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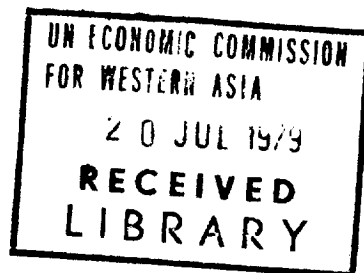
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Medium - Term Plan

for

1980 - 1983

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INTRODUCTION

This Medium-Term Plan 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.

Priority areas established at the first session have continued to form the main bases for the formulation of programmes. The present plan represents, therefore, a continuation of the Commission's 1978-1981 medium-term plan in terms of priorities and programme categories covering the Secretariat's activities. It constitutes, however, a marked difference in approach and orientation of such activities. The main changes are the following:

The total number of subprogrammes has been reduced from 44 in the 1978-1981 medium-term plan to 29 in the present plan. This concentration of resources into fewer subprogrammes will allow for a greater impact orientation of the Commission's activities during the plan period.

Present Medium-Term Plan calls for the institution of formal coordination measures within the Secretariat facilitating a more intense multidisciplinary and interdivisional programme orientation. The multidisciplinary programme areas introduced in the 1980-1983 medium-term plan are regional integration, food security and rural development. The Commission's activities in these three areas - which fall within the priorities established by the Commission - to be carried out under the various programmes will be planned and coordinated through appropriate mechanisms (taskforce, working group or committee) to be established within the Secretariat towards the end of the current programme biennium 1978-1979. The Secretariat considers that such an approach will provide for greater allround consideration of development issues.

General economic analysis, surveys and data collection characterized most of the sectoral programmes of the Commission during the two preceding medium-term plans (1976-1979 and 1978-1981). Therefore, these plans constitute by their nature a solid basis for more profound work under the proposed 1980-1983 medium-term plan which will be directed in particular to a more in-depth consideration of possible cooperative development arrangements within the region in a variety of areas. It is anticipated in this connexion that with the envisaged establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission in the first half of the eighties, Member States will increasingly call upon the Commission during the 1980-1983 plan period and that expanded opportunities for regional cooperation will subsequently emerge.

The following problems and strategies will be highlighted in the Plan:

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The countries of the ECWA region have initiated some bilateral and multi-lateral arrangements aiming at a wider cooperation and economic integration. Such arrangements have however been mainly limited to the trade sector. Regional integration will be pursued by a number of substantive programmes during the medium-term plan period. In most cases economic analysis work and general surveys in various sectors will have laid the foundation for in-depth consideration of regional integration.

In the agricultural sector, planning in the ECWA countries has addressed itself so far to national problems only. Countries have, therefore, not been able to seize opportunities as well as avoid pitfalls. During the medium-term plan period activities under the Food and Agriculture programme will focus on the strengthening of the regional dimension of agricultural planning. It will be

attempted to increase the awareness of national planners through the creation of a base and forum for the exchange of information, ideas and experience regarding regional agricultural development and planning. It will be supplemented by analysis and study of regional aspects of agricultural adjustment and integration from which would ensue concrete action proposals. The development of a regional perspective plan based on the efficient utilization of regional resources would provide a unified framework for the formulation of future national agricultural plans.

With regard to transport, the existing networks and facilities are largely deficient and often inconsistent with the present pattern of boundaries and population settlements. New poles of economic development, production and consumption have been created requiring readjustment of present communication networks. During the 1980-1983 period efforts will be emphasized under the Transport, Communications and Tourism programme to achieve increased transport integration in the region. Attention will also focus on the application of international conventions and harmonization of national and regional regulations, and standardization of transport and travel documents.

The medium-term plan will under its Industrial Development programme focus on the formulation of regional policies of industrial cooperation and the identification of additional possibilities for promoting cooperation in specific branches of industry. The 1980-1983 medium-term plan will consider the existing opportunities in agro-industries, basic metals and building materials industries. Particular attention is also to be given to the transfer of technology in such branches.

A number of regional institutions which have a direct bearing on development planning in the ECWA region were established during the last ten years. The

small economic size of the countries in the region and their resource complementarities makes plan harmonization and cooperation in development planning both feasible and essential. Moreover, regional integration objectives pursued in various sectors under substantive programmes call also for plan harmonization in such sectors. The medium-term plan under the Development Planning, Projections and Policies programme will aim at achieving such harmonization among groups of countries in the region.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Weak agricultural and rural institutions in the ECWA region have not only tended to perpetuate centralization of decision-making in agriculture, but also were the cause of near-neglect of vast rural areas in sharing agricultural and rural development efforts and their benefits. Moreover, they are mainly responsible for the low farm productivity in the ECWA region. During the 1980-1983 medium-term plan the Commission's activities will under its relevant substantive programmes reconsider farm organization including land tenure and tenancy as to make it more development-oriented and adjust it to influence favourable farm productivity. Action will also aim at correcting and improving the insufficient and sometimes dysfunctional inducement-pressure mechanisms as reflected in farm extension, aided self-help benefits, price, credit and marketing policies. Solid agricultural and rural institutions operating within a sound integrated rural development programme would allow gradual transformation of the rural subsistence economies and bring about better living standards among the rural population. Rural employment generation and industrialization measures are to be considered under the relevant substantive programmes within this context.

FOOD SECURITY

The increasingly precarious food position in the ECWA region as characterized by the gradual decrease in per capita food production calls for the establishment

.../...

of effective food security arrangements. Thus during the plan period the food security situation will be studied in-depth from the agricultural, trade, transport, technological and social angles. Under the Food and Agriculture programme, activities will particularly be directed towards the institution of regional food and grain policies emphasizing collective imports and regional stocking policies. Reduction in food losses through improved storage, transit and handling facilities will be examined under the Food and Agriculture and Science and Technology programmes. In addition, the establishment of food security arrangements calls for the appropriate transport and trade policies among countries of the region. Intra and interregional trade arrangements and transport integration will during the medium-term plan period also be pursued within this context.

TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Technological change and the strengthening of the capacity to effect change will pose a major challenge to the countries of the region during the medium-term plan. The establishment of the envisaged Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology is expected to contribute to strengthening of the Arab countries' technological capacities and to facilitate regional cooperation in this area. Under the Science and Technology programme activities will principally be aiming- through the above Centre- at establishing a network for transfer and development of technology within the Arab World. The Centre would provide for interregional linkage, while it would further constitute an important channel and mechanism for follow-up to the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology to Development to be held in 1979.

STATISTICS

A great deal of work is needed in the ECWA region to improve external trade data, financial, industrial and other general economic and social statistics, as

well as national accounts which, aside from their intrinsic uses, serve to integrate these data. Since such information is an essential background to development planning, work on improving it will undoubtedly help to obtain better measures of the social impact of economic problems and development activities, as well as the contribution of social changes to economic and social productivity. For this reason, the Statistics programme of ECWA aims at improving the capabilities of the Member States and the ECWA Secretariat to collect and publish a large number of reliable base-line and trend series on levels of living and welfare.

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Programmes

1. Food and Agriculture

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 1 : Food and Agriculture

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division in which there were 8 professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which 4 were supported from extrabudgetary sources.

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

none

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraph 10.11 in the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979: 1.1; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 3.1; 4.1; 4.2; 4.3 (i); (ii); 5.1 (new subprogramme, see item 5).

(ii) In 1980-1981: 4.3 (iii)

(b) Consequent reorganizations

nil

5. Other Organizational matters

In accordance with FAO policy concerning the centralization of all agricultural investment and related activities at FAO Headquarters, it has been decided:

(i) to divert the extrabudgetary resources (FAO) of subprogramme 5 to programme element 2.2 (sector and subsector studies) with a view to particularly studying integrated livestock planning in the countries of the ECWA region.

(ii) to create, in line with the 1980-1983 programme structure a new subprogramme on rural development; rural institutions. The regular budget resources of subprogramme 5 (promotion of agricultural investment) will be allocated to the new subprogramme. The creation of a subprogramme on rural development is considered justified because of the vital importance of the rural sector in the economy and the requirements stemming from the many initiatives taken by governments and international organizations (e.g. 1979 UN World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development) with a view to promoting the well-being of the rural population. Moreover, regional economic commissions provide a unique environment to tackle interdisciplinary problems such as those related to rural development.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal Coordination with the Secretariat

(a) It is expected that towards the end of the programme biennium 1978-1979 an ECWA "Taskforce or Working Group on Regional Integration" functioning within the framework of the Programme and Coordination Unit will be operational. Relevant activities of subprogramme 1 "Integrated Regional Agricultural Planning" will be planned and coordinated through this mechanism.

(b) It is further expected that at the end of 1979 a "Working Group on Food Security" will be established within the framework of the Programme and Coordination Unit coordinating all activities related to food security undertaken by the ECWA Secretariat. The relevant activities undertaken in Subprogramme 2 "Regional Agricultural Cooperation" will be planned and coordinated with others through this Working Group.

(c) In addition to the above mentioned coordination mechanisms it is envisaged that during the programme biennium 1978-1979 a "Committee on Rural Development" will be formed within the framework of the Programme and Coordination Unit. Related activities in Subprogramme 3 "Agricultural and Rural Institutions" will be planned and coordinated through this committee.

2. Formal coordination within the United Nations System

(a) FAO:

Formal coordination arrangements have been made with FAO (focal point: Policy Analysis Division). The Joint Division is responsible within the ECWA region for carrying out all activities dealing with economic and social aspects of agricultural development. By the very nature of the Division, planning, implementation and follow-up of all activities undertaken in the Joint Division is done jointly with FAO.

(b) WFP:

Formal coordination arrangements have been made with WFP regarding technical backstopping by the Joint Division of WFP food-aid activities in the Member States of ECWA. WFP may contribute to activities on food grain and feed grain security.

(c) UNEP:

Within the context of joint UNEP/ECWA programming and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between UNEP and ECWA in this regard,

relevant activities related to the intercountry conservation, management and development of agricultural resources under subprogramme 2 will be coordinated and/or jointly undertaken with UNEP.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983:

(a) Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Taskforce for Rural Development:

The 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will induce cooperation and joint activities with the parties represented on the ACC Taskforce for Rural Development.

(b) World Food Council (WFC)

A formal cooperation agreement is being considered. It would entail joint implementation of activities with regard to food security and rural development in particular. The Joint Division would also supply information and reports on issues which received priority attention by the WFC.

(c) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Scope for formal cooperation is presently being explored. Studies in various fields may lead to project identification (national as well as subregional/regional). Substantive backstopping of IFAD activities in the ECWA countries is a possibility.

(d) International Center for Agricultural Research of the Dry Areas (ICAR)

A formal cooperation agreement is presently under discussion. It would cover joint implementation of all the Joint Division's activities with regard to dry-farming. Details of the agreement remain to be worked out.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogrammes *	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Integrated Regional Agricultural Planning	-	-	-	42	33	38	42	31	37
(1) Improvement Agricultural Planning	25	75	45	-	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Data System	17	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
(3) Agricultural integration	42	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Regional Agricultural Co-operation	-	-	-	29	25	27	29	25	26
(4) Food Security	8	25	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. (5) Agricultural and Rural Institutions	8	-	5	29	42	35	29	44	37
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* (1) through (5) denote the five subprogrammes existing in the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) paragraph 10.11. During the 1980-1983 period subprogrammes (1) (2) (3) have been integrated into the new subprogramme 1 "Integrated Regional Agricultural Planning". Subprogramme (4) has been integrated into the new subprogramme 2 "Regional Agricultural Cooperation"

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 1 : Food and Agriculture

SUBPROGRAMME 1 : Integrated Regional Agricultural Planning

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to promote coherent integrated agricultural planning by stressing the regional and global dimensions in the formulation of national plans and the development of a perspective plan for regional agricultural development.

