of Kuwait's industrial development and future prospects. During the period under review, UNIDO also co-sponsored an expert group meeting on the petrochemical industry in the ECWA region, and an expert group meeting on identification of projects for regional co-operation in capital goods and heavy engineering industries, which were held in Vienna from 9 to 12 June 1981 and from 15 to 19 June 1981 respectively.

7. In the field of agriculture and within the context of the agreement with FAO regarding the joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division, areas of co-operation with FAO included integrated regional planning, food security, agricultural resource management and rural development. In the field of food security, a joint project preparation mission was undertaken to the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in connection with cereal storage and distribution. With the assistance of FAO, the Commission organized an expert meeting

on management, conservation and development of agricultural resources which was held in Damascus from 9 to 15 May 1981. In the field of rural development, ECWA held consultations with FAO on co-operation and the integration of work programmes, and contributed to an FAO sponsored interagency mission on rural development strategies and policies in Jordan.

8. During the period under review, the Commission continued to receive financial assistance from UNEP for the operation of the secretariat's Environmental Co-ordination Unit.

9. During the past year, the secretariat continued to work closely with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs on issues affecting population groups such as disabled persons, women, youth and the aged.

10. Relations with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) were strengthened after two Professional posts had been assigned to the Commission the previous year, thereby facilitating closer co-ordination of the work programmes of both the Commission and Habitat.

11. The relationship between the ECWA secretariat and UNFPA continued to be strengthened. The Fund was instrumental in the implementation of the Commission's Population Programme which to a large extent depends on the Fund for financing. The Commission also executes a number of technical co-operation projects funded by UNFPA.

12. The Commission co-operated closely with UNCTAD in connection with the elaboration of the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries which was held in Paris from 1 to 14 September 1981. The contribution of ECWA covered consultations with the two least developed member countries, assistance in the preparation of their country presentations, participation in review and other meetings and the briefing of UNCTAD staff involved in the process. Co-operation with UNCTAD will continue especially with regard to the preparation by the Commission of a consolidated draft programme of activities related to the least developed member countries of ECWA for the period 1982-1983 in conformity with the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the Least Developed Countries. Consultations were also held with UNCTAD in connection with the ECWA Expert Group meeting on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration



held in Beirut from 14 to 18 December 1981, and to which UNCTAD contributed a paper on feasible forms of economic integration based on the experience of other regional groups and a paper on co-operation among State-Trading Organizations of Arab countries.

13. In accordance with the agreement concluded with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the secretariat maintained close co-operation and consultation with the Centre in the formulation and implementation of the Commission's programme in this field.

14. In the field of natural resources, close working relations were maintained with United Nations Headquarters, in particular with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. There was also continuous and intensive co-operation and co-ordination with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi from 10 to 21 August 1981, in which ECWA took an active part. Contacts were maintained with the secretariat of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea as well as with the secretariat of the Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

15. In the area of science and technology, the secretariat's relations were further developed with a number of organizations such as UNEP, UNCTAD and UNDP which took an active part in the ECWA Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States. The Seminar was co-sponsored by UNESCO, and took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 14 to 18 December 1981. During the past year the secretariat strengthened its relations with the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development which is providing financial support for the ECWA Regional Training Programme for Development of Industrial Technological Capabilities in Petroleum-Based Industries. Throughout the implementation of the work programme, the secretariat maintained close links with the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

16. The Commission, being the executing agency for a number of technical co-operation projects, continued to strengthen its relations with UNDP during the period under review.

### III. NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

#### A. Attendance and organization of work

17. The ninth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was held at the Mansour Melia Hotel, Baghdad, Republic of Iraq from 8 to 12 May 1982. Its deliberations covered eight meetings.

18. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Commission: 1/ Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

19. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Disaster Relief Office, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Information Centre, United Nations Secretariat (New York) United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

20. The following regional and intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers: Arab Centre for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, Arab Industrial Development Organization, Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, Arab Labour Organization, Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology, Arab Telecommunications Union, European Community, League of Arab States, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, World Federation of Trade Unions.

21. The Commission adopted the proposals contained in document E/ECWA/136 for the organization of its work and entrusted the Chairman in consultation with the Executive Secretary, with the organization of the schedule of meetings and the sequence in which agenda items would be considered.

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1/ For the names of the participants in the session, see document E/ECWA/INF. 31/Rev.1.

22. Under article 4 of the commission's terms of reference, the following States Members of the United Nations: Argentina; Austria; Belgium; Canada; Denmark; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Hungary; India; Italy; Libya; Morocco; the Netherlands; Tunisia; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; the United Kingdom; and the United States of America participated in a consultative capacity in the work of the ninth session. Switzerland also participated in the meetings in the same capacity.

23. At its second meeting, the Commission unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Thamer Razuki, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of Planning of the Republic of Iraq, as Chairman; Mr. Khaled Jumblatt, Minister of Economy and Trade of the Lebanese Republic and Mr. Yassin Said Na'aman, Deputy Minister of Planning of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Ahmed Salim Ahmed, a member of the delegation of Qatar, as Rapporteur for the session.

24. In accordance with rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission, the officers of the Commission examined the credentials of representatives to the session and found them to be in order.

#### B. Agenda

25. At its second meeting, the Commission adopted the following agenda after agreeing to a proposal to add a new item following item 7 in document E/ECWA/135 under the heading "Study of the effects of the natural disaster which has befallen Democratic Yemen as a result of torrential rainfall":

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ECWA/135, E/ECWA/135/Add.1)
4. Organization of work (E/ECWA/136)
5. Invitation of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the ninth session of the Commission (E/ECWA/137 and Rev. 1 and Rev. 2)
6. Report on the activities of the Commission
  - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme (E/ECWA/138, E/ECWA/138/Add.1 and Add.2)
  - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission (E/ECWA/139 and Add.1)

- (c) Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolution 27 (III) on the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people (E/ECWA/140)
  - (d) Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolution 28 (III) on the census of the Palestinian Arab people (E/ECWA/141)
  - (e) Regional contribution to the World Assembly on Aging (E/ECWA/155)
  - (f) Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989 (E/ECWA/142 Rev.1, E/ECWA/142/Add.1)
7. Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings
- (a) United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (E/ECWA/143)
  - (b) United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (E/ECWA/144)
  - (c) Expert Group Meeting on Management, Conservation and Development of Agricultural Resources in the ECWA region (E/ECWA/145)
  - (d) Conference on International Migration in the Arab World (E/ECWA/146)
  - (e) Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Petrochemical Industry in the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/147)
  - (f) Expert Group Meeting on Identification of Projects for Regional Co-operation in Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries (E/ECWA/148)
  - (g) Expert Group Meeting on Foreign Trade and Industrial Statistics (E/ECWA/149)
  - (h) Expert Group Meeting on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia (E/ECWA/150)
  - (i) Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States (E/ECWA/151)
8. Study of the effects of the natural disaster which has befallen Democratic Yemen as a result of torrential rainfall (E/ECWA/156)

9. The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account
  - (a) The financial status of the Commission's programmes E/ECWA/152 and Add. 2
  - (b) Statement on, and strengthening of, the Financial Contributions Account (E/ECWA/152 Add. 1 and Add. 3.)
10. Co-operation among developing countries (E/ECWA/153)
11. Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and strengthening of, the regional commissions (E/ECWA/154)
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the Commission's report on its ninth session (E/ECWA/157 and Rev.1).

#### C. Account of proceedings

26. The session was opened by His Excellency Mr. Taha Yassine Ramadan, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, who, on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Iraq, welcomed the holding of the ninth session of the Commission at Baghdad and wished the Commission success at its new headquarters. He said that the deteriorating international economic situation posed a threat to international peace and security. That situation was characterized by a widening gap between the developing and the industrialized countries and by growing disparity in the distribution of world income and economic power. The imbalance posed a serious threat to future international economic relations which would need to be restructured in such a way as to guarantee the interests of the developing countries. The industrialized countries should take urgent action to curb such policies and to establish firm relations based on justice and equity. He stressed the need for a new policy to govern international trade and world financial and monetary policies with a view to safeguarding the interests of the developing countries and accelerating their economic development. Iraq was committed to General Assembly resolution 34/138 concerning global economic negotiations and was ready to work with the Group of 77 for its implementation. In the field of economic co-operation, Iraq had signed in 1979 and 1980 twenty-two economic co-operation agreements with Asian and African countries and had provided considerable amounts of aid, representing about 4 per cent of its GNP for other developing countries. Iraq would have provided even more aid had it not been for the war imposed on the country since September 1980 as one more example of the attempts by imperialism to obstruct the course of economic development in the countries of the Third World.

