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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/ECWA/163  
11 April 1983

ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Tenth session  
7-11 May 1983  
Baghdad, Iraq

Item 7(b) of the provisional agenda

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF  
THE COMMISSION

Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission

Note by the Executive Secretary

83-0167

## FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

A. 107(IX) International assistance to the flood stricken areas of the  
People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

1. Action taken by the secretariat in follow-up to this resolution is reported upon in E/ECWA/164 pertaining to item 7(c) of the provisional agenda.

B. 109(IX) Census of the Palestinian Arab People

2. At the ninth session of the Commission, the secretariat presented a report (E/ECWA/141) on follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolution 28(III) on the Census of the Palestinian Arab People. This report summarized the operational agreement reached between the secretariat of the Commission and the Economic Bureau of the Palestine Liberation Organization, particularly with respect to the delineation of responsibilities between the ECWA secretariat and the Palestinian Central Statistics Bureau. According to the agreement, the Palestinian Central Statistics Bureau would assume responsibility for the implementation of the Census project, and would draw upon the assistance of technical expertise available in the Commission, in the same manner as is done with technical assistance that is requested by any member State. It was estimated that around 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.

3. On the basis of the above-mentioned report (E/ECWA/141), the Commission adopted resolution 109(IX). Paragraph 2 of this resolution requested the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to continue its financing of the project for a Census of the Palestinian Arab People; and paragraph 3 of that same resolution requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to transmit this resolution to the Director of UNFPA.

4. The Executive Secretary sent a cable to UNFPA noting that the resolution requested UNFPA to continue financing the project.

5. UNFPA's reply stated that it had been informally approached to assist the Palestine National Fund in collecting data on the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian Arab people in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/147 of December 1978, and that UNFPA is initially fielding a consultant for a fact-finding mission to determine the operational possibilities for rendering such assistance within UNFPA policies. To date, however, the timing and itinerary of the mission have not been established.

C. 110(IX) Transfer of the Offices of the Commission to Baghdad

6. In accordance with the paragraph 1 of resolution 110(IX), ECWA has presented to Government of Iraq, for its consideration, a draft letter to provide for the juridical personality of the Baghdad International School and to give legal status to the draft statutes and by-laws for the school.

7. To date no contributions have been received as envisaged in paragraph 3 of resolution 110(IX). As a consequence the trust fund contemplated in paragraph 2 has not been established.

D. 111(IX) World Assembly on Aging

8. This resolution adopted document E/ECWA/155, entitled "Regional Contribution to the World Assembly on Aging". As requested by the resolution, this document was submitted to the World Assembly on Aging which convened in Vienna from 26 July to 6 August 1982. The conclusions of document E/ECWA/155 were integrated into the World Plan of Action on Aging, adopted by the World Assembly on Aging. The secretariat continued its work on the subject and provided advisory services to one ECWA member State on planning for the aged. For further details on follow-up action to the World Assembly on Aging, reference is made to E/ECWA/168/Add.1 pertaining to item 9 of the provisional agenda.

E. 112(IX) Regional Activities for International Youth Year

9. This resolution requested the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to convene, in 1983, a regional meeting in preparation for International Youth Year (1985). Plans for this meeting were formulated by the secretariat, in co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting is scheduled to be held from 1 to 6 October 1983 in Baghdad. An aide-memoire, describing the objectives and proposed agenda for the meeting, was transmitted to all member States of ECWA. In addition, the secretariat communicated directly with the member States concerning their plans for the celebration of the International Youth Year.

F. 113(IX) Regional Food Security

10. Resolution 113(IX) concerns the moral obligation of the ECWA member States to strengthen regional food security and to assist in regional food security arrangements.

11. The response to paragraph 4 of the resolution which requests the Executive Secretary to strengthen the Commission's activities in food security in its future work programme in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) is well reflected in the allocation of resources in the 1984-1985 programme budget. The Food and Agriculture Programme at ECWA has allocated 33.7 per cent of regular budget and 17 per cent of extrabudgetary resources to the food planning and policy subprogramme. This subprogramme is given the highest priority amongst all subprogrammes. Activities of the subprogramme will concentrate on an in-depth examination of critical factors affecting food production and distribution in the ECWA member States as well as on assistance in the identification of areas suitable for co-operative arrangements at the subregional and regional level.

12. All efforts have been made to strengthen co-ordination and co-operation between ECWA and the concerned Arab organizations. Deliberations with AOAD are going on to co-sponsor a study on the development of food production and on nutritional levels in the occupied territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip).

13. ECWA also assisted the Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) to study Arab agricultural integration at a meeting held in Amman in September 1982.

14. ECWA also assisted a FAO/AFESD/CAEU team in preparing a framework for strategic food resources as a component of a study on Arab agricultural and economic integration.

15. Papers dealing with food security issues in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Egypt are scheduled to be prepared in 1983. A survey of national food grain policies in all ECWA countries will also be conducted during the same year.

C. 114(IX) The ECWA Medium-term Plan for the Period 1984-1989

16. In its resolution 1982/64 "Establishment of a standing committee for the programme of the Economic Commission for Western Asia," the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations endorsed ECWA resolution 114(IX), and decided to establish within the Commission a Standing Committee for the Programme, composed of all members of the Commission.

17. The Economic and Social Council further decided that the Standing Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Commission for programme review, planning, programming, evaluation and co-ordination.

18. The Standing Committee shall hold its first meeting from 7-9 May 1983 to review the 1984-1985 programme budget.