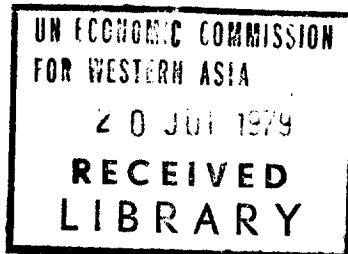




UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



0570



Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECWA/55/Rev.1/Add.1

25 September 1978

ENGLISH

Original: ARABIC

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Fifth Session

2 - 6 October 1978

Amman, Jordan

ANNOTATED REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the session

The fifth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia will be officially opened by H.R.H. Prince Hassan Ibn Talal, Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The first working meeting of the Commission will be chaired by the Chairman of the Commission's fourth session, the head of the delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to that session, or his representative.

Item 2: Election of officers

Rule 12 of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure provides that "the Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election".

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

- Revised provisional agenda (E/ECWA/55/Rev.1)
- Annotated revised provisional agenda (E/ECWA/55/Rev.1/Add.1)

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure, the Executive Secretary has drawn up the provisional agenda for the session in consultation with the Chairman. This agenda has been revised by the addition of an item under the heading "Migration of manpower from the

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countries of Western Asia to the developed countries" at the request of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Commission can either adopt the revised provisional agenda as it stands in document E/ECWA/55/Rev.1 or approve it in an amended form in accordance with Rule 9 of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure.

Item 4: Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the fifth session of the Commission

The Commission will have before it, for its consideration, document E/ECWA/61 regarding applications received from States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the fifth session of the Commission, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) and also the application received in accordance with resolution 2044 (LXIII).

Item 5: Organization of work

In this connexion the Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/62/Rev.1 containing proposals that the Commission may decide to adopt for the organization of work during the session.

Item 6: Report on the activities of the Commission since the fourth session

The activities of the Commission since the fourth session are reported under the following sub-items:

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

Document E/ECWA/57 contains the interim report on the implementation of the work programme for 1978-1979 since the fourth session and also lists achievements made in connexion with certain deferred projects in the work programme for 1976-1977 together with activities undertaken by the Commission outside the scope of the work programme. Two documents will be circulated on the following subjects to complete the study of this sub-item:

- (i) The project for the ECWA Documentation Centre (E/ECWA/57/Add.1) containing the final report on this project;
 - (ii) The problem of the brain drain: causes, consequences and remedies ((E/ECWA/57/Add.2). The Commission may deem it appropriate to study this document during its discussion of item 8 of the revised provisional agenda in view of the close connexion between them.
- (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission

With regard to this sub-item the Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/59 summarizing the action taken to implement the provisions of certain resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fourth session in April 1977.

A separate document (E/ECWA/59/Add.1) has been produced on "Regional Co-operation and Co-ordination" in view of the special importance which the Commission attached to this issue in its fourth session and the fact that its resolution 47(IV) called for a detailed report in this respect to be submitted to the fifth session.

A special report has also been devoted to "The Practices of Transnational Corporations in the Oil Industry in the Region" in document E/ECWA/59/Add.2 in accordance with the Commission's resolution (42(IV) to give top priority to this issue.

The "Economic Survey of the Countries Members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia" to which the Commission gave high priority in its work programme in accordance with resolution 48(IV) is dealt with in document E/ECWA/59/Add.3.

The Commission will also have before it document E/ECWA/59/Add.3 containing an interim report on progress achieved in implementing the Commission's resolution 27(III) regarding a "Study of the Economic and Social Situation and Potential of the Palestinian Arab People".

(c) Report on the 1978-1979 programme budget

In its resolution 41(IV) the Commission approved the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1978-1979. On submission of this programme to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the General Assembly the Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the programme after the introduction of certain modifications proposed by the Committee. Document E/ECWA/60 contains a report on action taken in this respect.

Item 7: The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund

During its fourth session the Commission adopted resolution 45(IV) in which it was decided that the agenda of each of its sessions should include an item on the financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund. The Executive Secretary's report on this item is contained in document E/ECWA/63 which the Commission has before it.

Item 8: Migration of manpower from the countries of Western Asia to the developed countries

Following postponement of the fifth session until the first week of October 1978 the Executive Secretary received a request from the Jordanian Government to include an item on the session's agenda under the heading "Migration of manpower from the countries of Western Asia to the developed countries". It is hoped that the Jordanian delegation to the session will make a statement on this subject prior to its discussion by the Commission. The Commission may deem it appropriate to study document E/ECWA/57/Add.2 under this item in view of its relevance to this issue.