27. The Conference of the Group of 77 which was held at Caracas, Venezuela in March 1981 was a landmark in the history of co-operation among developing countries. The Seventh Summit Conference of Heads of States and Governments of the Non-Aligned Countries to be held in September 1982, would no doubt produce positive results which would have a far-reaching influence on international relations in general and economic relations in particular. Referring to the topics for discussion, he said that action to exploit the available capabilities of the countries of the region, in particular in the spheres of agriculture and industry, and action to improve skills and productivity should be given the highest priority. In that connexion, member countries should take advantage of the expertise and potential of the ECWA secretariat. He once again welcomed the Commission's relocation to its new headquarters in Baghdad, reaffirming the readiness of his country to do its utmost to facilitate its work as a major instrument for development in the region.

28. H.E. Mr. Fuad Kaed Muhammad, Minister of Development of the Yemen Arab Republic and Chairman of the eighth session, thanked the Government of Iraq for its generous hospitality and wished it every success in its effort to further justice and development. He welcomed the participants and reviewed the developments that had taken place in the region since the eighth session at Sana'a. He then referred to the Second Yemen International Development Conference held in Sana'a in the previous month and which had been attended by representatives of Arab and other friendly countries, Arab and international funds and international organizations concerned with economic and social development issues. He thanked ECWA for helping to prepare that Conference and wished the Commission success in its new headquarters in Baghdad so that it might carry out the tasks entrusted to it with greater effectiveness.

29. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, to the ninth session was read out by the Executive Secretary. The Secretary-General thanked the Government of Iraq for its co-operation and for the generous help it had extended to facilitate the relocation of the offices of the Commission's secretariat to Baghdad. The work of the Commission would experience new impetus as a result of the transfer which would inaugurate a new phase in the services of ECWA to its member States. He also thanked the Government of Lebanon for the hospitality it had accorded the Commission at its temporary headquarters.

30. The current world economic crisis could have extremely grave consequences. Economic tensions at the international level could lead to an aggravation of political conflicts. It was necessary for Governments to take urgent and concerted action to reverse those

trends and to utilize fully the capacities and potential of the United Nations, and of the regional commissions in particular. It was his earnest hope that this would lead to the success of the global negotiations in solving the fundamental problems of the world economy. The substantive problems that the negotiations were required to **address** were too urgent for the global negotiations to be repeatedly postponed. Delays would only increase uncertainty which would further erode the prospects for economic recovery and structural change. He called attention to the important issues before the Commission at the present session, such as follow-up action on the Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries and on the Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. He commended the past efforts of the Commission, particularly in the field of the development of agricultural resources, the identification of fields for regional co-operation in capital goods and heavy engineering industries, and the development of economic co-operation in the region.

31. The Executive Secretary of the Commission then made a statement which he began by welcoming His Excellency Mr. Taha Yassine Ramadan, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, who had graciously opened the session. He expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for its continuous support of the Commission and thanked the Government of Lebanon for the help it had afforded the Commission in the past. He reviewed the developments that had taken place in the region during the previous year and indicated the most of the problems confronting the world today were a result of an ailing world economic situation. The world economy was facing a severed crisis which was affecting both the developed and the developing world, including the countries of the ECWA region. That crisis was characterized by inflation and high interest rates coupled with stagnation and unemployment in the industrialized countries. That situation had aggravated the difficulties encountered by the developing countries, in particular the non-oil-producing and least developed countries, in financing their imports, especially of capital goods required for their development. Reduced oil revenues would also have grave consequences for the development potential of the entire region. Although those developments would directly affect the oil-producing countries, they might prove to be more serious for the non-oil-producing and least developed countries of the region because of reduced financial assistance.

32. The Cancun Summit had met the year before in the hope that agreement could be reached on a new round of global negotiations to decide upon long-term goals regarding a number of vital issues such as the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

33. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was convinced that the regional commissions should be the focal points for the social and economic development activities of the United Nations; hence the major role of the ECWA secretariat in strengthening regional co-operation and in providing appropriate support for member States participating in international negotiations.

34. The United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in September 1981, had adopted a Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the least developed countries for the present decade, thus marking yet another stage in North-South relations.

35. He then reviewed the progress made in the region during the past decade, pointing out how important it was for the oil-producing countries to tackle the problems related to the diversification of their economies with a view to reducing their dependence on oil and creating other income generating activities. He described some of the activities undertaken by ECWA in the past year and touched briefly on its plans for the future and the policies underlying its programme priorities.

36. He indicated that the results of global negotiations for the establishment of a New International Economic Order depended on many factors and parties. Some progress had been made in economic co-operation in the ECWA region. The implementation of the International Development Strategy and the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the least developed countries in the region depended to a great extent on the efforts of each and every member State of the Commission. The ECWA secretariat was determined to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy and the Programme.

37. The representatives of FAO, the Arab Industrial Development Organization, the European Community, UNIDO, the World Federation of Trade Unions, ITU, ILO, UNDP, UNCTAD, and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) made statements in which they thanked the Commission for inviting them to the session and said that their organizations were ready to co-operate with ECWA, each in its sphere of competence. The representative of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation also made a statement. The representative of the USSR made a statement.



1. Report on the activities of the Commission  
(Agenda item 6)

(a) Progress made in the implementation of  
the work programme

38. In introducing this item of the agenda, the Executive Secretary drew attention to document E/ECWA/138 (and Add. 1 and 2) which reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the work programme during the year 1981. He said that the Commission's work programme covered two important fields: the field of research, studies and meetings and the field of technical co-operation.

39. With regard to research and studies, document E/ECWA/138 showed the different levels of performance of the various programmes depending on the availability of professional staff and other relevant factors affecting the work, although the basic element which, in most cases, determined the extent of implementation was the availability of staff, i.e. the vacancy situation in the Commission. In spite of vacant posts, the 1980-1981 programme performance rates were generally satisfactory if account was taken of the number of meetings held during that period. The secretariat was collaborating with the competent department of the United Nations with a view to remedying the vacancy situation and hoped that its endeavours would prove fruitful during the current year 1982.

40. With regard to technical co-operation during 1981, the Executive Secretary noted that the level of performance was similar to that of 1980. During the year, work had begun on the project "Regional Training Programme for the Development of Industrial Technological Capacities in Petroleum-Based Industries", which was funded by UNDP and considerable progress had been made in the preparations for the establishment of an Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies.

41. One representative commended the efforts of ECWA to execute UNDP projects requested by member States, particularly since UNDP was to determine its country indicative planning figures next month. He supported the project to set up a regional institute for banking and financial studies, a truly worthy project that would serve the national economies of member States.

42. Another representative pointed out that his country had been receiving schedules of training programmes too late in most cases to benefit from the courses offered.

43. The Executive Secretary commented on the establishment of a training institute for banking, saying that ECWA had received funds for studying the project from UNDP, the Arab Monetary Fund and other sources. As soon as the preliminary work was over, the project would reach an integrated stage, making it possible to obtain UNDP funds for its execution. If necessary, the subject

would be put before the member States at the coming session. Finally, ECWA was ready to co-operate with specialized organizations such as ILO in matters related to training.

(b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission

44. The secretariat introduced documents E/ECWA/139 and E/ECWA/139/Add.1 containing a brief account of action taken to implement the resolutions adopted by the Commission at the eighth and other previous sessions. During his review of the endeavours made by the United Nations to improve working conditions at ECWA, the Executive Secretary referred to the deep concern expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the need to establish a United Nations international school at Baghdad. He said that he fully shared that concern. The establishment of the school would be a fundamental factor in the stability of the ECWA secretariat staff. He would be giving due priority to that matter and, in the near future, would be holding a series of consultations with the competent authorities in the member States and at United Nations Headquarters with a view to the provision of the facilities and requirements needed to implement the school project as soon as possible. He expressed the hope that the necessary response would be forthcoming in that respect so that the school could be opened at the beginning of the next academic year.