(b) Problem addressed

Agricultural planning in the ECWA region addresses itself generally to national problems and does not give due attention to regional and global developments. National planners and policy-makers generally do not have objective information concerning the agricultural situation, developments and plans in the other countries of the region. Hence, they are unable to seize opportunities or to avoid pitfalls. There is a need to increase the awareness of national planners with regional and global developments in order to incorporate these in the formulation of national plans and to make such developments have a bearing on policy and decision-making in agriculture.

This should be supplemented by concrete efforts in the field of agricultural adjustment and integration, leading towards the development of a perspective plan for regional agricultural development, based on the efficient utilization of regional agricultural resources. Self-sufficiency in agricultural products at the regional level can only be achieved when full advantage is taken of the complementarities among countries of the region and when product specialization is pursued. Past and present efforts of introvert national agricultural planning in the ECWA countries have only resulted in a rapidly widening regional deficit in agricultural products and in maladjusted agricultural economies in regional and global context.

Regional agricultural planning is aiming at exploiting the tremendous potential for agricultural integration. The potential for agricultural integration is wide simply because integration schemes can influence the location and productivity of the increases in production required to satisfy future growth in food demands. Policies concerning this additional output can be thought through and carried out regionally as well as nationally. This is the challenge and the potential facing efforts at integrated regional planning in agriculture. The major concern in agriculture of regional integration schemes should be to influence national policies concerning future output.

Closely interrelated with the former are the problems of agricultural adjustment. These relate to the task of bringing and keeping the supply and demand for agricultural products, as well as factors of production, into more satisfactory relationships with one another, both within and between countries. The problems have both national and international aspects, and focus on three central issues. First, the adjustment of production structures so as to take fuller advantage of available technology and to provide farm people with higher incomes and living conditions. Second, the adjustment of the national output of agricultural commodities to market demand, without prejudice to the goals set under the first and third issue. Third, the adjustment of agricultural trade with a view to bringing about harmonious development at the regional and global level.

(c) Legislative authority

- A/RES/3348(XXIX), paras.1 and 5, and World Food Conference, Res. I, paras. 2, 8; Res/V. para 1; Res/XIX. paras. 2, 11 and 16; and Res/XXII. para. 4(f).
- GA 31/121, para. 2.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Efforts towards the improvement of agricultural planning were focused on improving national planning, particularly through providing a long-term perspective of agricultural development. Also, subsector planning, notably irrigation and livestock, has been reinforced and significant methodological improvements introduced. With regard to regional adjustment and integration in agriculture, the basis for more penetrating analysis has been established and specific lines of action have been devised as a result of studies on trade expansion, comparative advantage, and ex-post agricultural adjustment. Training activities have aimed at improving the analytical skills of agricultural planners.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The strategy of the subprogramme hinges on a three-pronged approach aiming at creating a solid basis for a strong regional agricultural economy and gradually building up momentum towards the adoption of a perspective plan for regional agricultural development. The first is to increase awareness of national planners concerning regional

and global developments. This specifically aims at creating a forum for exchange and diffusion of information and ideas on agricultural development in the ECWA region. This will be achieved by a continuous monitoring and appraisal of regional and global developments to be consolidated in an annual bulletin of agricultural development.

The second approach concerns the promotion of regional agricultural adjustment and integration; the sustained efforts in studying various aspects of regional adjustment and integration of agriculture are to be concluded (in the next biennium) with the preparation of a perspective plan for regional agricultural development. Aspects to be studied with regard to regional agricultural integration will be selected among the following: the approach to planning agricultural integration in the region, scope for agricultural trade expansion with case study for selected commodity groups, in-depth study of price structures as related to agricultural integration efforts. The work on intraregional and interregional agricultural adjustment started in the 1978-1979 biennium will continue. More specifically, it will concentrate on systematic analysis of ex-post agricultural adjustment issues (global level) and agricultural adjustment issues related to perspective developments at the regional level. The conclusions reached in the studies on agricultural adjustment and integration will be debated in a high-level meeting on agricultural adjustment, and a follow-up action programme will be adopted. The implementation of the latter would be ensured by intensive coaching through advisory services of senior staffmembers.

The third effort relates to training with a view to improving the skills of agricultural planners. It is the intention to co-operate with regional training institutes in the preparation and management of training programmes specially geared to integrated regional agricultural planning.

The outputs will consist of Annual Bulletins of Agricultural Development in the ECWA Region addressed to policy-makers and government technicians; studies on aspects of regional integration in agriculture addressed to government technicians and regional integration agencies, on ex-post regional agricultural adjustment (global level) and on ex-ante agricultural adjustment (regional), addressed to government technicians; an intergovernmental meeting on Regional Agricultural Adjustment Issues and Intraregional Trade Expansion, addressed to government technicians and experts of integration agencies; and training courses on agricultural regional planning addressed to government officials (agricultural planners and rural development experts).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Major emphasis will be on the preparation of a perspective plan for regional agricultural development. Work undertaken on agricultural planning during the two previous biennia would constitute a solid basis from which to start this important exercise. Upon completion of the macro-framework a top-level working group would be convened to consider the objectives and targets laid out in the study.

Upon completion of the central policy paper a seminar for top-level policy-makers would consider conclusions and issues, and make proposals for further action towards the adoption of the plan.

Work on agricultural adjustment issues related to global perspective developments will continue, as will monitoring and appraisal and training activities.

The outputs will consist of expert reports prepared for the Working Group on Objectives and Strategies for Perspective Regional Agricultural Development; draft perspective plan for regional agricultural development; a Seminar on Central Policy Issues of Perspective Regional Agricultural Development; annual Bulletins of Agricultural Development in the ECWA Region; a study on agricultural adjustment in the light of perspective developments at the global level; in-service assistance and advisory services on key issues of agricultural adjustment and integration; and, training courses (2).

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

Nil.

(e) Expected impact

The increased awareness by national planners (through the publication of an annual bulletin) of regional and global developments, should be reflected in greater attention given to these aspects in the next round of national medium-term planning beginning in the mid-eighties, and in improved policy and decision-making at the national level. A smooth flow and exchange of information and ideas as well as incorporation of the regional dimension in agricultural planning would be the major achievements.

By 1983, the work on agricultural adjustment and integration should lead to tangible impact on policy-making in agriculture. Policy decisions towards adjustment of agriculture, at various levels of operations are expected to be taken by three to five Member States in 1983. Recommendations in the action programme to be adopted by the planned meeting on agricultural adjustment expected to be endorsed and acted upon by at least four Member States. Also, a proposal for product specialization in one commodity or commodity group should be under discussion or implementation by the countries concerned.

It is expected that the perspective plan for regional agricultural development as a unified framework for the formulation of future national agricultural development plans will be under active consideration by the ECWA Member States.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 1: Food and Agriculture

SUBPROGRAMME 2 : Regional Agricultural Co-operation

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to encourage and initiate regional agricultural co-operation with the purpose of achieving regional food security, and efficient intercountry conservation and development of agricultural resources.

(b) Problem addressed

Many of the problems facing the countries in the region, in casu the problems in the field of agriculture, cannot be efficiently solved by unilateral action. The fronts are singled out where collective and concerted action offer a potentially high pay-off.

The first is food security where the lack of regional co-operation has resulted in high import costs and undesirable shortages and waste in various member countries. Lack of appropriate food security arrangements has in several countries led not only to a precarious food situation and hunger, but has also upset development efforts in the economy resulting from an unexpected reallocation of capital resources.

The second relates to intercountry development, improved management and conservation of resources; particularly of desert lands, rangelands and livestock, water resources and fisheries. The extensive damage and loss of income and, often, of considerable resources due to mismanagement and overexploitation of resources has been repeatedly emphasized in a number of recent conferences. At present, there is widespread concern about spreading desertification and the complex problems thereby generated, deteriorated rangelands and overstocking, optimal exploitation of fisheries etc. The absence of a plan to attack such problems as well as the mechanisms to institute regional action - be it legislation, institutional development, exchange of information and ideas or direct project work - is to be remedied, after in-depth study and analysis of selected problem areas.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3348(XXIX), paras. 1 and 5, and World Food Conference. Res/VII. paras. 1 and 4. Res/XVI, paras. 5 and 6; Res/XVII, paras. 2 and 4, and, Res/XXII. para 4(f).

ECWA/RES/34 (III), para. 2

UN Desertification Conference 1977, Res. 1, para. III.1 and Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

E/RES/2114 (LXIII), para. 4, Manila Communique, chapters B and E.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Regional agricultural co-operation has exclusively centered on the promotion of regional food security. The first phase of work in this area will have been concluded. It will have fostered national food security arrangements, particularly short-term crop forecasting

constitution of food reserve stocks and the adoption of stock allocation and general food reserve policies. The first stage will provide solid ground for the second stage which will consider the feasibility of regional food security arrangements.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The strategy and output under this subprogramme focus on two fronts. The first is food security where the stress will be on the development of regional food and feed grain policies, particularly with respect to collective imports and regional stocking policies. The second front encompasses the implementation of regional aspects of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Starting from a general situation analysis of the subject under study, more specific issues will be studied and concrete action proposals developed. Conclusions and recommendations of all surveys and studies will be presented to meetings. Whenever requested, advisory services will be rendered to resolve particular problems, or prepare and evaluate projects.

A first field of action concerns the conservation of agricultural resources, particularly in view of the threat of desert creep. At first, a general survey will be carried out on the situation, policies and efforts to stop damage to and loss of agricultural resources (land, water, forestry). The evaluation of the situation will lead to proposals and recommendations for regional action.

Second, there will be specific emphasis on the intricate problems of traditional livestock raising and rangeland development.

Regional livestock management and control will be studied and be followed by a study of the scope for collective action towards regional livestock development with special attention on breeding problems.

The outputs will consist of a model for regional food/feed reserve stocks and security policies and creation of a co-ordinating mechanism for regional food security addressed to experts and policy-makers in agriculture and food supply (this output will be presented to an intergovernmental meeting on the subject, possibly sponsored by WFC and FAO, and effective follow-up action will be devised: a co-ordinating mechanism for regional food security may be established; a survey of agricultural resource conservation and preparation of a framework for regional action, addressed to experts and policy-makers concerned with various aspects of desert development; a seminar on Resource Conservation Policies addressed to experts and government technicians and policy guidelines on this matter; a regional study on livestock management and rangeland development, addressed to policy-makers concerned with livestock development and proposals for regional action regarding livestock development (feeding and breeding), including initiation of concrete projects, addressed to government technicians, regional and international donors.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The important work started in the previous biennium will continue on both fronts, namely on food security and resource conservation, management and development. There will be follow-up on the regional action regarding food security arrangements, but efforts will concentrate on regional action to combat and reduce post-harvest losses. Improved storage, transit and handling facilities for various agricultural commodities will be studied.

Implementation of aspects of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, started in the previous biennium, will be monitored and followed-up, but attention will focus on regional problems of water management and control as related to agricultural production, both irrigated and rainfed. Regional action on water management and control will be devised. With regard to resource conservation a specific case study of rainfed farming and forestry will be conducted.