Item 9: Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology

During its fourth session the Commission adopted its resolution 51(IV) in which it was decided that the Executive Secretary should submit a study on the possibility of establishing a regional centre for the transfer and development of technology and consult and co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and with the Arab organizations and bodies concerned in investigating the possibility of widening the scope of this study in order to make the centre an Arab centre for the transfer and development of technology.

The secretariat has taken several measures to implement this resolution in co-operation with international and regional organizations. However, the circumstances which led to the postponement of the fifth session of the Commission also prevented completion of these measures on schedule. It proved impossible to hold the intergovernmental meeting on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology at the scheduled time and it

had to be deferred until 16-18 September 1978 when it was held in Amman. Documents E/ECWA/66, E/ECWA/67 and E/ECWA/68 contain reports on this meeting and the final study on the Centre in accordance with the Commission's above-mentioned resolution.

Item 10: Adoption of the 1980-1983 Medium Term Plan

For consideration of this item the Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/56 containing a Draft Medium Term Plan for 1980-1983. This plan represents a continuation of the Commission's 1978-1981 medium term plan in terms of priorities and programme categories covering the secretariat's activities. It has been formulated and developed in accordance with the format and procedures laid down by the United Nations Headquarters for the presentation of the United Nations medium term plan on a system-wide basis and in line with pertinent resolutions adopted by the Commission. The plan contains, however, some major changes. The total number of subprogrammes has been reduced from 44 in the 1978-1981 medium term plan to 29 in the present plan in order to concentrate resources for a greater impact orientation of the Commission's activities during the plan period. Furthermore, the present plan also emphasizes formal co-ordination measures within the secretariat to facilitate a multidisciplinary programme orientation. The present plan introduces three multidisciplinary areas: regional integration, food security and rural development.

Item 11: Establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission

Document E/ECWA/58 contains a note from the Executive Secretary on the rules and procedures governing the establishment of specialized subsidiary bodies at ECWA together with the justification for such action in line with the recommendations made by organs of the United Nations and following the example set by the initiatives taken by other regional commissions in this field.

Item 12: Interim reports on the Commission's headquarters

The Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/64 containing two reports, the first on the Commission's permanent headquarters in Baghdad and the action taken in this respect in accordance with the Commission's resolution 35(S-II) and the second on the temporary headquarters in Beirut in accordance with the Commission's resolution 6(S-I).

Item 13: Any other business

At its various sessions the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations adopts resolutions which are directly relevant or of special significance to the work of the regional commissions. The General Assembly also adopts other resolutions supporting or implementing the Council's resolutions. Although these resolutions are normally available to the governments of member States, the secretariat feels that it would be advantageous to bring to the attention of the Commission either the texts of such resolutions or a summary thereof according to the circumstances. Document E/ECWA/65 contains a set of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session (1977) and the General Assembly at its thirty-second session and which are relevant or of particular importance to the work of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

In this document a special section has been devoted to General Assembly resolution 197(XXXII) regarding the "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" in view of the implications of this resolution for the work of organs and organizations of the United Nations, including the regional commissions operating in the economic and social sectors.

Item 14: Annual Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1818(LV), under the terms of which the Economic Commission for Western Asia was established, the Commission is expected to submit to the Council an annual report on its activities in between sessions. The Commission has been in the habit of adopting this report at the end of its regular annual sessions so that the report can be submitted to the second session of the Council during the calendar year. In view of the postponement of the fifth session from May 1978 to October 1978 it was impossible to submit the Commission's annual report to the Council as usual during its second session of 1978 which was held from 5 July to 4 August 1978. Instead an interim report was submitted to the Council's above session containing the document which had already been prepared for presentation to the Commission under item 6 of the provisional agenda with a note to the effect that this

interim report was not a substitute for the usual annual report containing - in addition to the list of achievements set out in the interim report - the Commission's future work programmes and its resolutions regarding the issues placed before it.

Hence, it is expected that the Commission will adopt its fifth annual report at the end of its fifth session for submission to the second (resumed) session of the Economic and Social Council in 1978 which is scheduled to be held between October and November 1978.

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