45. The representative of Iraq provided a number of clarifications concerning the measures taken by the Government of Iraq to facilitate the transfer of the Commission to its permanent headquarters at Baghdad. He said that the temporary headquarters had been equipped and prepared and was ready for use. The permanent headquarters was one of the projects which the Government of Iraq was diligently endeavouring to complete in the required form in due course. The Executive Secretary remarked that the Government of Iraq had made every endeavour and had provided every available facility to prepare the ECWA headquarters, in agreement with the United Nations Secretariat, and he once again expressed its gratitude to the Government. He stated that the standard of tuition at the international school must be comparable to academic standards at the other international schools in New York, Geneva and Vienna. He said that the expert assigned to plan the school curriculum had visited Baghdad twice for consultations in this regard.

46. A draft resolution on this subject was submitted by Lebanon, The United Arab Emirates and Yemen (E/ECWA/IX/L.4). The Commission unanimously adopted the resolution. (For the text, see chapter IV, resolution 110/IX).

(c) Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolution 27 (III) on the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people

47. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/140 containing a brief account of the activities that it had undertaken following the adoption by the Commission of resolution 88(VIII) pursuant to

resolution 27 (III). The Executive Secretary said that that resolution had been the subject of extensive discussions at ECWA. At a number of previous meetings, the Commission had already submitted a detailed account of action taken in that respect, and had explained the difficulties encountered in the completion of that study. It had finally been agreed that "TEAM International", an engineering and management consultancy firm, would complete the study in six stages covering a period of 16 months. However, the working group responsible for carrying out the study had recently requested that the period be extended for a further six months. ECWA had no objection to that, subject to approval by the Palestine Liberation Organization. The representative of the PLO replied that, under the present circumstances, his Organization had no objection to the extension.

48. Draft resolution E/ECWA/IX/L.2, sponsored by Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, was submitted to the Commission and which was unanimously adopted. (For the text of the resolution, see chapter IV, resolution 108 (IX).

49. The representative of the PLO said that his Organization's participation in the session was particularly significant in view of the circumstances facing the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as a result of their heroic and unprecedented stands, their continual uprisings, their rejection of Israeli occupation and the so-called autonomy, and their insistence on their right to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent State under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in spite of the continuous aggression to which they are exposed (both within and outside the occupied territories). He thanked the secretariat for its endeavours to successfully complete the study, and the Government of Qatar for contributing to its financing.

(d) Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolution 28(III) on the census of the Palestinian Arab people

50. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/141 on this subject. The Executive Secretary stressed that ECWA had, in effect, taken a number of important steps and had proposed the following three alternatives to the PLO to choose the one which it deemed most appropriate for implementation after the necessary funds had been provided:

- (i) The Economic Commission for Western Asia would continue to assume responsibility for implementation of the census, and the PLO would help to overcome the obstacles impeding attempts to secure information from those Arab countries which had conducted population censuses. In such a case, work would be carried out either on the basis of the agreement previously reached in connection with the sharing of work with the Palestinian Central Statistics Bureau or on the basis that ECWA would collect information on Palestinians wherever they reside.
- (ii) The PLO would collect the statistical data on the basis of technical guidelines agreed with the Commission. This data would then be supplied to the Commission which would prepare it in its final form.
- (iii) The PLO would assume responsibility for the implementation of the project and would draw upon the assistance of the technical expertise available to the Commission, in the same way as technical assistance was provided at the request of any member State. If this alternative were to be adopted, it was estimated that about US \$ 50,000 would be needed to cover the expenses of technical advice to be provided from outside the Commission, in addition to the technical services to be provided, free of charge, from within the Commission.

The PLO had chosen the third alternative under which the PLO (the Palestinian Central Statistics Bureau) would assume responsibility for the implementation of the census project.

51. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization confirmed the statement of the Executive Secretary.

52. Draft resolution E/ECWA/IX/L.3 on the Census of the Palestinian Arab people, sponsored by Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Qatar and Yemen was submitted to the Commission by which it was adopted unanimously. (For the text of the resolution, see chapter IV, resolution 109 (IX).

(e) Regional contribution to the World Assembly on Aging

53. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/155 setting forth the developments on this subject within the context of the United Nations. At its thirty-third session, the General Assembly had decided, under resolution 33/52, to organize, in 1982, a World Assembly on Aging. The Assembly was to be held in Vienna in June 1982. The document contained a brief analysis of trends in the situation of the aging in the ECWA region and of the various developmental and humanitarian issues facing that section of the population. It also contained guidelines and recommendations representing the regional contribution to the World Assembly on Aging and which would be taken into consideration when establishing the International plan of Action which was expected to be adopted by the Assembly in favour of the elderly. The guidelines and recommendations concentrated on

a number of issues such as research, data collection, assistance for elderly Palestinians, the relationship between aging and development, health and its effect on aging, social security schemes, education, the family, social welfare, housing, urban planning and institutional care.

54. The United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen submitted a draft resolution on this subject (E/ECWA/IX/L.5). It was unanimously adopted by the Commission. (For the text of the resolution, see chapter IV, resolution 111 (IX).

(f) Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan

55. The secretariat introduced documents E/ECWA/142 and E/ECWA/142/Add.1. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee introduced the Committee's report on its meeting held during the period 9 to 12 May 1982 (E/ECWA/142/Rev.1) and submitted draft resolution E/ECWA/IX/L.8 on the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989. After taking note of the financial implications (see Annex I), the Commission unanimously approved the draft resolution. (For the text of the resolution see chapter I, resolution 114 (IX).

2. Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings (Agenda item 7)

56. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item and gave a brief review of the results of the regional meetings of the Commission and the international conferences of the United Nations that might have a bearing on the future work of the Commission.

(a) United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

57. The secretariat submitted, in document E/ECWA/143, a report on this Conference held in Nairobi from 10 to 21 August 1981. It contained a brief review of the recommendations of the Conference and of proposed follow-up activities to be undertaken by the ECWA secretariat in pursuance of the Nairobi Programme of Action. The report concentrated on measures which should be taken, in particular in the developing countries, to encourage adoption of the technology required for the discovery of new and renewable sources of energy and for their development and exploitation in keeping with the results of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The report dealt with the preparatory work that ECWA had taken upon itself in order to help to ensure the success of the Conference, particularly with regard to the gathering of information on activities relating to new and renewable sources of energy and assistance in the preparation of country papers. The report also mentioned that ECWA had commissioned four senior consultants to prepare technical reports on solar, wind, biomass and geothermal energy. These reports contained studies on the state of the art with regard to energy technology, on economic, environmental and social aspects and on on-going programmes and their prospects in the Arab world. The Commission had subsequently published these reports in book form under the title New and Renewable Energy in the Arab World. In the course of its preparatory work for the Nairobi Conference, the Commission had convened a regional meeting at which regional and international experts were invited to discuss the technical reports and country papers and to revise the final text of the regional report prepared by the Commission for submission to the Conference. The Commission had, in addition, organized an informational seminar with the aim of arousing the interest of Arab public opinion in the subject through the use of modern communication media in order to make it possible for those responsible for formulating energy policies to pay greater attention to new and renewable sources of energy when programming energy balances.

58. A number of representatives of member States praised the efforts undertaken by the Commission and requested the secretariat to continue its activities in this field.

