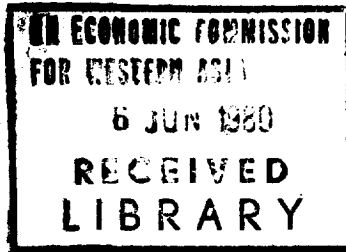




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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Follow up at the regional level to United Nations
world conferences and ECWA regional meetings

(Note of the Executive Secretary)

80-3185

1. In the past few years the United Nations gave special consideration to a number of socio-economic development fields. It convened world conferences whose principal aim was to co-ordinate efforts in these fields at the national, regional and international levels. Among these conferences were the World Conference of International Women's Year, 1975, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 1976, the United Nations Water Conference, 1977, UNCSTED, 1979. The effective participation of the delegations of the members of ECWA at these conferences clearly revealed the importance attached by the member Governments to these subjects and the hopes placed in these international meetings and in their ability to put forward recommendations that would bolster development efforts in the region. ECWA, like the other regional economic commissions, participated in the regional preparations for most of these meetings and in the follow-up action that ensued.

2. ECWA directed its concern to certain aspects of socio-economic development that would help strengthen regional co-operation in those fields. It adopted resolutions which called for the convening of regional meetings for the treatment of those subjects at the regional level.

3. All these conferences held under United Nations auspices have put forward a body of recommendations with implications for regional co-operation in the respective fields of concern. Naturally, the programmes of action of the economic commissions were made to comply with and, whenever possible, implement these recommendations. The secretariat considered it appropriate to consult the views of the members of the Commission before incorporating into its work programmes those aspects that were recommended for special consideration by world conferences. In that way, the future work programmes

of the secretariat would comply with the positions taken by the members of the Commission at those conferences and would take into consideration their thoughts on the different subjects. This could only be done if the conclusions of those conferences and, especially, the impact of their recommendations on regional co-operation were discussed by the members of the Commission. Accordingly, a special item was placed on the provisional agenda of the seventh session under which the conclusions of world conferences at the regional level would be discussed. Hopefully, the Commission will see fit to include this item on the agendas of all its coming sessions in the interest of monitoring the conclusions and recommendations of future conferences.

4. It was also deemed advisable to put before the Commission the conclusions of the regional meetings whose organization the Commission had decided either in its different resolutions or as part of its biennial programme of work and priorities. Accordingly, it was decided to include the discussion of the conclusions and recommendations of these regional meetings under the same agenda item. Thus, all matters having implications for regional co-operation would be treated together.