



REFERENCE SERVICES SECTION
JAN 31 1989
70 19 EIA



Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECWA/167/Add.1/Rev.2
E/ECWA/CP.1/9/Rev.2
29 June 1983

ENGLISH
Original: ARABIC

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Standing Committee for the Programme
First session
7-9 May 1983
Baghdad, Iraq
Agenda item 8

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR
THE PROGRAMME
(7-9 May 1983)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA

JAN 31 1989

LIBRARY & DOCUMENT SECTION

83-0403

ESCWA Documents converted to CDs

CD # 4

Directory Name:

CD4REPORT167_1_2.ENG

Done by: ProgressSoft Corp., P.O.Box: 802 Amman 11941, Jordan

NOTE

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

E/ECWA/167/Add.1/Rev.1

E/ECWA/CP.1/9/Rev.1

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Abbreviations		iv
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRST SESSION	1-9	1
A. Background	1-2	1
B. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work	3-5	1
C. Attendance	6-9	3
II. DELIBERATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE	10-40	5
A. Account of Proceedings	10-23	5
B. Programmes	24-40	9
III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROGRAMME AT ITS FIRST SESSION		17

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRST SESSION

A. Background

1. The Standing Committee for the Programme was established in May 1982 in accordance with paragraph 4 of ECWA resolution 114(IX) which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1982/64 on "Establishment of a Standing Committee for the Programme of the Economic Commission for Western Asia." By resolution 1982/64 the Standing Committee for the Programme, composed of all members of the Commission, as the main subsidiary organ of the Commission to assist it in the execution of its responsibilities for programme review, planning, programming, evaluation and co-ordination in the context of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. The 1984-1989 medium-term plan was reviewed in May 1982 by the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989, which assisted the secretariat in the determination of the relative priority of the subprogrammes within its sixteen major programmes.

2. The Standing Committee for the Programme held its first session in Baghdad from 7 to 10 May 1983 in order to review both the work programme and priorities for the budget period 1984-1985 and the necessary procedures proposed by the secretariat for carrying out its activities (see paragraphs 10-40).

B. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. After a brief statement by Mr. Ismail A. Al-Delaimy, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989, and a welcome message by the Executive Secretary of ECWA, the Standing Committee adopted item 2 of the provisional agenda and elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Ismail A. Al-Delaimy, Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry of Planning, Iraq.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Fayek Al Abdul Karim, Commercial Attache,
Ministry of Trade, Saudi Arabia.

Rapporteur: Mrs. Nabila Brair, representative of the
Palestine Liberation Organization.

4. At its first meeting, the Standing Committee adopted the following agenda as contained in E/ECWA/CP/1/Rev.1 and E/ECWA/CP/1/Add.1/Rev.1:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work
5. General aspects of the programme budget 1984-1985:
 - (a) Resource availability during the biennium 1984-1985;
 - (b) Programme priorities during the biennium 1984-1985;
 - (c) Design of the programme 1984-1985;
 - (d) Co-ordination during the biennium 1984-1985 of the Commission's activities with those of other programmes of the United Nations;
 - (e) Co-ordination during the biennium 1984-1985 of the Commission's activities with those of programmes of regional organizations;
 - (f) Development of evaluation procedures.
6. Review of the programme budget 1984-1985 on a sector-by-sector basis
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee

5. The Committee then adopted document E/ECWA/CP/2/Rev.1 for the organization of its work.

C. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia attended the Standing Committee:*

Bahrain
Democratic Yemen
Egypt
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Oman
Palestine Liberation Organization
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Yemen Arab Republic

7. Representatives of the following States Members of the United Nations not members of ECWA, attended the Standing Committee in the capacity of advisors.

Algeria
Czechoslovakia
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
Hungary
India
Morocco
Netherlands
Philippines
Tunisia
Turkey
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

* For the names of the participants in the Committee reference is made to document E/ECWA/CP.1/INF.3/Rev.2.

8. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the Standing Committee as observers: FAO, IBRD, ILO, IMF, ITU, International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT), UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNHQ, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.

9. The following regional and governmental and non-governmental organizations attended the Standing Committee:

Arab Centre for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, AFEI, Arab Economic and Social Development Fund, AFFI, Arab Federation of Shipping, AIDO, Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Studies, AMF, AOAD, AOAS, AUFF, IFED, League of Arab States.

II. DELIBERATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

A. Account of proceedings

10. The Standing Committee considered several background documents, E/ECWA/CP/3/Rev.1 through E/ECWA/CP/8/Rev.1, under agenda item 5 of the provisional agenda, "General aspects of the programme budget 1984-1985" in which a number of procedures were proposed by the ECWA secretariat for the purpose of improving programme co-ordination and resource management in the secretariat.
11. The Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Programme thanked the Committee members for his election as Chairman of the Committee. He said that, in the light of the experience gained during the meeting of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee in May 1982 which set programme priorities for the region, it was now time to seek the co-operation of the regional and United Nations organizations in co-ordinating their activities with those of ECWA for better results. He felt confident that within that framework the Standing Committee would be able to carry out its important tasks effectively in order to assist the countries of the ECWA region in their development efforts at the regional and national levels.
12. Under that agenda item, the secretariat drew attention to the problem of the zero-growth rate in the United Nations which had affected practically all United Nations organizations. He said that in order to optimize available resources and mobilize additional ones through increased operational activities and joint programming, the best means available would be more programme co-ordination and integration.

13. The representative of Saudi Arabia proposed that because of the importance of the matter and because documents had not been available on time, it was advisable to postpone the meeting for the following day. The Egyptian representative wished the meeting to continue discussion as scheduled. Appreciating the concern of the Saudi delegate, the Executive Secretary of ECWA brought to the attention of the distinguished delegates that documents pertaining to the Standing Committee, which was originally scheduled for 22-24 February 1983, were distributed in early January 1983.

14. The Egyptian delegate thanked ECWA for its efforts to submit valuable documents on various aspects of programme planning and co-ordination. He then touched upon the importance of food and agriculture and the petroleum refining and petro-chemical industries in the ECWA region which had been given top priority during ECWA's ninth session. He particularly called attention to rural development. In his view, solar energy which was not depletable and which was plentiful in the ECWA region could be beneficially utilized for the welfare of rural peoples in the ECWA region.

15. The representative of Iraq called attention to paragraph 5 of E/ECWA/CP/3/Rev.1 and stressed the significance of energy and food security programmes as priority areas. The representative of AIDO, in support of the Egyptian delegation, referred to the expert meeting which was held in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) on petrochemical industries and to the contribution made by the ECWA secretariat to its deliberations, which emphasized the importance of the development of petrochemical industries in the Arab World until the year 2000. He stated that AIDO with the co-operation of Dar al Saudi for Consultancies had made several studies aimed at promoting economic co-operation among ECWA countries.

16. One representative referred to several proposed programme elements in ECWA's 1984-1985 work programme, namely development of selected industrial branches such as the petrochemical industry, and the possibility for co-ordinating such activities with those of the Arab Federation of Engineering Industries. Similar co-ordination, in his view, was possible between ECWA and regional organizations in the area of scientific and technological capabilities and the transfer of technology.
17. The representative of Qatar said that the Economic Commission for Western Asia had an important role to play in the co-ordination of regional activities considered essential for achieving the desired objectives. He referred to regional co-ordination in the petrochemical and chemical fertilizers industry which called for co-ordination with regional organizations such as the Arab League and its specialized agencies; such co-ordination activity, in his view, would greatly save time and money and there should be more effort to make such co-ordination activity continuous at every stage.
18. The representative of the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) felt that co-ordination would achieve better results when organizations exchanged documents such as the programme budget and held meetings. However, he stressed that formal and informal visits would produce even better results, particularly in the areas of the use of water resources and the environmental and sanitation problems with which ECWA was also concerned.
19. The representative of the Arab Fund for Development said that regional programmes should be analysed in depth, and the precise role of each concerned organization should be defined, which, in her view, would naturally lead to better co-ordination.
20. UNESCO's representative drew attention to the fact that ideas put forward in the Executive Secretary's notes were clear and of concern to most organizations, including UNESCO. After referring to areas of co-operation between ECWA and UNESCO in the past, he identified certain concrete areas for possible joint co-operation with ECWA in the future, namely science and technology, statistics,

agriculture and social development. He particularly emphasized that within the limits of the available means and resources it was possible to establish complementarity among programmes through co-ordinative efforts. Appreciating the new proposals for joint activities by the representative of UNESCO, the Executive Secretary of ECWA attached great importance to previous efforts between the two organizations referring particularly to the Paris seminar in 1981 on science and technology and the agreement between them in 1977 to have field visits in co-operation with the Arab League.