(b) United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

59. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/144, containing a report on this Conference held in Paris from 1 to 14 September 1981. It included proposed follow-up activities to be undertaken by the ECWA secretariat at the regional level in pursuance of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) adopted by the Conference. The report spoke of the importance of the Conference which constituted the basis and foundation of the SNPA for the 1980s. One of its most important results was the identification of the main structural characteristics of the least developed countries, and the establishment of the main goals of the SNPA and of the national policies and measures necessary in the fields of agriculture, food, human resources, social development, natural resources, infrastructure and the environment. It had also established the need to channel aid to bolster the balance of payments situation in the least developed countries, to increase their share in the aid and soft loans offered by multilateral international agencies and to determine ways and means for the provision of aid in order to enable them to satisfy their basic needs for food and energy, to meet their balance of payments difficulties and to overcome natural disasters. The report went on to speak of arrangements for implementation, follow-up and monitoring of these decisions at the national, regional and global levels and of the tasks devolving upon ECWA as a result of the Conference. The most important of these tasks were: assistance in the preparation for, and participation in, the meetings of the aid consultation groups of Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic; assistance in the preparation for, and participation in, the review meetings at the national level; preparation of relevant statistics and periodic reports as inputs to the global review process; collaboration with UNCTAD in the preparation of up-to-date information on the least developed countries in the ECWA region; participation in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries and preparation for the mid-term and end-of-decade global review meetings.

60. One representative thanked the ECWA secretariat for helping his country to prepare the country paper which was submitted to the review meetings held in Vienna in March 1981 and the ministerial meeting in Bangkok in September 1981. His country expected the Commission to follow-up the execution of the resolutions of that Conference and of the programme for the 1980s aimed at helping the least developed countries to overcome their economic problems.

61. One representative said that, despite the results and resolutions of the Conference, the emphasis should be on economic and technical co-operation among all the developing countries. The ECWA secretariat should focus on carrying out specific surveys on designated aspects of such co-operation. It would be preferable to concentrate efforts on practical activities, especially technical training, which were of capital importance for the development of those countries.

62. One representative thanked the ECWA secretariat for following up the resolutions of that Conference and commended ECWA for helping his country to prepare for and participate in the review meetings which were held in Vienna, Geneva and Bangkok. He hoped that ECWA would provide further help in following up the resolutions of the Paris Conference and referred to the Development Conference which was held in his country to discuss and review the draft Second Five-Year Development Plan of Yemen as a practical instrument for the promotion of regional co-operation.

(c) Expert Group Meeting on Management, Conservation and Development of Agricultural Resources in the ECWA Region

63. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/145 which contained a brief account of the results of the Expert Group Meeting on Management, Conservation and Development of Agricultural Resources in the ECWA Region which had been held in Damascus in collaboration with FAO and ACSAD. The document described the measures that would have to be taken to follow-up the results of that meeting. It also reviewed the efforts of the Commission in the fields of foodstuffs and agriculture and described the studies and research projects on relevant problems and issues. Those studies had led to a set of recommendations addressed to the secretariat, to Governments and to international organizations proposing that agricultural resources be surveyed and agricultural land be classified according to land-use capability, that policies be adopted and laws drafted on resource use and that the relevant institutions be strengthened. Those recommendations



also pertained to education, research, training, communication, documentation, media support and international and regional co-operation. A meeting report had recently been published summarizing its deliberations and discussions. The document also reviewed some activities, such as the campaign against desertification, which the secretariat intended to follow-up in that area during the 1982-1983 biennium.

64. One representative said that the problems of desertification and pastures were of considerable interest to his country. ECWA had become an important centre for dealing with those issues. However, due to the lack of experts and experience, co-ordination was essential between ECWA and other organizations active in that field if duplication and waste were to be avoided. The Executive Secretary said that the idea was sound and that it was imperative to bring together all the experts in that field because there were so few of them. He proposed that Governments should make known their views in that respect so that the Commission and other organizations could take those views into account. The campaign against desertification merited further attention, given its direct influence on food security.

65. With a view to saving money and effort, another speaker urged full co-ordination between ECWA and other regional organizations and Arab League organizations engaged in the same field. The representative of the secretariat answered that ECWA had standing ties of co-operation with both international and Arab League organizations such as ACSAD.

66. Another representative pointed out that the Arab countries were co-ordinating with each other; for example, Bahrain and Iraq were co-operating in the fields of agriculture and desertification. He called for a special study to be made on desert reforestation and invited member States to take advantage of the experience gained in that field by countries such as Egypt and Iraq.

(d) Conference on International Migration in the Arab World

67. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/146, containing a short report on this Conference, held in Nicosia in May 1981, and on the importance of migration for Arab development. The report stated that the remittances of workers to countries exporting labour made a significant contribution to the economy of those countries, representing about 40 per cent of the net domestic product in some cases. The representative of the

secretariat stated that Arab migration among countries of the region did not constitute international migration in the precise sense of the term since it helped to promote the economic and socio-cultural integration of those countries. It was also stated in the report that it was not surprising that the work of ECWA in the population field was centred on the subject of migration and that the Commission had held a large regional conference devoted to that subject in co-operation with regional and international organizations, in particular the Arab Labour Organization and the International Labour Organisation. The Conference had brought together representatives of States and regional and international experts and 36 working papers had been presented on various fields of specialization. The studies addressed themselves to various important aspects of population migration and regional manpower resources. They will be published in book form by the Commission in the near future and will be a basic source of reference for workers in this domain.

68. A number of representatives then spoke of the importance of migration for international development. One representative called attention to the fact that his country had established a ministry with special responsibility for migration. He said that the subject of migration should be studied in all its economic, social and political aspects. He then proposed that another conference should be convened to follow-up the work of the Nicosia Conference and in which States of the region and their experts could participate in the study of all aspects of migration and create a suitable climate for the encouragement of migration among those States. The Executive Secretary indicated that the subject was one of importance for countries of origin and host countries alike and must therefore be further examined in the course of deliberations on the Commission's forthcoming Medium-term Plan.

69. One representative stated that his country was currently suffering from internal migration and from external migration towards countries outside the ECWA region and had therefore become both a country of origin and a host country for manpower resources. He requested that the secretariat of the Commission organize conferences on specific subjects relating to migration, such as the brain drain, and co-ordinate the policies of member States with a view to reducing inconsistencies in the laws in force.

70. One representative made a number of observations on the migration of Arab manpower. He said that such transfers of manpower among Arab countries did not constitute migration in the general sense of the term, but were a natural movement of Arab manpower from one part of the Arab homeland to another in accordance with requirements. He then spoke of the Arab brain drain away from the Arab homeland and said that it represented the basic problem requiring solution in order to curtail migration. Better working conditions should be provided and levels of income raised in order to secure a degree of stability for the individual citizen and, in particular, a work-force of a high standard such as was needed for the economic and social development process in the region.

71. Another representative said that the problem of the movement of labour among the Arab countries had been discussed at a number of sessions of the Arab Economic and Social Council and a resolution had been adopted requesting the League of Arab States to contact countries of origin and host countries with the object of formulating a draft convention to regulate the movement of labour within the Arab homeland. The Arab brain drain problem had also been discussed and a resolution adopted requesting the League to convene a meeting bringing together its own experts and those of UNESCO with migrants in order to identify those problems preventing their return to the Arab homeland. A unit had been set up within the League to gather information on migrants. He concluded by calling attention to the need for co-ordination between ECWA and the League of Arab States in these fields so that the same problems would not be studied by a number of different bodies which might not arrive at the same conclusions and the same solutions. The secretariat expressed its readiness to step-up its co-operation with the League of Arab States and with other institutions engaged in this important field.

(e) Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Petrochemical Industry in the ECWA Region

72. The secretariat submitted document E/ECWA/147, containing a brief review of the Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Petrochemical Industry in the ECWA Region held in Vienna in 1981. The document outlined the activities undertaken by the secretariat after this meeting, including the establishment of an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Development of the Petrochemical Industry in the ECWA Region. Its terms of reference were drawn up so as to include various means for effective co-operation among regional, national and international agencies

concerned with the development of the petrochemical industry in the Arab States, and the role and responsibilities of the parties concerned were defined. That involved determining the support that could be expected from each agency, the means necessary to determine their obligations, the drawing up of a list of priorities for those studies it had been decided to conduct at the present stage and the elaboration of a timetable for future activities. The secretariat had undertaken, in keeping with the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting, to take preliminary steps to encourage the establishment of selected regional industrial projects. The Executive Secretary said that co-operation in that field among a number of Arab and international organizations had been useful; the Commission had prepared a number of projects which were ready for implementation and it was now up to Governments to decide on them.