The outputs will consist of a study on the scope for reduction of post-harvest losses of selected agricultural commodities addressed to government technicians and experts (follow-up by FAO and Joint Division); advisory services and follow-up reports on regional food security arrangements and on regional co-operation in livestock development addressed to policy-makers in the field of agriculture; a study on regional co-operation in water management and control addressed to policy-makers and a case study on the socio-economic effects of desertification on rainfed farming and forestry development and recommendations for regional action.

(d) Activities in the ECWA countries concerning legislation of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

Nil.

(e) Expected impact

Regional co-operation in food security will take the form of collective action on grain imports and stocking. The expected institutional framework would be the establishment of subregional/regional grainboard(s) or co-ordinating mechanism(s) to handle such activities. It is expected that by 1981 three to six of the Member States of ECWA will have endorsed the regional approach towards food security. By the end of 1983, all Member States would have taken steps or measures to take advantage of regional food security arrangements. Collective action on the reduction of post-harvest losses would be reflected in joint ventures in handling perishable agricultural produce while in transit (one commodity or commodity group), involving three or four countries in 1983.

Institutional arrangements and proposals for action to stop desert creep and conservation of agricultural resources would be endorsed by seventy five per cent of the Member States of ECWA in 1983.

With regard to regional co-operation in livestock management and development, in 1983 four Member States would have considered legislative proposals and agreed to institutional arrangements controlling livestock movement and grazing. Also, six Member States of ECWA would have embarked on collective action (project) regarding livestock development, particularly in the areas of breeding and feeding.

Fifty per cent of the ECWA countries would have taken up two major recommendations to improve water management and control, particularly with regard to flooding and institutional problems related to water management and control.

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 1 : Food and Agriculture

SUBPROGRAMME 3 : Agricultural and Rural Institutions

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to identify institutional weaknesses and develop policies to strengthen existing agricultural and rural institutions and/or establish new ones.

(b) Problem addressed

Weak agricultural and rural institutions are responsible for a large part of low farm productivity in the ECWA countries. The first problem relates to farm organization and planning which stem from a poor farm production base due to prevailing land tenure systems and fragmented holdings. Second, the lack of group dynamics are manifestations of institutional weaknesses deserving increased attention. Third, the institutional support systems to the farming community are often too weak to be able to efficiently fulfil their role in agricultural development. There are insufficient and sometimes dysfunctional inducement-pressure mechanisms as reflected in farm extension, price policies and credit. Perceived weaknesses in existing marketing systems and institutions hinder the intensification of intraregional trade in agricultural commodities.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3348(XXIX) paras. 1 and 5; and World Food Conference, Res/II, paras. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7, Res/IV, para. 9.

E/RES/2114 (LXIII), para. 4, Manila Communique, chapter F.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The limited activities under this subprogramme in the biennium 1978-1979 will have prepared the ground and provided the proper perspective for a full-scale range of activities. The convening of the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will give additional impetus and increased importance to the vital problems of rural development. To maximize impact, one segment of problems of rural development is selected for comprehensive study, i.e., rural and agricultural institutions.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The first aspect of the strategy focuses on a comprehensive analysis of farm organization in the ECWA countries with particular stress on land tenure and fragmentation with the purpose of developing normative models at the subregional level.

The second focus of attention centers on inducement-pressure mechanisms geared towards increasing farm productivity. Priority consideration under this strategy would be given to review and evaluation of price policies and analysis of the adjustment needed to have a favourable influence on farm productivity.

In conjunction with the latter, consideration would be given to marketing and other permissive conditions where the emergence of regional policies is very much needed in order to intensify intra-regional agricultural trade. A survey of marketing systems for agricultural produce will encompass review of the marketing process and approaches to marketing, identification of the main marketing problems and analysis of marketing cost. Next, particular emphasis would be given to the marketing of perishable produce and its related development at the regional level, through the institution of regional grades and standards and the establishment of an efficient regional market news system.

The outputs will consist of a regional study on land tenure and fragmentation of holdings and suggested normative models of farm organization in ECWA countries addressed to experts and policy-makers in agriculture and managers of farmers' organizations and co-operatives; a study on the rationalization of agricultural price policies addressed to decision-makers in agriculture, supply and national economy; a survey of the marketing systems for selected agricultural commodities in the ECWA region, addressed to government technicians and managers of marketing organizations; a study of issues in marketing perishable agricultural produce in the ECWA countries, addressed to government technicians; and, Expert-Group Meeting on Marketing Agricultural Produce, addressed to marketing experts and managers of agricultural marketing organizations in the ECWA countries.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Study of agricultural and rural institutions and issues related to their improvement and development would continue. A synthesis of results and action proposals would be considered at an intergovernmental meeting on rural development. Decisions would be taken towards development of agricultural institutions, and proposals for concrete action in a number of areas would be adopted. In the latter part of the biennium, follow-up activities to the meeting would be emphasized.

With regard to farm organization and planning, attention will center on rationalization and reorganization of farming systems and improved farm planning related to rural settlements in new areas.

With regard to inducement-pressure mechanisms geared towards increased farm productivity, a second and third element will come under study, namely the role of agricultural extension systems and the type of reorientation required to enable the introduction of innovations, and agricultural credit with particular stress on short-term and medium-term credit facilities, needs and issues.

With regard to marketing, all efforts would pertain to follow-up activities geared towards successful implementation of resolutions adopted during the meeting in the previous biennium. Special study or advisory services may be taken up regarding functional and organizational issues in commodity marketing.

The outputs will consist of guidelines for improved farm planning in new rural settlement areas and for rationalization and reorganization of farming systems in the ECWA countries, addressed to government technicians and leaders of farmers' organizations and co-operatives; a Workshop on Land Reform, addressed to experts in the field of agriculture; a progress report on action towards improved marketing of agricultural commodities, addressed to decision-makers in agriculture and marketing organizations; and evaluation report of agricultural extension systems and training needs for extension personnel in the ECWA region, addressed to experts, government technicians in agriculture, research and education; a study of agricultural credit needs and related requirements in the ECWA countries, addressed to policy-makers in agriculture and donor organizations; and, an Intergovernmental Meeting on Rural Development addressed to top-level and senior policy-makers in agriculture and rural development.

(iv) activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

Nil.

(e) Expected Impact

All activities would converge towards a top-level Meeting on Rural Development which, it is expected, would have significant impact on medium-term policy-making and stepping up investment and concrete action towards improved well-being of the rural population. Ideas and information on the needs of building and strengthening institutions to support rural development would be highlighted at the planned intergovernmental meeting on rural development in 1983. It is expected that in 1983 fifty percent of the Member States of

ECWA would have endorsed implementation of at least two major recommendations.

The studies on farm organization and farm planning should identify structural relationships between farm organization and productivity and should lead to the development of normative models promoting efficient farm production. In 1983, fifty percent of the ECWA Member States would have considered or adopted models for improving farm organization as well as related legislative and institutional proposals.

The study of agricultural price policies is expected to lead to decisions by several Member States aiming at rationalization of such policies at the regional or subregional levels thereby giving further impetus to integrated regional planning in 1983.

The identification of comparative extension requirements would favour the establishment of a regional/subregional extension centre to assist in the formulation of regional extension policies and the training of extension workers in 1983. Also, guidelines to improve the interaction education-research-extension would have been considered by three to six countries.

The study of agricultural credit weaknesses should be of direct interest to regional financial institutions and should enable the formulation of regional credit policies in close harmony with the recently established Regional Agricultural Credit Association for the Near East. In co-operation with the latter, proposals to substantially strengthen two agricultural credit banks in the region would be under implementation in 1983.

The work on marketing systems would lead to organizational and institutional improvements, particularly with regard to a more efficient contribution of agricultural marketing to rural development. Case-specific proposals would have been adopted by three to five ECWA countries in 1983. The study of marketing

institutions should lead to legislation concerning the establishment of grades and standards for perishable produce, as well as the promotion of the establishment of a regional market-news system.

2. Development Planning, Projections and Policies

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
 Programme 2 : Development Planning, Projections and Policies

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Development Planning Division in which there were seven professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977, of which one was supported from extrabudgetary sources. As of 1st January 1978, the Division has the following five substantive programmes: Development Planning, Projections and Policies; International Trade and Development; Development Finance and Administration; Labour, Management and Employment; and, Transnational Corporations. Of the five programmes of the Division, only the Transnational Corporations Programme is accommodated with a subdivisional arrangement at the 'Unit' level. The remaining four programmes are managed within the Development Planning Division without a corresponding subdivisional set-up. The staff situation in the Development Planning, Projections and Policies Programme was as follows on 31 December 1977:

Programme	Professional staff		
	RB	XB	Total
Development Planning, Projections and Policies	3**	-	3**

* Reference, documents A/31/6/Add. 1 and A/32/6.

** This includes the Chief of the Division.

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None.

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraphs 10.12 to 10.14 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1

(ii) In 1980-1981

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None.

5. Other organizational matters

Programme formulation and implementation could be rendered more effective if individual programmes were identified with sections/units within the Division.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal co-ordination within the Secretariat

It is expected that the Division will play an active role in the co-ordination of the Commission's activities related to regional integration. Such activities will be planned and coordinated through the ECWA "Taskforce or Working Group on Regional Integration" to be established towards the end of 1979. Activities scheduled under subprogramme 3 "Plan Harmonization and Regional Cooperation" will in particular be coordinated through this taskforce or working group.

2. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations System

None.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

It is expected that joint activities will be undertaken with CDP/PP/ESA for development of short-term forecasting models and perspective planning models for the member countries of ECWA and the region as a whole.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme*	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Review and Assessment of Trends, and Short-Term Forecasts	-	100	60	45	-	45	45	-	45
(1) Assistance and Training	60	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Perspective Planning	30	-	13	30	-	30	30	-	30
3. Plan Harmonization and Regional Co-operation	10	-	7	25	-	25	25	-	25
	100	100	100	100	-	100	100	-	100

* The Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) indicates 4 subprogrammes (para 10.13). During the 1980-1983 plan period, these four subprogrammes will be reorganized as to form three subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 as indicated in the table. The subprogramme "Assistance and Training" appearing in A/32/6 para 10.13 is to be integrated into these three subprogrammes. The Development Planning, Projections and Policies programme also covers the management of the other four substantive programmes of the Division.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 2 : Development Planning, Projections and Policies
SUBPROGRAMME 1 : Review and Assessment of Trends, and Short-Term
Economic Forecasts

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to review and assess current economic trends and development planning efforts and make short-term economic forecasts for ECWA countries and the region as a whole.

(b) Problem addressed

All countries of the ECWA region have instituted, in one form or another, development planning. The sharp increase in oil revenues accruing to the oil-exporting countries of ECWA will definitely ease one of the major constraints facing their development and will help accelerate their progress. However, other constraints prevail, particularly the shortages of skilled and trained manpower, the dependence on imported know how and the need to modernize the institutional framework. The review and assessment of each country's experience in development planning will provide practical results on how far each country has managed to overcome these and other constraints. In addition, the importance of short-term economic forecasts has been neglected and their implementation is long overdue in the ECWA region. The effectiveness of short-term economic policies dealing with many important policy problems such as stabilization, resource allocation and income distribution may depend critically on the forecasting capacity of the country in question. Furthermore, the development of short-term forecasting capacity would enable them to assess socio-economic impacts of various policy alternatives.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/2626(XXV)^{23/}, operative paragraphs 79, 81, 83. E/Res/1896(LVII), Section 1, operative paragraph 1. E/Res/1911/(LVII) Section 1, operative paragraph 2: Section 1, operative paragraph 3.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Provided sufficient resources are made available, the Development Planning, Projections and Policies Programme will initiate in 1978 the research work required for the annual publication entitled "Economic Survey of ECWA countries". The first issue of this continuing activity will appear in 1979 and cover economic conditions and developments in the region for the year 1978, but will not include economic forecasts for 1979. This publication is intended to replace the Annex on "Sectoral development indicators" to ECWA's annual publication entitled "Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia".