21. UNIDO's suggestion for an informal meeting with the representatives of Arab regional organizations and United Nations Organizations attending the Standing Committee was considered by the Chairman to be not feasible because of the tight schedule.

22. The Arab Federation for Food Industries proposed that ECWA should call for a workshop to co-ordinate the activities of regional organizations in such a way so that the essential priority areas such as food supply, and agricultural industries and engineering were incorporated in their work programmes and plans. In support of that view the Executive Secretary of ECWA stressed the need for further co-ordination which, in his opinion, meant dialogue, i.e., an intensive exchange of information at all levels.

23. The delegate of Saudi Arabia posed the question of how regional programmes and projects could effectively be evaluated. He proposed the formulation of a unified strategy and constructive methods of work. He emphasized the importance of an annual survey of ongoing projects in the region and evaluation of achievements and prospects. Object-oriented evaluation, in his view, should be more specific so that accomplishments at the country level could be readily identified.

B. Programmes

24. Under item 6 of the provisional agenda, "Review of the programme budget 1984-1985 on a sector-by-sector basis" there were sixteen working papers (E/ECWA/CP/W.P.1/Rev.1 through E/ECWA/CP/W.P.16/Rev.1) before the Committee, in which ECWA's activities during the period 1984-1985 were formulated at the programme element level. Heads of the divisions of ECWA introduced their programmes for review and discussion.

25. The Saudi representative said that programme documents had been reviewed and that the implementation of the programmes contained in them was important. He referred to the problems facing the private sector such as the depression in the land transport business, and to the importance of transport, particularly land transport. He requested that ECWA should pay some attention to those problems in the future. The representative of the International Telecommunication Union focused attention on the impact of telecommunications on development in the region and the use of the Arabic language in the transfer of communication technology and in its modern equipment. He referred to the introduction of modern technology, such as computer software and digitization and said that it would contribute to the development of regional and United Nations organizations. He observed that ECWA had not included telecommunications in its work programmes although 1983 was the year of international telecommunications. In this connection he drew attention to the ARABTEL project designed for the development of telecommunications networks in the Arab World and Mediterranean region.

26. The Egyptian delegate questioned the wisdom of putting so much emphasis in the ECWA subprogramme on trade with socialist countries and suggested the expansion and diversification of trade with other advanced countries. He expressed the view that as regards resource allocation, it would be advisable for ECWA to reformulate the subprogramme in the light of the recommendations of the Caracas Meeting. He also suggested that the ECWA secretariat should call for holding systematic workshops in each specialized field and invite experts

B. Programmes

24. Under item 6 of the provisional agenda, "Review of the programme budget 1984-1985 on a sector-by-sector basis" there were sixteen working papers (E/ECWA/CP/W.P.1/Rev.1 through E/ECWA/CP/W.P.16/Rev.1) before the Committee, in which ECWA's activities during the period 1984-1985 were formulated at the programme element level. Heads of the divisions of ECWA introduced their programmes for review and discussion.
25. The Saudi representative said that programme documents had been reviewed and that the implementation of the programmes contained in them was important. He referred to the problems facing the private sector such as the depression in the land transport business, and to the importance of transport, particularly land transport. He requested that ECWA should pay some attention to those problems in the future. The representative of the International Telecommunication Union focused attention on the impact of telecommunications on development in the region and the use of the Arabic language in the transfer of communication technology and in its modern equipment. He referred to the introduction of modern technology, such as computer software and digitization and said that it would contribute to the development of regional and United Nations organizations. He observed that ECWA had not included telecommunications in its work programmes although 1983 was the year of international telecommunications. In this connection he drew attention to the ARABTEL project designed for the development of telecommunications networks in the Arab World and Mediterranean region.
26. The Egyptian delegate questioned the wisdom of putting so much emphasis in the ECWA subprogramme on trade with socialist countries and suggested the expansion and diversification of trade with other advanced countries. He expressed the view that as regards resource allocation, it would be advisable for ECWA to reformulate the subprogramme in the light of the recommendations of the Caracas Meeting. He also suggested that the ECWA secretariat should call for holding systematic workshops in each specialized field and invite experts