73. One representative said that his country was concerned with that subject because it was a producer of chemicals and petrochemicals. He asked the secretariat to prepare studies, either on its own or in collaboration with other States, to encourage the marketing of those products in both member and non-member countries. ECWA should also help to prepare the necessary studies on the training of technical staff indigenous to the region and should co-operate and co-ordinate its activities with specialized regional organizations such as the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizer Producer and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. The representative of the secretariat said that the major study for the coming biennium would be carried out in collaboration with Arab organizations and would focus on the petrochemical complex oriented mainly to Arab markets. The secretariat had already submitted a training project for the petrochemical industries and had obtained funds from the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (IFSTD). Its execution would begin at the end of the present year. Other projects under consideration would also be financed from the same source.

(f) Expert Group Meeting on Identification of Projects for Regional Co-operation in Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries

74. The representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/148, which described briefly the proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on Identification of Projects for Regional Co-operation in Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries held at Vienna in 1981. The background papers prepared by the ECWA secretariat contained a number of exploratory studies on

telephone and electricity cables, electronic telephone exchanges, telephone equipment, electricity turbines, generators and transformers. Papers had also been prepared on project financing, marketing, technology development and standardization. Referring to a number of primary and secondary criteria for the selection of regional projects, the meeting called for the establishment of joint Arab regional manufacturing industries for the production of electronic telephone exchanges, electricity transformers and telephone cables. As part of the follow-up to the Vienna meeting, ECWA intended to hold consultative meetings on specific subjects, to which interested organizations would be invited.

75. One representative spoke on the development of the petrochemical and refining industries in the ECWA region. He proposed that the industrialized countries open up their markets to the region's petrochemical and refined products and barter their advanced technology for oil. There should be full industrial co-ordination and integration in the petrochemical and refining industries in the region so as to avoid duplication and wastage of the intensive capital that those industries demanded. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the Commission had tried to obtain the viewpoints of different parties such as OPEC and a number of Arab and international organizations in the interest of earnest and serious follow-up. The Commission was trying to get the EEC to co-operate in bringing about the barter arrangement proposed above.

76. The representative of the Arab Industrial Development Organization said that his organization had carried out specialized studies on the engineering and capital goods industries and was now carrying out a number of studies on industrial development. His organization was prepared to co-operate with ECWA in those fields and especially in expanding the major studies submitted by ECWA so as to cover all Arab countries. He commended the serious efforts of ECWA to achieve a qualitative leap forward in the industrial development of the countries of the region. The capital goods industry should use locally produced intermediate materials so as to avoid hazardous dependence on the outside world for supplies; the production of intermediate materials, however, would face the problem of high production costs, even where the size of the market was not insubstantial, because the advanced countries had a monopoly over basic primary materials and technology. Moreover, a concerted effort was needed to increase and develop the negotiating capabilities of the developing countries in general

and the States of the region in particular so that they would be in a position to bargain for and obtain reasonable prices for technology and intermediate materials from the more developed producer countries.

77. Observers from a number of international and regional organizations expressed the readiness of their organizations to co-operate with ECWA in this area.

78. One representative then commented on the lack of training in the petrochemical production sector as reported by the Commission, stating that Iraq's capabilities in chemical engineering exceeded its needs and that countries with a lack in this sector were welcome to benefit from those capabilities. He urged the exchange of expertise and stressed the need for the preparation of seminars to discuss the details of those matters, particularly in the ECWA region. The representative of the secretariat said that the subject would be taken into consideration so as to enable other countries to benefit from it in the context of regional co-operation.

(g) Expert Group Meeting on Foreign Trade and Industrial Statistics

79. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/149 containing a brief review of the recommendations adopted at the Expert Group Meeting on Foreign Trade and Industrial Statistics held in Amman in September 1981. The secretariat explained that foreign trade was the principal determinant of economic activity in the Arab World although the extent of its effect was unknown since statistical means were unable to define that effect. This also applied to industrial statistics which were far from being exact and were confined to major industrial enterprises. It was therefore necessary to establish principles to broaden the scope and unify the concepts of those statistics so that comparisons could be made with countries of the external world. The Meeting had reviewed ten papers prepared by consultants to the Commission and the United Nations Statistical Office. The discussions had centred around national practices in the field of foreign trade and industrial statistics, similarities and discrepancies between countries and difficulties facing statistical organizations in that respect. The Meeting had produced a number of important recommendations.

80. One representative emphasized the importance of establishing a scientific basis on which the countries of the region could rely in the compilation of their foreign trade and industrial statistics since the availability of statistics was a fundamental requirement for the formulation of financial and trade policies and development plans in every country of the region. He indicated that the dissimilarity in customs tariff regulations in the region was the reason for the contradictory statistics concerning the classification of commodities. Those regulations should therefore be standardized.

81. Another representative stressed the importance of foreign trade statistics based on scientific principles. He supported the proposal of the secretariat to hold a workshop for customs officers and statisticians in the last quarter of 1983 which would also be attended by specialists from the ministries of foreign trade which formulate the policy to be implemented by the customs departments. He supported the proposal to organize a regional training workshop in industrial statistics in the first quarter of 1983.

82. A representative proposed that those meetings and studies should include statistics on the banking sector in view of its close relationship with foreign trade. The secretariat endorsed the remarks of the representatives while indicating that foreign trade statistics did not include statistics on the banking sector since they were concerned with the quantities of commodities imported by each country and did not deal with financing operations. The banking sector had its own special statistics.

(h) Expert Group Meeting on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia

83. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/150 containing a report on the work and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia, held in Beirut in December 1981. This Meeting had been prepared in consultation with the League of Arab States, the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and a number of the regional organizations concerned. Particular care had been taken to ensure the participation of experts from outside the region by inviting international organizations such as UNCTAD, the World Bank, the United Nations regional commissions and regional economic

groupings from the developing countries, such as the Andean Group and the Association of South-East Asian Nations, as well as those from the developed countries such as the European Economic Community. The Meeting had produced a number of recommendations and proposals in which emphasis was placed on the need to establish a long-term regional strategy, to co-ordinate national economic policies, to adopt a flexible approach in order to ensure the success of endeavours and measures aimed at co-operation and integration, and to concentrate on sectoral and sub-regional planning, especially in manpower training and scientific research activities. The Meeting had also stressed the need to review the experience of joint ventures and to avoid duplication in the activities of the various regional organizations operating in the field of economic co-operation.

84. One representative requested that this matter be approached in a comprehensive manner that would include not only the ECWA countries but also the other Arab States, in full co-operation and co-ordination with the organizations established by the League of Arab States. He also requested that the Commission continue to follow-up these recommendations by submitting them to all the organizations and institutions concerned so that they could benefit therefrom.

85. A number of observers took part in the debate, commended the success achieved at that Meeting and proposed that co-operation between their organizations and the Commission be developed in the light of the latest developments.

86. Another representative spoke of the need to follow-up the recommendations adopted at that Meeting and to ensure co-ordination with Arab, regional and international bodies, institutions and organizations in the study of economic integration. He proposed that the studies and surveys prepared for the Meeting should be assembled in a single volume in Arabic and English for distribution among member States so that national institutions and bodies could benefit therefrom.

87. Another representative commended ECWA's concern for "bottom-top" co-operation when discussing and studying co-operation among States members of the Commission.



88. The Executive Secretary indicated that the Commission was endeavouring to integrate its efforts in this field with the Arab and international organizations concerned.

(i) Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States

89. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/151 containing a brief review of the work of the Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States, held in Paris in December 1981 in co-operation with UNESCO that a number of representatives of States members of ECWA attended, as did a number of observers and eminent personalities. The Seminar centered on a number of studies and papers on important subjects such as the experience of the Andean group of countries in the development of engineering consultative services, the role played by consultative, engineering and design institutions in India in the development, adaptation and transfer of technology, the experience of Iraq in the transfer of technology, the experience of Algeria and Morocco in the transfer of technology and its effect on employment, the role of technological institutions in the development of the iron and steel industry in Egypt and the strategy adopted by transnational corporations with regard to their foreign investments.