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The work of Economic Survey initiated in 1978-1979 will continue if sufficient resources are available. In addition, the Development Planning, Projections and Policies programme will initiate in 1980, the development of short-term econometric forecasting models for a few selected countries as a pilot case, one representing the oil-producing economy and the other relevant to the non-oil economy. By the end of 1981, each member country and the region as a whole will develop an operational model for short-term economic forecasts. The work will be undertaken in collaboration with ESA and various government agencies and planning institutes of ECWA countries. (Output: Annual Survey, primarily intended to provide information and guidelines for policy action by government authorities in the countries of the region).

^{23/} - Mandate more than five years old.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Beginning with 1982, the survey will include not only the review and assessment of current economic conditions and development efforts, but also economic forecasts for the coming year, and impacts of selected economic policies. (Output: Annual Survey, primarily intended for Member Governments).

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

(e) Expected impact

The survey will monitor and assess the execution of development plans and their sectoral performance, as compared with the planned targets, and, in the light of world economic development and assist in the identification of major development problems. Economic forecasts will enhance appreciably the effectiveness of short-term economic policies and will enable planners to evaluate the socio-economic consequences of pursuing alternative policies.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 2 : Development Planning, Projections and Policies
SUBPROGRAMME 2 : Perspective Planning

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to undertake research and assist ECWA countries in perspective planning, with particular attention to the least-developed member countries.

(b) Problem addressed

In addition to economy-wide medium-term plans, perspective planning is needed to appraise broad development potentials, options and priorities over the time horizon of 10 to 20 years. Subsequent medium-term plans will be formulated within a broad framework of perspective plans. Furthermore, perspective plans should take into account explicitly the environmental impacts of the development process and should focus on environmentally sound development strategies. At present, very few ECWA countries are engaged in perspective planning or long-term economy-wide development strategies.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3508(XXX), operative paragraph 1.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Aggregative models for the economy-wide perspective planning will be developed and applied for ECWA countries and the region as a whole. Vast structural differences among ECWA member countries, particularly oil-exporting economy and non-oil economy, will be carefully considered in modelling efforts. Assistance will be given to member countries in the development and operation of perspective planning models.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Emphasis will be placed on consistency in economy-wide perspective planning which requires economically or technologically feasible relationships between sectoral plans and national aggregates. Input-output models and their corresponding data bases will be developed for mutually consistent sectoral plans, and sectoral plans will be further reconciled with national aggregates derived from an aggregative macro-economic model. An input-output framework will also permit assessment of environmental impacts of various development strategies. Assistance in the development and operation of perspective planning models through training workshops and advisory services will be increased. (Output: Studies primarily intended for Member Governments and regional organizations concerned).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The major thrust of the efforts will be directed towards development of an optimization model for perspective planning which will provide different optimal development strategies corresponding to different sets of social, economic and environmental constraints. An input-output-linear programming model will be constructed as an initial step towards this objective. (Output: Studies primarily intended for Member Governments and regional organizations concerned).

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

(e) Expected impact

Perspective planning will identify long-term development potentials and determine the consistency of sectoral plans. Furthermore, in the planning process, various alternative projections will be made corresponding to different sets of exogenous and policy variables including environmental factors. These alternative projections will then serve as a vehicle for a further dialogue between planners and policy-makers in order to arrive at the final selection of a particular development policy-mix among many feasible policy options and policy trade-offs.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 2 : Development Planning, Projections and Policies
SUBPROGRAMME 3 : Plan Harmonization and Regional Co-operation

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to promote plan harmonization and regional co-operation in development planning.

(b) Problem addressed

The countries of the ECWA region have concluded bilateral and multilateral arrangements aiming at wider co-operation and economic integration. These arrangements, including the Arab Common Market, have concentrated on trade liberalization. Recently the Council of Arab Economic Unity took a new approach towards plan harmonization among its members through the establishment of regional large-scale projects to serve more than one country. A number of regional institutions, which have direct bearing on development planning in the ECWA region, have been also established (under the auspices of the League of Arab States). The small economic size of the countries in the ECWA region and their resource complementarities, makes plan harmonization and co-operation in development planning both feasible and essential. Effective measures are still to be taken in this field, especially in harmonizing investments.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3177(XXVIII), operative paragraph 1; A/Res/3362(S-VII), section VI, operative paragraph 2.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

A paper will be prepared on the possibilities of plan harmonization in the ECWA region to be submitted to the 1979 working group meeting on plan harmonization and regional co-operation in development planning. This will

coincide with efforts aimed at initiating by 1980, the preparation of new five-year development plans in most countries of the ECWA region. The Secretariat will participate in seminars, conferences, technical meetings and advisory missions aiming at promoting plan harmonization among the countries of the region.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Based on the activities carried out on perspective planning both economy-wide and on sectoral basis in the countries of the region and as follow-up to the working group meeting on plan harmonization, efforts will be made to develop guidelines aimed at achieving plan harmonization among groups of countries in the region. The Secretariat will increase its efforts, through advisory services, meetings and training programmes, on various aspects of plan harmonization in the region. (Output: Study and reports, primarily intended for Member Governments and regional organizations concerned).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The strategy and output envisaged will be an extension of those of the previous biennium. Efforts will concentrate, through specific studies, training and advisory services, on promoting plan harmonization at the sectoral and global levels among the countries of the region.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that the strategy and output outlined will assist Governments in the region in developing the conceptual and institutional framework needed to harmonize development planning and programming exercises among the countries concerned, minimize costly duplications in national development efforts, and promote effective co-operation for regional integration.

3. Human Settlements

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 3 : Human Settlements

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Social Development and Human Settlement Division in which there were 9 professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which 1 was supported from extra-budgetary sources. The staff situation in the Human Settlement Programme was as follows on December 1977:

Programme	Professional Staff		
	RB	XB	Total
Human Settlements	4	-	4

3. Divergencies between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None.

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraphs 10.15 to 10.16 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A.32/5) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1.; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.5; 1.6; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 3.1.

(ii) In 1980-1981 : 3.2; 3.3.

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None

5. Other organizational matters

None

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal Coordination within the Secretariat

Upon the establishment of a Secretariat "Committee on Rural Development" towards the end of 1979, it is expected that activities related to rural settlements will be planned and coordinated through this Committee.

2. Formal Coordination within the United Nations System

Within the context of joint UNEP/ECWA programming and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between UNEP and ECWA in this regard, appropriate activities under this programme will be coordinated or jointly undertaken with UNEP.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

Apart from joint activities expected to be undertaken with other units of the ECWA Secretariat, no significant joint activities are foreseen at this stage with other Units in the United Nations System.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to
subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme*	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Human Settlement Planning	-	-	-	100	100	100	100	100	100
(a) Formulation of low-cost housing policies	34	34	34	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Urbanization and urban planning	33	33	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Rural settlement planning	33	33	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* The three subprogrammes referred to in paragraph 10.16 of the Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) have been amalgamated as to constitute one new subprogramme entitled "Human Settlement Planning".

Organization Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 3 : Human Settlements

Subprogramme 1 : Human Settlement Planning

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist Government in the region in the initiation and formulation of integrated and comprehensive human settlement policies, programmes and plans within the context of overall development planning.

(b) Problem addressed

The population of the countries in the region is increasing at a fast rate and urban populations are multiplying at even faster rates. The new demand of housing and urban services created by the growth aggravates the problem of inadequate supply of housing and community facilities. In many areas of the region, the problem has reached crisis proportions. The supply of housing at such costs that low-income families can afford remains far too small. Furthermore, rising land prices, the increasing pressure on urban land, the shortage of financial and human resources, the high building costs and continuous shortage of basic building materials all exacerbate the housing problem.

In all the countries of the region, the urban growth rate has been more rapid in large cities than in towns of average and small size. Because of the absence of a deliberate national urban development policy, urban growth has been particularly striking in capital cities which dominate the scene which are growing at a rate ranging from 5 to 15 percent annually. The urban growth patterns are mainly the result of high rates population growth, excessive rural-to-urban migration, intraregional migration along with imbalances between urbanization and industrial development and modernization of agriculture.

Rural settlements' development programmes and policies in the region are given very low priority, if they exist at all. They are predominantly isolated, corrective or curative measures, planned as a part of agricultural development plans.

National human settlement planning lacks both comprehensiveness and synchronization. Human settlement policies, plans programmes and projects are essentially sectoral in nature and thus are short-term measures.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/31/109, operative paragraph 6; A/Res/31/116, operative paragraph 4.

4.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The 1978-1979 biennium will witness efforts by the Division in the compilation of data and information on housing conditions, housing demand and supplying in the region, housing finance mechanisms, etc. Considerable efforts will be expanded by the Division in the preparation for and participation in a Regional Human Settlement Conference which will review human settlement programmes and policies at the regional and national levels, within the framework of recommendations emanating from Habitat. The Regional Conference, which will be attended by human settlement planners and experts, will provide substantial information on human settlement development activities. The Division hopes, in this regard, to ensure meaningful co-ordination by simulating a post-Habitat review of human settlement planning at the regional and national levels.

Considerable attention will be geared, in co-operation with UNEP, in establishing a regional network for human settlements technology. Follow-up on the joint 1977 UNEP/ECWA mission will continue throughout 1978 and 1979. The environmental dimensions of human settlement planning is a major area of concern to the Division as is indicated in the importance given to the topic of human settlements technology by the Division. The Division will provide two countries in the region with guidelines for the development of environmental strategies in human settlements.

The Division will further play a major role throughout 1978-79 in the preparations for the establishment of an Arab Urban Development Institute for training and Research, which will be directed to the training of human settlement planners in the region. The environmental dimensions of human settlement planning will be assessed within the training requirements and programmes of the Arab Urban Development Institute.

The environmental parameters of human settlements will also be analyzed in a Training Workshop on Metropolitan Planning scheduled for 1979 which will be attended by experts and planners in the human settlement field. Services will be provided to meet the requests of governments and others concerned to advise on metropolitan planning and programming techniques and to promote the implementations with regard to national and regional actions related to metropolitan and urban development and planning. Metropolitan planning and programming techniques will be imparted to urban planners particularly those working in town planning departments of the metropolitan cities in the region.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The Division will continue the collection of data and information on the human settlement situation in the region for the benefit of researchers, technical departments and regional organizations. Studies will be undertaken to provide one or two countries with assessments of the housing and building sectors primarily intended for governments technicians. The Division, through studies and advisory services, will provide alternative approaches to human settlement problems to countries in the region for policy-makers, after initial analysis and assessment of the present situation of human settlements. Policy guidelines in the form of training and advisory services on the improvement and development of building technologies will be elaborated for government technicians, building research centres. Guidelines on the design of low-cost

housing will be formulated for human settlement planners in the region. Planning guidelines for human settlement planning will be given to experts and planners in the field. It is hoped that after an examination of policy aspects, proposals will emanate from such expert-group meetings to allow for policy solutions in the area of human settlement planning.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The Division will continue data collection on the human settlement situation in the region. Assessment and analysis of the instruments, measures and policies for planned metropolitan development in the region will continue. The formulation of policy guidelines, project proposals will be forwarded to expert groups in the region in the context of comprehensive human settlement planning.

