

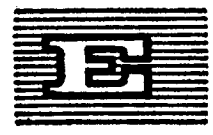
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Fifth Session

2 - 6 October 1978

Amman, Jordan

Item 10 of the Revised Provisional Agenda

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR

1980 - 1983

PROGRAMME : To be determined\*  
SUBPROGRAMME : Cartographic Development and Co-operation in ECWA Region  
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT : ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ECWA)

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist the member countries in establishing and/or strengthening their national surveying and mapping capabilities essential for efficient planning of their economic and social development programme; and to promote co-operation in this field at regional and subregional levels.

(b) Problems addressed

Economic and social development in the member countries of ECWA region particularly the oil-producing countries is taking place at an unprecedented scale. Inadequacy of thematic maps and other necessary charts are hampering efficient planning of development projects. In some countries the required maps and charts are virtually non-existent, while in others the available maps, no longer meet the current planning requirements. These maps prepared decades ago, need updating and reproduction on suitable scales for planning transportation networks, exploration and exploitation of mineral resources, urban and rural development, hydrography, etc. The accelerated pace of economic and social development in the region calls for urgency in establishing and/or strengthening the existing cartographic capabilities at national, subregional and regional levels.

Lack of cartographic centres and qualified technical personnel has led to heavy dependence on costly ad hoc cartographic services provided on piece-meal foreign consulting basis. This is not a satisfactory arrangement as surveying and mapping facilities should be available on a continuing basis for development programmes.

\* The proposed subprogramme concerns a complete new activity of the Commission. The institutional location of the subprogramme within the Secretariat is at present subject of discussions between the Administrative Management Service (AMS) of the United Nations and the Secretariat. In this connexion, a proposal to attach a cartography programme to the statistics Unit is presently under study. Once a decision has been made by the Secretary-General, the subprogramme will be included under the relevant Programme.

Prerequisite of establishing and strengthening the cartographic capabilities is the development of necessary skills for new techniques of geodesy, photo-interpretation, remote sensing from satellite and aerial surveys and modern mapping production techniques.

(c) Legislative authority

Commission Terms of Reference.

(d) Strategy and Output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Unless extrabudgetary resources can be mobilized during the programme budget 1978-1979, cartographic activities will only be initiated from 1980 onwards under the regular budget.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Activities during the biennium will focus on the preparations for the convening of the first Regional Cartographic Conference of the Arab World to be held early in the biennium 1982-1983. These activities will consist of surveying the cartographic needs in the region with particular attention to cartographic services and manpower requirements. Regional and international co-operation in these areas will be investigated.

In addition to the preparations for the first regional cartographic conference of the Arab World, maps required for the work of ECWA will have been prepared.

The output during the biennium will consist of (i) a study on the cartographic needs in the ECWA region; (ii) proposals for regional and subregional co-operative projects in the ECWA region; (iii) assistance to member countries with particular reference to development and strengthening of national cartographic services; and (iv) regional maps as required.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The regional cartographic conference of the Arab World is planned for 1982. This first conference will seek to foster a greater understanding of cartography as a planning tool in the Arab region, assess the needs of the region and provide the first forum to consider regional co-operation. Steps for

establishment of regional co-operative projects are expected to be taken following the Conference in such areas as regional training facilities, and standardization of geographic names. The conference will, in particular, constitute the main reference point for further programme development during the remainder of the biennium and subsequent medium-term plans.

(c) Expected Impact

The first "Regional Cartographic Conference of the Arab World" will create a greater awareness and appreciation of the usefulness of mapping in the countries of the ECWA region. Governments are expected to take steps to establish or strengthening a national capacity in this field. A regional and subregional approach to programmes of mutual concern will be elaborated.