90. One representative pointed out that the two parts of Yemen did not have at their disposal specialized centres for the transfer and application of technology. His country needed to establish such a centre to guide decision-making relating to the technology in use in various sectors of the national economy and requested the benefit of the services of ECWA and of the experience of States of the region in that connection.

91. Another representative then commended the ECWA project for the training of specialists in technology policies in the region. He added that Yemen could participate in the training programmes through the competent ministries. He wondered whether it would be possible to study the development of technology in various fields peculiar to the developing countries.

92. Commenting on the foregoing, the Executive Secretary said that the Commission was grateful to UNESCO for helping to prepare and organize that important gathering and also to the Government

of the Netherlands which had financed it. The important issue was not the transfer of technology, which would not solve the problem, but the development of a technology specially adopted to the region. ECWA was prepared to extend assistance to member countries, particularly the least developed countries, in preparing their country papers for seminars and conferences on scientific and technological matters. He pointed out that ECWA had begun to implement practical projects financed by the IFSTD Fund in Vienna. The important thing was not to issue reports and recommendations on the subject of science and technology, but rather to take practical steps towards progress in that domain. He concluded by saying that considerable importance was attached to the subject of science and technology in the Commission's medium-term plan.

3. Study of the effects of the natural disaster which has befallen Democratic Yemen as a result of torrential rainfall (Agenda item 8)

93. This item was introduced by the Secretariat in document E/ECWA/156 which contained a report prepared by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator on the preliminary findings on the situation resulting from floods that affected the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen during 1982. The Executive Secretary announced to the Commission that the information available to him on this natural disaster from on-site inspection of the afflicted districts made it clear that an extensive area was affected and that the torrential rainfall had caused loss of human life and of livestock, in addition to severe damage to irrigation installations, agriculture and public works in all of those districts. The Government had estimated the total damage at about 330 million Yemeni Dinars, or \$ 960 million. It had received immediate assistance from Governments and from international and regional organizations, led by the teams dispatched by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme. In spite of the assistance received, the situation called for even greater efforts to be made in order to ensure a sufficient flow of international financial and material assistance to enable the stricken country to overcome the difficulties caused by the ruinous disaster which had befallen it and to help it to recover its productive capacity.

94. The representative of Democratic Yemen then spoke of the importance of the ninth session. He said that his country regarded ECWA as one of the major centres within the United Nations in the field of economic and social development and that it was incumbent on the States of the region to act in concert with its activities and efforts. He went on to speak of the disaster which had overtaken his country, saying that it had been on such a scale as to nullify an important part of the economic and social development plan and to cause a reallocation of available resources to absorb the burdens imposed by the emergency situation and to rebuild economic institutions. He appealed to the States of the region and to the international community to contribute towards reconstruction. Doubtless, the recommendation formulated by the present gathering would influence the response to that appeal. He thanked the Arab and other States and the Arab and international organizations whose speedy assistance had greatly helped to ease the immediate burdens of the disaster.

95. The representative of the Office of the United Nations' Disaster Relief Co-ordinator gave a detailed account of what had occurred in Democratic Yemen. Photographs had been received by satellite and examined by officials of the Office; they confirmed the information contained in the report of the Executive Secretary. He then spoke of the efforts of the Government to mount rescue operations and said that the country had demonstrated its capacity to face up to disaster in spite of the lack of necessary resources. He spoke of the loss that would accrue to the production plan and the deficit that would be caused in the balance of payments. The coming harvest would at best produce one half of its previous yield. He then spoke of assistance provided by Governments and international organizations. It had at first been difficult to begin relief operations because of communications problems caused by the floods. He then spoke of the steps that should be taken after the emergency phase, namely reconstruction after destruction.

96. Another representative, referring to the scale of the natural disaster in Democratic Yemen, described it as greater than had at first been thought, particularly since it followed the ruinous effects of torrential rainfall over a three-year period which had destroyed dwellings and damaged the soil. The extent of its effects could not yet be gauged because of the difficulty of obtaining full information. He appealed to

the countries of the region and to international organizations to hasten to the aid of the southern part of Yemen and called upon ECWA and the international community to co-operate with the Government in meeting the demands of the emergency reconstruction programme. In that connection, he introduced draft resolution E/ECWA/IX/L.1 which was adopted unanimously by the Commission. For the text of the resolution, see chapter I resolution 107(IX).

4. The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account (Agenda item 9)

97. The secretariat introduced documents E/ECWA/152 and Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3 containing a detailed report on the financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account. The representative of the secretariat pointed out that the economic difficulties facing the world were reflected in the resources available to ECWA to carry out its work programmes. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, anxious to alleviate as far as possible the financial difficulties of Member States, had adopted a policy of zero growth in the general budget of the Organization for the biennium 1982-1983. If economic circumstances remained as they were, the Secretary-General would maintain the zero-growth policy until the reasons for it were removed. A number of United Nations financing agencies had seen a decrease in actual and projected pledges which had directly affected the sums granted to ECWA. The secretariat was exerting every possible effort to fill all vacant posts at the Commission's new headquarters in Baghdad in order to achieve higher standards of implementation in its work programmes than in the past. It was hoped, under the present circumstances, that States members of ECWA would contribute to the Financial Contributions Account in order to enable the Commission to transform its new headquarters into a centre for economic and social development in the region. The secretariat was grateful to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for its substantial past and present support for the Commission in the implementation of its work programmes and to the Governments of the Netherlands and France for their financial contributions to the implementation of some important programmes. It also thanked the Government of Lebanon for its warm hospitality and its assistance during the period of the Commission's operation in Lebanon in spite of the difficult circumstances in which that country found itself.

98. In reply to a request for clarification from one of the delegations, the Executive Secretary said that zero growth meant that no additional financial appropriations would be allocated to any United Nations programme, although the effects of monetary inflation on basic resources would be taken into consideration. It also meant that no new posts would be created. He noted that some member States had not been attending the meetings of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. Recalling that ECWA had been established 20 years or more after other commissions, he said that application of the so-called zero-growth policy to ECWA meant that it would not have access to the resources obtained earlier by the other Commissions.

99. Commenting on the Executive Secretary's remark, a representative said that the situation should be explained to the delegations of member countries attending the Fifth Committee so that they could help the secretariat in its efforts to obtain an equitable share of United Nations allocations. He then thanked the Government of Lebanon for hosting the ECWA headquarters in the past few years and invited the meeting to thank the Government of Iraq for its efforts in setting up the permanent headquarters of the Commission. A draft resolution was submitted to that effect.

100. The representative of Qatar commended the efforts to develop the extra-budgetary programmes of the Commission, which enabled the secretariat to meet the needs of member States for special programmes and technical consultancy services. He then drew attention to the volume of aid and loans which his country was providing for the developing countries and announced that his country was donating \$ 100,000 to the Financial Contributions Account so that the programmes of the Commission could continue to be implemented.

101. One representative pointed out that all contributions and donations to the budget would be applied to programmes, projects and consultancy services from which all member States would benefit. He noted, however, that the Executive Secretary's report on progress achieved in the implementation of the work programme showed that about 14 programme elements had not been implemented because of lack of staff. That situation would have an adverse effect on the work of the Commission.

102. The Executive Secretary thanked the Government of Qatar for its contribution to the Financial Contributions Account and commented on the point raised by stating that he had explained on several occasions why ECWA had not been able to fill some vacant posts. He added that the important thing was not to fill posts but to maintain the quality of the present staff.

5. Co-operation among developing countries  
(Agenda item 10)

103. The secretariat submitted document E/ECWA/153, containing a report on the Commission's activities undertaken in support of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The document reviewed research, meetings and advisory services aimed at strengthening co-operation among developing countries and achieving regional integration. It summarized regional arrangements for increasing co-ordination and co-operation with regional organizations. ECWA had continued its consultations and contacts with the other regional commissions with a view to developing new joint ventures. In introducing this item, the Executive Secretary stated that the subject was placed on the agenda each year in accordance with a decision of the Commission because co-operation among developing countries was a prerequisite to remedy their current situation. Members of the Commission should benefit from the experience of other regional groupings. In that respect, the Commission was actively associating with developing countries of other regions through their economic commissions, such as the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and negotiations had begun with the Economic Commission for Latin America.