Services will be provided to meet the requests of governments and others concerned to advise on housing and building matters and to promote the implementation of decisions, guidelines and policy recommendations with regard to the formulation, programming and implementation of national and regional actions related to housing and building, urban development and rural settlement planning.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

None

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that one or two countries in the region should have an elaborate human settlement policy, fully integrated into national development plans. Policy guidelines will be directed to planners, experts and policy-makers in the field of human settlement in two countries in the region in the expectation that human settlement planning policies become integral components of the development process.

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4. Industrial Development

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 4 : Industrial Development

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the joint ECWA/UNIDO Division in which there were 8 professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which one was supported from extrabudgetary sources.

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) The following programme elements describe in paragraph 10.18 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 5.1.

(ii) In 1980-1981

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None.

5. Other organizational matters

None.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal co-ordination within the Secretariat

Subprogramme 1 "Regional Coordination in the Industrial Field" will be planned and coordinated through the ECWA "Taskforce or Working Group on Regional Integration" which is to be established towards the end of the programme biennium 1978-1979.

Programme elements related to the development of agro-industries will be considered also in the light of the Commission's activities on food security. The Division's contributions in this regard will be planned and coordinated through the "Working Group on Food Security" which is expected to be operational at the end of 1979.

The Division is further planning - through its relevant activities - to contribute to the Commission's activities on rural development. The Division's relevant activities (rural industrialization) will be planned and coordinated through the Secretariat's "Committee on Rural Development", which is envisaged to be set up.

2. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations System

UNIDO

As per formal agreement covering the functioning of the joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division, all activities of this programme will be coordinated with UNIDO and/or jointly undertaken whenever possible and feasible. By the very nature of the Division, planning, implementation and follow-up of all activities undertaken in the Joint Division is done jointly with UNIDO.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983:

It is expected that significant joint activities will be developed with ILO and ECA in the implementation of Subprogramme 3 "Development of Industrial Manpower".

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme#/ .	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Regional coordination in the Industrial Field	14	40	22	23	34	29	24	28	27
2. Development of Selected Industrial Branches	29	40	35	31	22	26	29	24	26
3. Development of Industrial Manpower	14	-	8	15	22	19	18	24	21
4. Review and Appraisal of Industrial Development and Potential, Industrial Planning and Implementation	43	20	25	31	22	26	29	24	26
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The Proposed Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) paragraph 10.18 included one additional subprogramme "Administration, Management and Finance" which was to be financed exclusively from extrabudgetary resources. Elements in this subprogramme have now been included in the 1980-1983 medium-term plan.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 4 : Industrial Development
Subprogramme 1 : Regional co-ordination in the Industrial Field

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist in developing concrete proposals for the co-ordination of industrialization efforts including regional co-ordination of policies, strategies, plans and a regional approach to industrial investment and production.

(b) Problem addressed

The industrial sectors of the countries of the ECWA region remain relatively small. The share of manufacturing (mostly light consumer industries) in the GNP of these countries ranges from 3 to 12 percent. The situation is basically different from country to country:

(i) The oil countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and to some extent Bahrain and Oman are characterized by substantial financial resources (due to sales of crude oil) with relative shortages in human and other known natural resources:

(ii) Although Iraq, and to a lesser extent the Syrian Arab Republic are producers of crude oil, they fall, owing to their economic structure, more in line with the non-oil group of countries which also includes Jordan and Lebanon. These four countries have in common a relatively diversified economic structure with an established agricultural sector and a manufacturing sector whose impact on the economy is apparent. These four countries also enjoy a relative advantage over the first group in terms of manpower resources and thus play the role of suppliers of manpower to the group of oil countries:

(iii) The third group of countries in the region, namely the least developed countries, consists of Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which the manufacturing sector is insignificant.

Given these comparative advantages and disadvantages of the three groups of countries in the region, a regional approach will aim at promoting a degree of regional co-ordination of policies, strategies and plans including investment and production. An alternative is promoting partial regional co-operation in the form of joint ventures, a number of which are in operation or at the planning stage. Synchronization and harmonization and the flow of financial and human resources within the region will be an important part of the setting of a regional approach to co-ordination.

It is essential to avoid wasteful and indiscriminate establishment of major industries on an individual national basis without the regard to existing regional capacities and potential capabilities and the possibility of achieving a measure of complementarity between them. Furthermore, the limitations of national markets and the lack of adequate infrastructure in many of the countries of the region call for close regional co-operation. Finally, due regard must be paid to the needs of the least developed countries, particularly in the channelling of financial resources to Democratic Yemen and Yemen Arab Republic and the development of their human resources. The setting of a regional approach to co-ordination may be conceived within the framework of the Arab world as a whole, ECWA region being part of it and/or on the basis of subregions.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3362/(S-VII), operative paragraph IV-1

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The research effort in the field of co-ordination of industrialization plans and programmes and the appraisal of joint projects would have improved the knowledge of the situation so as to contribute more efficiently to the planning and formulation of industrial development policies at the regional level. The types of industrial activity which could better be promoted through planned inter-

country cooperation would have been identified and the appropriate institutional infrastructure needed would have been outlined.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The strategy and output during this period will be on the development of specific approaches to the formulation of regional policies of industrial cooperation and, the identification of additional possibility for promoting co-operation in specific industries to bring into account resource endowments and comparative advantages. Greater consistency and co-ordination among development plans will be studied and concrete action proposals developed. Special attention will be given to the formulation stage of industrial plans and programme including the initiation of statistical programmes at the regional level to improve the computation and information base. Advisory services to governments as well as technical seminars addressed to experts and officials concerned with industrial planning would also be arranged. The output during this period will consist of studies and reports on selected aspects of regional coordination in the industrial field primarily intended for regional integration organizations and government departments.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The efforts deployed in the previous biennium to identify intercountry industrial projects will be strengthened with a view to enlarging the possibilities of industrial cooperation and the formulation of industrial loans and programmes at the regional and subregional levels. The participation of the countries of the region in industrial cooperation schemes and the setting up of a machinery for joint planning and policy-making on a regional scale would be studied and concrete measures proposed.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

None.

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that these activities will lead to the establishment and strengthening of regional machinery for coordination of industrialization policies and strategies and for the synchronization of industrial investment activities, along with the formulation of a number of regional and multinational industrial projects. Besides providing the substantive background for promotion of co-operation among developing countries the subprogramme will provide the same for the system of consultation evolving as part of attaining the objectives of the Lima Declaration and the New International Economic Order.

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 4 : Industrial Development

Subprogramme 2 : Development of Selected Industrial Branches

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist in identifying the techno-economic problems faced by selected branch industries in the countries of the region and assess their prospects and needs for further development.

(b) Problem addressed

The development of existing and new branch industries in the countries of the region requires rationalization., technological adaptation and innovation, as well as the establishment or expansion of the necessary supporting services and infrastructure. These problems are impediments to the development of industries including new industries being established and planned. This is especially true with regard to the establishment of basic industries (such as petrochemicals, basic metals) and to the development of integral industries (engineering, agro-industries and construction).

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3362/(S-VII), operative paragraph IV-1.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

A number of surveys on selected branches of industries are planned; this will include surveying engineering, petrochemicals, with a view to indentifying intercountry investment opportunities. Reports on these surveys along with projections of future supply and demand will be prepared for dicussion at technical meetings which will bring together national experts, planners, international consultants and representatives of regional industrial and investment organizations. The findings and recommendations of the meetings will be circulated to all Governments and organizations concerned for follow-up action.

In addition, short-term advisors services on industrial plan formulation, pre-investment studies and project formulation and evaluation and technology transfer will be made available at the request of Governments on an ad hoc basis.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Major emphasis will be on the setting up of policy guidelines and criteria for an optimal production and investment strategy for selected branch industries. At the same time survey efforts will be continued with a view to identifying intercountry investment opportunities in agro-industries, basic metals, building materials and other fields. Particular attention is given to the transfer of technology in specific branches of industry.

The output during the biennium will consist of studies and reports on the development of selected branch industries primarily intended for regional organizations, regional financing institutions and technical government departments. Reports on transfer of technology in selected branches of industries.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Emphasis will continue on formulating a programme for regional co-operation in selected branch industries and outlining the type of joint ventures and machinery needed for the purpose.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

None.

(e) Expected impact

No objective indicators are possible at this stage, but it is expected that a rational and coordinated approach to the development of basic industries which are indispensable to the expansion of the industrial sector as a whole will be adopted in the region, that integral industries will be developed in such a way as to link the development of different but related sectors; and the expansion of manufacturing industries to meet local needs and for the export markets. Because of the limited local market in a number of the member countries, regional cooperation as elaborated on under subprogramme 1 will be most essential.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 4 : Industrial Development

Subprogramme 3 : Development of Industrial Manpower

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist in promoting the development of the industrial manpower with special emphasis on the training of higher technical and managerial personnel and the promotion of local training capabilities within the region itself. An essential and associated objective relates to the training of manpower facilitating transfer, adaptation and indigenous development of technology in the field of industry.

(b) Problem addressed

The accelerated drive for industrialization in the countries of the ECWA region resulting from increased investment of oil revenues has exposed the need for qualified personnel to operate and manage the industrial enterprises as well as in manning supporting services and institutions such as industrial information, repair and maintenance, and project formulation and evaluation, industrial research and development, and consultancy and engineering design institutions. Training and related institutions and appropriate measures for technology transfer are urgently needed in order to provide the region with the necessary national expertise commensurate with the scope of industrial investments already undertaken or planned.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3362/(S-VII), operative paragraph IV-1.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

A survey of manpower needs and facilities in the field of industry will be available. Future training needs in specific branches of industries will be indentified in the light of future development plans and programmes for these branches. In this connexion, the relevant studies will be prepared.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The objective of this subprogramme will be pursued through the identification of priority areas for the provision of training; the promotion of training activities in the identified priority areas and the strengthening of the requisite institutional machinery for the coordination of training on a regional basis.

In the light of the findings of the 1978-1979 surveys and studies, consultations will be carried out with the governments in the region on a plan of action for the promotion of a coordinated approach to training needs and placement of trainees within the region including the establishment of appropriate intergovernmental machinery for this purpose. The output during the biennium will consist of studies and reports on selected aspects of manpower and skills development in the industrial sector (for technical departments, training institutions, regional organization).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Organization of seminars and in-plant training in the region in such fields as project formulation and evaluation and industrial administration and management, promotion of measures and institutional arrangements for the transfer of technology in the field of industry.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

None.

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that by the end of the medium-term plan period the region will have a plan of action at its disposal to provide training facilities and that regional machinery for coordinating such training is effectively functioning.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 4 : Industrial Development
Subprogramme 4 : Review and Appraisal of Industrial Development and
Potential, Industrial Planning and Implementation.

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to monitor, review and appraise the process of industrial development and potential including industrial planning and implementation in the region with a view to identifying shortfalls and recommending adequate measures for their remedy.

(b) Problem addressed

The distinct characteristics of a number of countries of the region which are oil-dependent economies by their nature, impose a special imprint on the policies and strategies the countries may follow in the process and in the future paths of industrialization. Three distinct characteristics for these economies are expected to have long-range implications. First, the oil sector has been providing in the last decade, the major impetus both direct and indirect to the high tempo of economic development. Second is the high contribution of this sector to saving capacity that is concentrated in the public sector; and the implication of this on long-term development and strategies including industrial development. The third characteristic is the high and increasing dependence of these economies on imports, facilitated by the increasing capacity to export oil. Because of the depletable nature of oil resources for most of the countries of the region in the longer run, rapid change in their economic structure is required to broaden the economic base of the country. In view of the limited or insignificant resources other than oil, the burden on the manufacturing sector in the process of development will be particularly heavy.

The above characteristics impose on the planning and implementation new dimensions that do not usually exist in other developing countries. Planning calls for unprecedented sustained high rates of growth even for developed

economies. For example the ratio of capital formation to GNP usually between 30%-40% are envisaged in these countries' plans. Further, it is to be noted that while the greatest impact of these characteristics are in the oil-producing countries positive and negative side effects have been proliferating into the non-oil member countries of the ECWA region. There have been increasing transfers of public and private financial resources to the latter countries. The migration of skilled labour to the oil-countries left the labour-exporting countries which had relatively abundant skilled labour sometimes in short supply.

In a number of countries in the ECWA region, public sector industries constitute a large part of the industrial sector whether resulting from national policies or from increased direct investment of public funds usually from oil sources. The rapid increase in public investment highlighted the weaknesses in the administrative machinery and management of public industrial enterprises. These public sector industries are, in one form or another, integrated within the Government administrative machinery which in some cases experience problems related to coordination, flexibility, and speed of decision-making necessary for the efficient running of enterprises.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/2626/(XXV)*, operative paragraph 18, 19, 20.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The knowledge of the problems and the growth prospects of the industrial sector in the region would have improved through the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on industrialization trends and an in-depth examination of policies and measures and strategies for industrial development at the country levels. The industrial growth potential of the countries through the year 2000 would have been assessed with particular emphasis on development at the branch level.

* mandate more than five years old.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Work will be geared towards studying further the industrial growth potential in countries of the region so as to reach a more precise interpretation of the process of industrialization and its problems and prospects and thereby contribute more efficiently to the planning and formulation of industrial development policies. This will include in-depth studies of specific branches of industry and assistance to the countries in the development of industrial planning techniques and implementation machineries. The output from this subprogramme provides substantive background for review and appraisal of progress towards attaining the New International Economic Order primarily intended for policy-makers, national planners.

((iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Efforts will continue towards improving the information base so as to maintain under constant surveillance the development of industry in the region and appraise its performance. Efforts will also be made, through studies, to rationalize the employment of productive factors and stimulate an efficient industrialization process.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

(e) Expected impact

No objective indicator is possible at this stage, but it is expected that the monitoring and appraisal of the process of industrial development will serve a dual function. On the one hand attention will be drawn to both the achievements and shortfalls with regard to international, regional and national targets. On the other hand, it will serve as a vehicle for diagnosing main obstacles both internal and external to the realization of the said goals and objectives, which in turn will assist in identifying the required remedial measures.

5. International Trade and Development

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 5 : International Trade and Development

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Development Planning Division in which there were seven professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977, of which one was supported from extrabudgetary sources. As of 1st January 1978, the Division has the following five substantive programmes: Development Planning, Projections and Policies; International Trade and Development; Development Finance and Administration; Labour, Management and Employment; and, Transnational Corporations*. The staff situation in the International Trade Programme was as follows as of 31 December 1977:

Programme	Professional staff		
	RB	XB	Total
International Trade and Development	2**	-	2**

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

Nil

* Reference, documents A/31/6/Add. 1 and A/32/6

** Only one professional staff on board on 31 December 1977.

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraphs 10.19-10.20 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1 (limited in scope); 2.2, 3.1.

(ii) In 1980-1981

2.1, 3.2.

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None.

5. Other organizational matters

Programme formulation and implementation can be rendered more effective if individual programmes are identified within sections/units within the Division.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal co-ordination within the Secretariat

Programme elements dealing with trade integration will be planned and co-ordinated through the ECWA "Taskforce or Working Group on Regional Integration" which is expected to be functioning towards the end of the 1978-1979 biennium. In addition, the programme will participate in the Commission's activities on food security with appropriate contributions on the trade aspects of food security in the ECWA region.

2. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations System

UNCTAD and ECWA have established, within their respective secretariats, "focal" points for co-operation on matters of common interest.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

None.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to the subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to
subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme*	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Trade Expansion and Diversification	-	-	-	100	100	100	100	100	100
(1) Assistance in expanding and diversifying export trade	12	50	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Intraregional trade	44	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
(3) Trade and Payments Policies	44	50	44	-	-	-	-	-	-
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* (1) to (3) denote the three subprogrammes appearing in the Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) paragraph 10.20. These subprogrammes will be amalgamated into one subprogramme during the medium-term plan period.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 5 : International Trade and Development
SUBPROGRAMME 1 : Trade Expansion and Diversification

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist member countries in formulating appropriate policies for expanding and diversifying their trade.

(b) Problem addressed

Foreign trade plays a crucial role in the economies of the region, both as a generator of income and as a source of inputs and consumption goods. Given world trade trends, diversification towards manufactures seems to be a prerequisite for a more rapid expansion of exports and a lessening of the region's vulnerability which stems from over-reliance on one or a few primary commodities. Efforts at export diversification requires both introducing new products and raising the degree of processing embodied in traditional exports. This will require not only widening the production base but also overcoming problems of marketing and market access.

In addition to the high commodity concentration, the trade of the region shows a marked degree of geographical dependence in favour of the developed market economies. Thus, intraregional trade continues to occupy a modest place in the region's aggregate trade and its potential has remained largely unexploited. Also, the potential for expanding and diversifying trade with other developing countries and regions, and with the socialist countries, has not been sufficiently explored.

National policies relating to this sector have generally remained fragmented and of an ad hoc nature. Planning efforts have achieved rather little in terms of integrating the external sector in national plans, as this sector has continued to be treated generally as a residual item in the planning exercise. Thus, there is considerable scope to rationalize overall trade and payments policies of member countries, with a view to allowing the external sector to make a more effective contribution to the development process.

The need for appropriate trade and payments policies is particularly felt in the least-developed member countries where the role of the external sector is of prime importance for their development efforts.

Inadequate import procurement policies, and excessive formalities and complicated procedures handicap the flow of trade and increase its cost.

(c) Legislative authority

E/Res/2121/(LXIII), operative paragraph 4; A/Res/3442/(XXX), operative paragraph 4; A/Res/3362/(S-VII), section 1, operative paragraphs 1, 2, 11, 13; and section .I, operative paragraph 1; A/Res/3214/(XXIX), operative paragraph 2; A/Res/3241/(XXIX), operative paragraph 3; A/Res/3202/(S-VI), section 1, operative paragraph 3; A/Res/3177/(XXVIII), operative paragraph 1.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Three studies will be completed: Liberalization of non-tariff barriers; trade expansion and economic integration; and trade and payments policies of ECWA countries. The completion of these studies will provide the policy-makers and government technicians, as well as regional and international organizations and institutions, with better insights into the issues involved and the policy actions required. They will also provide the basis for the Secretariat's further activities in these fields. The study on trade expansion and economic integration will form the main position paper for a meeting of senior policy-makers and specialists on problems and issues of trade expansion, regional co-operation and integration to be held in 1980.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The attainment of the objective of the International Trade and Development Programme will be pursued by assisting member countries to adopt measures to increase the share of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods in

in total exports; promote interregional and intraregional trade and co-operation; export trade with other regions, rationalize trade and payments policies, particularly in the least-developed member countries. The implementation of this strategy will involve:

Research and studies on: (i) Means of promoting regional co-operation and integration and the expansion of intraregional trade, including the possibility of setting up a payments scheme (primarily intended for Member Governments and concerned regional and international organizations and institutions); (ii) Import procurement policies and procedures (primarily intended for Member Governments); (iii) Trade and payments problems of the least-developed member countries and the formulation of appropriate policies (primarily intended for concerned Governments and regional and international organizations and institutions); (iv) The potential and prospects of expanding trade with other developing countries and regions, and with the socialist countries (primarily intended for Member Governments); and (v) Changes in the purchasing power of exports and terms of trade and factors affecting them (primarily intended for Member Governments).

Collection and dissemination of basic information on the trade and payments situation in member countries (primarily intended for Member Governments and Secretariat's use).

Provision of advisory services in the field of trade and payments.

Organization of meetings on major issues to help design appropriate policies: e.g. Seminar on issues and problems of intraregional trade, economic co-operation and integration (primarily intended for senior policy-makers and concerned international and regional organizations and institutions).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The strategy and output envisaged will, in many respects, be an extension of those of the preceding biennium. Emphasis will continue to be placed on the expansion and diversification of exports, promotion and regional co-operation

and integration, expansion of trade and development of the least-developed member countries, and promotion of trade with other developing countries and regions and with the socialist countries. In addition, consideration will be given to the impediments to the expansion of trade inherent in domestic policies and conditions in member countries and major trading partners; the impact of EEC and other regional groupings on export prospects and integration efforts in the region; the implications of alternative export and import policies for foreign exchange earnings, employment and growth, and the simplification and harmonization of trade formalities and procedures. As in the preceding biennium the output will consist of research and studies, identification of technical assistance needs, provision of advisory services and training, and meetings.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

(e) Expected impact

No objective indicators are possible at this stage under this subprogramme. It is, however, expected that the strategy and outputs outlined will have the following impact with respect to the problem areas addressed:

Expansion and diversification of exports: The analysis of the main problems and issues involved and their policy implications is expected to assist Member States, regional and international organizations and institutions concerned in evolving appropriate policies and technical assistance and training programmes, thereby making a significant contribution towards attaining the objective of faster export growth and a more balanced export structures in the countries of the region.

Intraregional trade and regional co-operation and integration: The strategy and activities planned are expected to assist in identification of obstacles and promotion of a better understanding of the issues involved, and the suggestion of alternative and workable approach to these issues.

Trade with other developing countries and regions and with the socialist countries: The strategy and output are expected to assist in the identification of the obstacles to the expansion of trade flows, assessment of the potential for trade, proposal of policies and measures to expand trade, and assessment of technical assistance and training needs.

Trade and payments policies: The assessment and examination of the problems involved are expected to establish guidelines aimed at improving the ability of countries in the region, in general, to formulate more coherent and comprehensive trade and payments policies; better integration of the external sector in the overall planning process; a better understanding of the trade and payments problems of the least-developed member countries, leading to the formulation of appropriate technical assistance, training and aid policies.

Import procurement, and trade formalities and procedures: Under this subject, the strategy and output are expected to assist in rationalizing import procurement policies at the country, subregional and regional level, and in simplifying and standardizing trade formalities and procedures.

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6. Labour, Management and Employment

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 6 : Labour, Management and Employment

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Development Planning Division in which there were seven professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977, of which one was supported from extrabudgetary sources. As of 1st January 1978, the Division has the following five substantive programmes: Development Planning, Projections and Policies; International Trade and Development; Development Finance and Administration; Labour, Management and Employment; and, Transnational Corporations*. Of the five programmes of the Division, only the Transnational Corporations Programme is accommodated with a subdivisional arrangement at the 'Unit' level. The remaining four programmes are managed within the Development Planning Division without a corresponding subdivisional set-up. The staff situation in the Labour, Management and Employment Programme was on the 31 December 1977 as follows:

Programme	Professional staff		
	RB	XB	Total
Labour, Management and Employment	2	-	2

* Reference, documents A/31/6/Add.1 and A/32/6.