104. One representative, commenting on the subject of co-operation among developing countries, said that the importance of technical and economic co-operation among them stemmed from the principle of self reliance. He referred to his country's efforts in that field and requested that ECWA should play a co-ordinating role in the furtherance of technical co-operation among the States of the region.

6. Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and the strengthening of the regional commissions  
(Agenda item 11)

105. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/154 reporting on the progress achieved in further decentralizing activities to, and strengthening the Commission in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors in the United Nations system, particularly through the Economic and Social Council. The aim of such decentralization was to provide an opportunity for the regional commissions to participate effectively, each in its own region and without encroaching on the jurisdictions of other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, in the following activities: shaping the goals of the international programmes which the regional commissions help to execute; preparing negotiations at the international and regional levels, with due regard for the urgent needs of developing countries members of regional commissions in accordance with United Nations practice; and consulting with heads of United Nations bodies responsible for regional programmes with a view to examining the possibility of setting up appropriate inter-agency arrangements. The ECWA secretariat, in consultation with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, had been following up, at various local and international levels, the effort to decentralize responsibility for activities to the regional commissions in a systematic manner.

106. One representative said that document E/ECWA/154 gave a certain amount of information on the terms of reference of the Commission with regard to the formulation of the objectives of global programmes and certain development activities. He indicated that restriction of the Commission to matters relating to the environment and water resources was a matter which should be re-examined. The Commission's terms of reference should also encompass other fields such as statistics, population, trade and science and technology. It should have both a planning and an executive role and should curtail that centralization which weighed heavily upon some States, preventing them from the timely implementation of their development activities. He added that the administrative and financial restrictions imposed on the Commission's activities by some Governments limited the Commission's flexibility and should be reviewed.

107. The Executive Secretary thanked the speaker and expressed support for the decentralization of more powers to the Commission. He said that, if member States were in favour of that, they should make a serious endeavour to obtain a resolution within the framework of the United Nations.

7. Other business (Item 12 of the agenda)

108. The representative of Lebanon expressed his gratitude for the speakers' remarks concerning Lebanon and for the efforts that had been made to facilitate the activities of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and to enable it to discharge its duties and carry out its functions. He thanked the Executive Secretary of the Commission and commended the considerable endeavours that had been made by the Government of Iraq to host the current session. He spoke highly of the magnitude of the assistance that had been provided by Iraq for the establishment of the Commission's permanent headquarters in Baghdad. He invited the States members of the Commission to intensify their efforts and to increase their support for Lebanon in the difficult circumstances through which it was passing.

8. Date and place of the tenth session

109. The Commission agreed to hold its tenth session at its headquarters in Baghdad at the time stipulated by the Commission's provisional rules of procedures.

9. Adoption of the Commission's report on its ninth session (Item 13 of the agenda)

110. At the eighth meeting, held on 12 May 1982, the Commission adopted its draft report to the Economic and Social Council and authorized the Rapporteur to introduce any necessary editorial changes.

D. Programme of work and priorities

111. At its eighth session in 1981, the Commission had adopted the programme of work and priorities for the period 1982-1983<sup>1/</sup>.

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<sup>1/</sup> See documents E/ECWA/118/Add.1-5.



IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION  
AT ITS NINTH SESSION

108(IX) Assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization<sup>1/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/144), concerning the least developed countries of the ECWA region, and document E/ECWA/CMTP/WP.2/Rev.1 concerning the work programme and priorities for the period 1984-1989,

Considering the present economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people,

Requests the Executive Secretary, in receiving requests for assistance from the Palestine Liberation Organization, to be guided by the scale on which the Commission provides assistance to the least developed countries of the region.

7th meeting

11 May 1982

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<sup>1/</sup> See paras. 47-49 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

109(IX) Census of the Palestinian Arab People 1/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling to the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/141) on follow-up action on the implementation of resolution 28(III) on the Census of the Palestinian Arab People,

Taking note of the agreement reached between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Secretariat of the Commission as referred to in paragraph 4(c) and paragraph 6 of document E/ECWA/141;

1. Urges States which are hosting the Palestinian Arab People to provide the Palestine Liberation Organization with all the information needed to implement the project for a Census of the Palestinian Arab People, and to allow the Organization to make the arrangements and take the measures necessary to carry out the census operation in a manner compatible with the regulations and laws in force in the States concerned;
2. Requests the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to continue its financing of the project for a Census of the Palestinian Arab People;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to transmit this resolution to the Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

7th meeting

11 May 1982

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1/ See paras 50-52 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

110(IX) Transfer of the offices of the  
Commission to Baghdad 1/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Taking account with appreciation of the note by the Secretary-General on the measures taken to implement its resolution 95(VIII) on the transfer of the offices of the Commission to Baghdad,

Recognizing the importance in the recruitment and retention of qualified staff of access for their children to a school with an international curriculum providing diversified educational and linguistic opportunities and facilitating the reintegration of the children concerned into their national or into other international educational systems,

Expressing its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for the effort and concern which it has manifested in providing for a major educational facility by its generous contribution of a modern school building complex,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the arrangements necessary for the adoption of the legal instruments for the establishment of a school of a truly international character responsive to the needs of ECWA staff, including arrangements with the host country recognizing the special status and the distinctively international character of the school and, if desirable, arrangements for integration or co-operation with existing educational institutions of a similar type in Baghdad.
2. Further requests the Secretary-General to explore the means of providing sufficient financing for the school, particularly on an adequate capital base, and to establish a trust fund for this purpose in accordance with United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.
3. Calls upon interested Governments, international and national institutions and individuals to contribute generously to the trust fund and to the school so that it may be fully functioning at an early date.

8th meeting

12 May 1982

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1/ See paras 44-46 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

111 (IX) World Assembly on Aging 1/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the resolutions on the World Assembly on Aging (1982), especially General Assembly resolutions 34/153, 35/125, 36/20 and 36/30,

Conscious of the rapid increase in the older age groups of the population, both in the world and in the ECWA region,

Noting that early action may reduce the size of the problems to be faced in years to come,

Having considered the document entitled "Regional Contribution to the World Assembly on Aging" (E/ECWA/155),

Noting with concern the lack of adequate planning for elderly persons in the countries of the region and the low priority given to programmes for these persons,

Mindful of the important role that elderly persons have always played in the family and in the social life of the countries of the region,

1. Adopts the document entitled "Regional Contribution to the World Assembly on Aging";
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit this document to the Secretary General of the World Assembly on Aging as the contribution of the Western Asia region to the World Plan of Action on Aging;
3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to continue the secretariat's work on aging, with a view to improving the well-being of elderly persons;
4. Urges the members of the Commission to participate fully in the deliberations of the World Assembly on Aging and in the formulation of the World Plan of Action on Aging and to implement this Plan in every way possible.

8th meeting

12 May 1982

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1/ See paras 53 and 54 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

112(IX) Regional activities for International Youth Year,<sup>1/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 34/151 of 17 December 1979 and 35/126 of 11 December 1980, by which the General Assembly decided to designate and observe 1985 as International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 36/28 of 13 November 1981 which endorsed the specific programme of measures and activities for the International Youth Year as adopted by the Advisory Committee at its first session in 1981,

Recognizing the profound importance of ensuring the active participation of young people in the overall development of society in the ECWA region and noting that the youth population had increased in the ECWA region with social implications for economic growth and social progress,

Recognizing also that the Commission accords high priority to the development of human resources and gives particular emphasis to the social integration of the various population groups in national development,

Aware that the success of the "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace" at all levels requires adequate preparation by and widespread support from all member States of the Commission,

1. Invites the member States of ECWA to exert all possible efforts to implement the endorsed specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year;

2. Urges the Executive Secretary to assist ECWA member States in preparing and observing the International Youth Year with particular emphasis on programmes for increasing the participation of youth in national development and on establishing appropriate national machinery for the International Youth Year;

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<sup>1/</sup> See paras 105-107 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to convene a regional meeting on the International Youth Year in 1983 in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in order to formulate a regional plan of action for youth that would comply with the strategy for the Year as endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 36th session and that would take into account the needs of youth in the region.