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None.

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraph 10.22 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1; 1.2; 3.1 and 3.2.

(ii) In 1980-1981

2.1.

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None.

5. Other organizational matters

None.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal co-ordination within the Secretariat

Activities related to rural employment will be co-ordinated through the ECWA "Committee on Rural Development" to be operational towards the end of 1979, while activities related to the promotion of regional co-operation in manpower utilization and development will be co-ordinated through the ECWA "Taskforce or Working Group on Regional Integration" expected to be functional towards the end of 1978-1979 programme biennium.

2. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations System

None.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

Written agreements are expected to be signed with ILO and ECA in order to undertake joint activities under this programme. In particular, agreements are expected to be concluded with ILO to sponsor a joint regional meeting for monitoring progress in the implementation of the plan of action adopted in the 1975 ECWA/ILO meeting and with ECA regarding such projects as manpower supply and demand in the Arab World and possible follow-up action to the 1976-1977 project.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to the subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme*	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Employment Promotion and Manpower Development	-	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(1) Employment Policies	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Improvement of Manpower Training	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(3) Promotion of Regional Co-operation in the field of Human Resources Planning	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* (1) through (3) denote the three subprogrammes appearing in the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) paragraph 10.22. During the medium-term plan period these three subprogrammes are amalgamated into one subprogramme entitled "Employment Promotion and Manpower Development".

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 6 : Labour, Management and Employment
SUBPROGRAMME 1 : Employment Promotion and Manpower Development

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist member countries in the formulation of manpower strategies for employment promotion and manpower development, setting up appropriate national institutions, and promoting regional co-operation in the development and utilization of manpower.

(b) Problem addressed

Labour force under-employment and human resource under-utilization are widely spread in countries of Western Asia. These countries have the lowest participation ratios in active life in the world, mainly as a result of very low ratios of female participation. The ensuing high ratios of dependency adversely affect the standard of living of the population as a whole. In addition, the low and near-to-subsistence levels of income obtained by many workers, particularly in the agricultural and rural sector and the self-employed, contrast with high incomes obtained by a small section of the population.

The development of manpower in the countries of the ECWA region is not adapted to the structural growth of employment. On the one hand, the labour markets in this region are incapable of absorbing all the output of the educational system, resulting in unemployment among the educated. On the other hand, there are shortages of well-trained and experienced management personnel as well as of high-level and middle-level technicians and scientists. This hampers the rapid development of the countries of the region, particularly those with surplus capital. The policies followed to meet such problems are fragmentary and limited in nature.

While each country in the ECWA region has its proper employment problems related mainly to the various aspects of both labour force under-employment and human resource under-utilization, they all suffer, in varying degrees, from shortages of skills. The oil-producing countries suffer most from these shortages. With their higher capacity to pay, they have attracted and will continue to attract large numbers of skills from the non-oil producing countries in the region. A vast interregional mobility of labour has developed producing, in many cases, negative effects on the manpower and employment structure in the labour supplying countries.

(c) Legislative authority

E/Res/1952/(LIX), operative paragraph 2.

E/Res/1808/(LV), operative paragraph 6.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The studies undertaken during the 1978-1979 biennium in the field of employment, wages and manpower assessment will constitute the background for formulating national and regional policies for better employment of human resources. In particular, the study on the supply of and demand for manpower at the national and regional level will provide a preliminary assessment of the situation. The regional meeting for government technicians, with participation of regional and international experts, scheduled to be held in 1979 should be able to make a new assessment of the situation and adjust the existing regional plan of action in the field of human resource development and utilization (adopted in 1975).

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The preliminary assessment and projection of the supply and demand of manpower on the regional level should be completed. This gives way to three studies: (1) Final regional assessment and projections up to year 2000 of manpower supply, demand and intercountry mobility of labour (for policy-makers); (2) Alternative national and regional policies and strategies for the utilization of available manpower up to the year 2000 (government technicians, policy-makers); (3) Integrated national and regional approach in planning and programming the development of required manpower up to the year 2000 (government technicians, policy-makers, regional integration institutions).

The last two studies will involve intensive consultations with national and regional policy-makers as well as government technicians, regional and international experts.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Emphasis during this biennium will be put on implementing the above-mentioned policy and strategy proposals. A regional meeting for policy-makers in this field will be held with a view to examining ways and means of implementing such policies and strategies. ECWA will assist in the implementation, by providing advisory services, including the preparation of specific short studies and reports, to assist government authorities as well as national and regional institutions, involved in the implementation of the above-mentioned strategies and policies.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that by the end of 1983, at least two to three countries will have initiated the formulation of a national strategy for human resource development

and utilization and are considering appropriate governmental machinery to pursue such strategies.

It is expected that at the end of the 1980-1983 medium-term plan period Member States have under active consideration the setting up of regional machinery for formulating and implementing a long-term regional strategy in the field of manpower utilization and development.

7. Natural Resources

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 7 : Natural Resources

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Natural Resources Science and Technology Division in which there were nine professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which none was supported from extrabudgetary sources. The Division has no branches/sections or units.

The staff situation in the Natural Resources Programme was as follows on 31 December 1977:

Programme	Professional staff		
	RB	XB	Total
Natural Resources	7	-	7

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None.

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraph 10.26 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1 (continuing activity), 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, programme elements 1.2, 1.3 and 1.8. Also 2.2, 2.5, 2.8 and, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, programme elements 2.1, 2.4 and 2.6. Moreover 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6 are to be completed as well.

(ii) In 1980-1981

1.9, 2.3 and 2.7, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources. 3.5 and 3.7.

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None.

5. Other organizational matters

As was the case in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6), executive direction and management of the Natural Resources Programme has been entirely included under the Energy Resources Subprogramme. This activity actually accounts for the post of the Chief of the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division which covers two major programmes, namely, Natural Resources and Science and Technology.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal co-ordination within the Secretariat

It is envisaged that an ECWA "Committee on Rural Development" will be established towards the end of 1979 to co-ordinate all rural development activities of the Commission. Activities related to renewable energy for rural development under subprogramme 1 and community water supply and sanitation under subprogramme 3 will be co-ordinated through this Committee.

2. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations System

Within the context of joint ECWA/UNEP programming and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between UNEP and ECWA, activities related to the development of renewable sources of energy (rural and desert development, low and non-waste technologies, solar/nuclear options) in subprogramme 1 and to relevant aspects of water resources development in subprogramme 3 will be co-ordinated or jointly undertaken with UNEP.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

Apart from joint activities between appropriate and relevant units within the ECWA Secretariat, it is expected that significant joint activities will be developed with:

(a) The Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport (CNRET) in appropriate activities under all three subprogrammes; (b) WHO in the area of community water supply and sanitation; (c) FAO in activities related to efficient use of water in agriculture; (d) IAEA in the activities related to the nuclear dimension of the inter-Arab Energy Strategy and Programme of Action; (e) ECA in appropriate activities under all three subprogrammes to cover the Arab countries which are members of ECA and not of ECWA; (f) WMO on water resources assessment.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to subprogrammes (percentage)

Subprogrammes	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Energy Resources Development	38	38	38	38	35	38	36	30	37
2. Mineral Resources Development	27	27	27	25	20	23	25	20	23
3. Water Resources Development and Management	35	35	35	37	45	39	37	50	40
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 7 : Natural Resources

SUBPROGRAMME 1 : Energy Resources Development

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to provide information and outlook on the supply and utilization of energy resources, and to assist in the harmonious development of the energy sector and in an appropriate diversification of the energy base in Western Asia, in the context of national development goals and inter-Arab co-operation, devoting particular attention to the oil-importing and the least-developed countries in the region.

(b) Problem addressed

The tremendous oil and gas wealth of Western Asia is not being used in the best economic interests of the ECWA region as a whole. Misutilization or mere waste of resources still exist in oil-rich countries. Energy gaps are retarding development and are only filled at high cost in oil-poor countries, particularly the least developed among them. In all ECWA countries, total or at least heavy reliance on oil as an energy source is hindering efforts to harness other domestically available energy sources, particularly for rural and desert development.

On the other hand, there is a lack of reliable, comparable and objective information on the various aspects of the energy situation and outlook in Western Asia. In view of the vital importance of this sector to the ECWA region (mining and quarrying account for two-thirds of the region's gross domestic product) and to the world (the region supplies one-half of the world's oil needs), this problem deserves urgent treatment in order to create a sound framework for government's policy decisions.

(c) Legislative authority

E/Res/1673/(LII), operative paragraph B.2*; E/Res/1761/(LIV), operative paragraphs B(a), B(b) and B(c); A/Res/3337/(XXIX), operative paragraphs 4.6 and 8; E/Res/1954/(LIX), operative paragraphs A(a), A(b), C.8(a), C.8(b), C.8(c) and C.8(f); E/Res/2011/(LXI), operative paragraph 2; E/Res/2031/(LXI), operative paragraphs 5, 6 and 7; E/Res/2043/(LXI), operative paragraph 6; A/Res/31/119, operative paragraph 4; A/Res/31/179, operative paragraph 13; and the relevant parts concerning natural resources, science and technology, economic co-operation among developing countries and the least developed among the developing countries in A/Res/2626/(XXC), A/Res/3202/(S-VI), A/Res/3281/(XXIX) and A/Res/3362/(S-VII).

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The studies completed during 1978-1979 will form the basis for initiating towards the end of 1979 research activities on a "Strategy for expanding and intensifying inter-Arab co-operation in hydrocarbons and other energy resources".

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The strategy for 1980-1983 will be characterized by two elements. First, each main activity will consist of a study followed by a meeting of senior policy-makers in the government(s) of the country(ies) concerned. The meeting is intended to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the study and to agree on the appropriate policy measures to be taken by the government(s) concerned and their timing. Such meetings will be either held during ECWA sessions (plenary meetings or meetings of a subsidiary organ of the Commission if any) or organized independently at any suitable date and location. In one case, a follow-up is also planned, in terms of a review and appraisal exercise. Second, more professional secretariat time will be devoted to ad hoc advice to governments on

* Mandate more than five years old.

the various aspects of energy resources development, which will result in more direct usefulness to, and closer links with ECWA countries.

Expert opinion will be sought on the "Strategy" study upon which subsequently a "programme of action for an integrated inter-Arab energy and hydrocarbon economy" will be elaborated for the benefit of policy-makers and regional institutions. In the formulation of both the "Strategy" and "Programme of action", the co-operation of regional institutions working in this field will be imperative. Alongside and underlying these activities, improved and expanded "Basic energy statistics of the Arab World" and "Projections of energy demand and supply in the ECWA region" will be made available to researchers, technical departments and policy-makers.

Within the context of the "Strategy", in-depth studies will be undertaken on "Renewable energy for rural development" particularly focussing on low and non-waste technologies for the region. This study is primarily intended for concerned government departments and policy-makers.

A second dimension of the "Strategy" will be developed concerning promising fuels, such as LNG (liquefied natural gas) and NGL (natural gas liquids). An inquiry into the LNG situation and outlook in the region will be completed during the biennium.

Relevant outputs on this matter will be subjected to expert opinion and specific guidelines on the directions to take in the field of renewable energy are expected. Subsequently, an in-depth country study will be launched and the output discussed with that country's decisions-makers early in the 1982-1983 biennium.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The "Programme of action" is expected to be adopted and will be kept under constant scrutiny. Follow-up reports on progress of implementation will be undertaken biennially and discussed at intergovernmental level. Information and

projections on the region's energy supply and demand will have become more refined by the end of the biennium.