8th meeting  
12 May 1982

113(IX) Regional Food Security<sup>1/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Aware of the alarmingly increasing trend of food demand in relation to domestic production in the ECWA region, resulting in an ever diminishing food self-sufficiency, especially with regard to cereals which are a staple food in the region,

Believing that there is considerable scope for effectively investing the surplus capital in the region in food security projects in countries affected by food problems and malnutrition,

Further believing that, in the context of regional co-operation, assistance in strengthening food security for the less fortunate countries in the region becomes a binding moral obligation on the part of all the countries of the region, individually and collectively,

Noting with satisfaction the measures being taken by oil-producing countries in the region on a bilateral basis or through regional and international channels to assist poorer countries in improving their food situation and developing their agricultural production,

Recognizing the role of food-sector strategies which emerged from the World Food Council as a means for interested developing countries to adopt an integrated approach for increasing food production, improving consumption and attracting the necessary international resources,

Noting also with appreciation the efforts of the ECWA secretariat in the food security area,

1. Urges all members to consider that regional food security is their common responsibility which should be fully reflected in their national policies;

2. Urges members as well as regional development institutions to further intensify their efforts for the purpose of improving food production and security in the region;

3. Urges Governments and international organizations concerned and in particular Governments in the region and regional development institutions to provide the necessary technical support and food assistance to food security projects in the region, especially in its least developed countries;

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<sup>1/</sup> See paras. 63-66 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to strengthen the Commission's activities in food security in its future work programme in agreement and co-ordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in co-ordination with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

8th meeting

12 May 1982



Annex I

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED  
DURING THE SESSION

Financial Implications of the Draft Resoultion on the  
ECWA Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989

(E/ECWA/IX/L.8)

1. Temporary assistance for meetings \$ 20,000 1/

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1/ Estimate based on interpretation costs for two meetings during the biennium 1982-1983.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT  
AT ITS NINTH SESSION

<u>SYMBOL</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
E/ECWA/135	Provisional agenda.
E/ECWA/135/Rev.1	Agenda.
E/ECWA/135/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda.
E/ECWA/136	Organization of work. (Note by the Executive Secretary).
E/ECWA/137	Invitation of States members of the United Nations to participate in consultative capacity in the activities of the ninth session of the Commission. (Note by the Executive Secretary).
E/ECWA/137/Rev.1	<u>Idem</u> : Note by the Executive Secretary.
E/ECWA/137/Rev.2	Invitation of States members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the activities of the ninth session of the Commission.
E/ECWA/138	Report on the activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the work programme. Report of the Executive Secretary.
E/ECWA/138/Add.1	Report on the activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the work programme. Technical co-operation activities.
E/ECWA/138/Add.2	Report on the activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the work programme. Note by the Executive Secretary.
E/ECWA/139	Report on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission. Note by the Executive Secretary.
E/ECWA/139/Add.1	Previously issued under symbol E/ECWA/155/Add.1.
E/ECWA/140	Report on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolution 27(III) on the General Survey of the Economic and Social Situation and Potential of the Palestinian Arab People.
E/ECWA/141	Report on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on the implementation of the ECWA resolution 28(III) on the Census of the Palestinian Arab People. Note by the Executive Secretary.

SYMBOLTITLE

- E/ECWA/142 Draft Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989.
- E/ECWA/142/Rev.1 Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989.
- E/ECWA/142/Add.1 Draft Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989.
- E/ECWA/143 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981).  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/144 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
United Nations Conference on the Least-developed Countries.  
(Paris 1-14 September 1981).  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/145 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
Expert Group Meeting on Management, Conservation and Development of Agricultural Resources in the ECWA Region.  
(Damascus, 9-15 May 1981).  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/146 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
Conference on International Migration in the Arab World.  
(Nicosia, 11-16 May 1981)  
Note by the Executive Secretary
- E/ECWA/147 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Petrochemical Industry in the ECWA Region.  
(Vienna, 9-12 June 1981).  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/148 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
Expert Group Meeting on Identification of Projects for Regional Co-operation in Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries.  
(Vienna, 15-19 June 1981).  
Note by the Executive Secretary.

SYMBOLTITLE

- E/ECWA/149 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
Expert Group Meeting on Foreign Trade and Industrial Statistics.  
(Amman, 5-10 September 1981).  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/150 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
Expert Group Meeting on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia.  
(Beirut, 14-18 December 1981).  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/151 Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:  
Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States.  
(Paris 14-18 December 1981).  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/152 The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the financial contributions account:  
The financial status of the Commission's Programmes.  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/152/Add.1 The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the financial contributions account.  
Statement on, and the strengthening of, the Financial Contributions Account.  
Note by the Executive Secretary.
- E/ECWA/152/Add.2 The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the financial contributions account.  
The Financial Status of the Commission's Programmes: Extrabudgetary Resources Supporting the Commission's Programme.
- E/ECWA/152/Add.2/  
Corr.1 The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the financial contributions account.
- E/ECWA/152/Add.3 The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the financial contributions account.  
Statement on, and Strengthening of, the Financial Contributions Account.  
Follow-up on ECWA Resolution 99(VIII).

SYMBOLTITLE

E/ECWA/153	Co-operation among developing countries. Report of the Executive Secretary.
E/ECWA/154	Decentralization of Economic and Social Activities to, and the Strengthening of, the Regional Commissions. Note by the Executive Secretary.
E/ECWA/155	Report on the Activities of the Commission: Regional Contribution to the World Assembly on Aging. Report of the Executive Secretary.
E/ECWA/155/Add.1	See corrigendum E/ECWA/155/Add.1/Corr.1
E/ECWA/155/Add.1/ Corr.1	Report on the Activities of the Commission: Follow-up Action on the Resolution of the Commission Corrigendum. (Symbol should read E/ECWA/139/Add.1).
E/ECWA/156	Preliminary Findings on the Situation Resulting from Floods that Affected the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (29-30 March 1982).
E/ECWA/157	Draft Report on the ninth session. (Baghdad, 8-12 May 1982).
E/ECWA/IX/L.1-8	Draft Resolutions.
E/ECWA/INF.30	Note for the information of participants.
E/ECWA/INF.31	Provisional List of Participants.
E/ECWA/INF.31/Rev.1	List of Participants.
E/ECWA/INF.32	List of Documents Submitted to the ninth session.
E/ECWA/157/Rev.1	Report of the Commission on its Ninth Session (Baghdad, 8-12 May 1982).

ANNEX III  
PUBLICATIONS AND PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS ISSUED  
DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

1. Agriculture and Development - Bulletin, No. 4 (English and Arabic) Beirut, June 1981.
  2. Report of the Expert Meeting on Management, Conservation and Development of Agricultural Resources in the ECWA Region, Beirut, April 1982.
  3. Studies on Development Problems in countries of Western Asia, Beirut, 1981.
  4. Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region, Beirut, 1981.
  5. Statistical Abstract of the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, Fourth Issue, Beirut, 1981.
  6. Statistical Indicators of the Arab World for the period 1970-1979, Beirut, 1981.
  7. Supplement to the Statistical Indicators of the Arab World, 1980. Studies on Prices and Index Numbers in the Arab World 1970-1979, Beirut, December 1981.
  8. National Accounts Studies, Bulletin, No.4, Beirut, October 1981.
  9. National Accounts Vol.I. Statistical Methods for Accounts Preparations, Beirut, November 1981 (Arabic)
  10. New and Renewable Energy in the Arab World, ECWA, Beirut, 1981.
  11. Arab Energy: Prospects to 2000, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1982.
  12. The Arab Brain Drain, Ithaca Press, London, 1981.
  13. The Industrial and Economic Trends in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Beirut, December 1981.
  14. Population Bulletin of ECWA No. 20, Beirut, June 1981.
  15. Population Bulletin of ECWA No. 21 Beirut, December 1981.
  16. A Guide for Arab Students and Researchers in the field of population, Beirut, 1982.
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