The NGL situation and outlook in the region will be investigated for the benefit of technical departments as part of the second dimension of the "Strategy" mentioned above. _____ A third dimension of the adopted "Strategy" will be developed pertaining to the Solar/Nuclear situation and outlook in the region in the context of world-economic, technological and environmental trends (for policy-makers). In follow-up to the adopted recommendations regarding this activity, solar energy potential for desert development in the region will be studied (concerned government technicians).

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that by 1981 a strategy on inter-Arab co-operation in hydrocarbons and energy will have been adopted and that by 1982 a programme of action for the implementation of this strategy will have been endorsed also together with the relevant national programmes and legislations. Moreover, as a result of the energy projections and other studies, it is expected that the hydrocarbons production programmes of the main ECWA oil-exporting countries will be reassessed periodically. Finally, it is expected that by 1983, the solar energy option will have been preferred on a region-wide basis to the nuclear option and that at least two countries will be considering concrete and operational plans for harnessing domestically available renewable energy sources for rural and arid-zone development.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 7 : Natural Resources

SUBPROGRAMME 2 : Mineral Resources Development

(a) Objective

The objective of this programme is to promote regional co-operation in the exploration and development of mineral resources and to provide the required reliable information.

(b) Problem addressed

Co-operation among the ECWA member countries in mineral resources development is hardly existent and limited to only occasional, mostly bilateral, contacts. A more extensive organized co-operation is necessary. Issues of prime importance in this field also require direct exchange of views and collective discussions among concerned policy-makers.

The information on the development of mineral resources in particular countries is not readily available to other countries in the region. In order to create a basis for and promote regional co-operation in this field, it is necessary to collect, process and disseminate the relevant information on an objective and comparable basis.

Similarly, there is a need - for the benefit of policy-makers - for regional studies and assessments of the availability and development of mineral commodities and mineral-based industries. The lack of such studies and analyses hinders the identification of intercountry and regional co-operation possibilities.

(c) Legislative authority

E/Res/2014/(LXI), operative paragraph 2; and E/Res/2043/(LXI), operative paragraph 6.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The execution of the workprogramme for 1978-1979, directed towards the assessment of the general economic aspects of mineral resources development in the region, supply and demand of mineral commodities, manpower requirements and the integration and refinement of the mineral development policies and legislation, will provide a basis for more detailed in-depth studies on the development of the main economic minerals available in the region.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

An in-depth study on the availability of raw materials for and development of the cement and gypsum-derived binding materials industry in the region will be undertaken and a report completed by the end of 1980. This will be followed by similar studies on the phosphate deposits and phosphate-based fertilizer industry and the mineral raw materials for the iron and steel industry, with resultant reports to be published in 1981.

The study of statistical data and projections on supply and demand of mineral commodities in the region will continue to be carried out on a biennial basis. The next report on the subject for 1979-1980 will be completed by the end of 1981.

In follow-up to the ECA Symposium on offshore exploration in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to be held in 1978, further initiatives in stimulating interest in evolving offshore activities will be strengthened and particular aspects may be studied in this regard.

Advisory services will be provided, on request, to Member States in the formulation and implementation of mineral development policies, relevant institutional infrastructures and economic and technical aspects.

The outputs of this biennium will consist of studies and reports on the availability of material for gypsum-derived binding materials industry; the development of the phosphate deposits and the iron and steel industry. This output is primarily intended for government technicians and experts. Statistical data and projections on mineral commodities for researchers, policy-makers and regional organizations. A report on regional co-operation aspects of offshore mineral exploration in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden for policy-makers, and regional organizations. Advisory reports at request of Member States for government technical departments.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The studies on the development of specific mineral resources such as cement, gypsum and phosphates will be subjected to expert consideration. Project proposals for regional co-operation in this regard will be developed and follow-up action towards project implementation considered and initiated through regional advisory services, reporting and assistance at the national level.

In addition, it is planned to extend the in-depth studies to other important mineral commodities and their development in the region, with the main stress to be put on non-ferrous metals.

Activities related to offshore exploration in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden should become more concrete and particular proposals may be developed.

Outputs of this period will consist of: Project proposals on the development of specific mineral resources for policy-makers; government technical departments and financial institutions; studies on the development of non-ferrous metal deposits for technical departments and reports on development aspects of offshore mineral deposits in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

- (iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

- (e) Expected impact

It is expected that the studies on the availability of economic minerals and the actual and potential development of mineral-based industries in the region as detailed above will result in identification of the possibilities for intercountry and regional co-operation in the exploration, mining, processing and marketing fields. Depending on the findings of the studies it is expected that some two regional projects should be under active consideration by the end of 1983. Moreover, it is expected that the biennial regional analysis of the market status in mineral commodities and the supply and demand projections will assist Member States in adjusting their mineral development programmes to the current trends in the mineral sector.

It is expected in this regard that some countries will have taken steps to institutionalize regular adjustment reviews of the mineral resources sector.

It is further expected that the countries bordering on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden will have initiated a process for developing the offshore mineral resources.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 7 : Natural Resources
SUBPROGRAMME 3 : Water Resources Development and Management

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is (a) to promote and intensify regional co-operation in order to conserve, develop and augment the water resources of the region in the most efficient and economic manner; and (b) to strengthen (sub) regional co-operation in the development of the resources of the sea.

(b) Problem addressed

On the one hand, the countries in the ECWA region have insufficient water resources to meet the full demand for domestic, agricultural, industrial and other uses. Misuse, waste and underdevelopment of this vital commodity seriously limit the capability of the area to achieve optimum social and economic growth. The majority of the population still lacks adequate water supply and sanitary services while water is also the limiting factor in food production. On the other hand the countries in the region share important river basins and underground water reservoirs. Intercountry and regional efforts to develop and manage common water resources have been limited and no effective regional machinery has been created for this purpose.

Past years have witnessed efforts aimed at intensifying regional co-operation for the development of the following regional seas located in the ECWA region, namely: the Mediterranean, the Gulf and the Red Sea. These efforts have yet to give way to the establishment of mechanisms for the development of these seas in terms of operational projects.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/320/(S-VI) paragraph 4; A/Res/3202/(S-VI) paragraphs 7 and 8; A/Res/2626/(XXV), CO9, para. 73-77; E/Res/2115/(LXIII) para. 1; E/Res/2121/(LXIII) para. 9(a) and 9(6) and ECWA/Res/39/(IV) para 3.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Various areas for regional co-operation in the field of water resources development and management will have been examined and evaluated.

Regional machinery for water resources development is expected to be functioning. The regional conference on water resources development to be held in 1978 will provide further directions as to follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference. Studies dealing with data processing, assessment of water resources, projections of water demand and a programme for fulfilling the manpower and training needs of the region, will have been completed in the initial stages. The Commission will further be in a position to take active and substantial part in the existing regional seas programmes.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The initial studies mentioned above and their regular updating and revision will provide guidelines for the formulation of projects. Many additional studies will also emerge as a follow-up to the recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference and the regional conference. Such studies will cover the areas of institutional arrangements, community and agricultural water supply, re-use and non-conventional sources of supply, improved efficiency in the use of water, national water policies, research and training programmes and technical co-operation among developing countries. Project proposals will be subjected to the views of experts in the region. Findings of expert-groups will provide the basis for action-oriented projects to be implemented through the established regional machinery.

The output of this period will cover:

Reports on community water supply and sanitation in the region for technical departments; guidelines on the agricultural use of water in the region for technical departments and evaluation of experience in water quality improvement and prospects in the region for government technicians and reports on regional cooperative aspects of the various seas programmes.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

This period will see a continuation of programmes required as a follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference and the regional conference. Also new and additional problems, now unforeseen, are expected to emerge as the need for water resources continues to increase because of the rapid influx of people, industry and other demands in the region. While the efforts in preceding biennium concentrated on conservation and management of water resources, current biennium will focus particularly on the prospects for increasing water by non-conventional methods for development and management.

The output in this period will cover:

Report or studies on prospects for re-using treated water (for government technicians), non-conventional methods for the development and management of water resources in the region (for government technicians) and on selected aspects of coastal development in the ECWA region (for member governments).

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

(e) Expected impact

Towards the end of 1983, it is envisaged that the regional water council or other regional machinery will be effectively functioning and will constitute

a forum for discussing, formulating and guiding regional projects. At least two projects should be under active consideration by this council at the end of the planning period.

A number of Member States are expected to have taken steps enhancing the conservation and efficient management of water resources and have initiated policies in this regard.

By 1983 a few countries will have taken measures for introducing non-conventional technologies (e.g. recycling) to supplement their water resources.

It is also expected that handling of development aspects of coastal areas will have become more institutionalized and mechanisms for development of regional seas will be fully operational.

8. Population

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 8 : Population

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Population Division in which there were 11 professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which 8 were supported from extrabudgetary (UNFPA) sources. The Division has no branches/sections or units.

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraph 10.28 (pages 3 to 19) in the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1; 1.3; 1.4; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4 and 2.5

(ii) In 1980-1981

1.1; 2.1

5. Other organizational matters

None

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal Co-ordination within the secretariat

It is expected that appropriate activities under subprogramme 2 "Population, Development and Population Policy" will be planned and co-ordinated through both the ECWA "Task force of Working Group on Regional Integration" and the "Committee on Rural Development" both to be established towards the end of the 1978-1979 biennium.

2. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations System

There are three formal co-ordination arrangements between the Population Division of ECWA and other bodies within the United Nations. First, there is the ACC Sub-Committee on Population for the overall co-ordination of work strategies of the various population programmes of the United Nations system. Second, the ACC Sub-Committee's Working Group on Estimates and Projections sets the guidelines and co-ordinates the time table for the population, labour force, and educational estimates and projections of the United Nations system. Third, the Interagency Co-ordination Committee of UNEPA (IACC) deals with the co-ordination of UNEPA assisted projects as well as with financial and technical co-operation matters. Through this machinery and direct contact, the population programme of ECWA exchanges assistance and experience with other United Nations bodies such as the Population Division of Headquarters, other regional economic commissions, and the specialized agencies.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

None

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to subprogrammes (percentage)

Subprogramme */	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Data Collection and Analysis	-	-	-	45	45	45	40	40	40
(1) Demographic Data	50	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Population Development and Policy	-	-	-	25	25	25	30	30	30
(2) Demographic Projections and Policies	50	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Population Education and Information	-	-	-	30	30	30	30	30	30
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* (1) and (2) denote the two subprogrammes appearing in paragraph 10.28 of the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6). During the medium-term plan period these two subprogrammes have been reformulated into three new subprogrammes as indicated in the table.

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 8 : Population

Subprogramme 1 : Data Collection and Analysis

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist the countries in the region in the development of sufficient and reliable national and regional demographic and related socio-economic data.

(b) Problem addressed

Although much progress has been achieved in the development of demographic and related socio-economic data in countries of the region, there is still much to be done. In some countries much of these data are either lacking or unreliable. In other countries there is a felt and pressing need for adjustment of available demographic data. Also in most countries of the region, civil registration systems are not adequate and consequently vital statistics are either unreliable or lacking and statistics of births, deaths and other vital events are subject of substantial margins of errors. With regard to censuses, there are three countries that have not had any census in recent years. Even those that have already conducted population censuses and surveys, the data are sometimes of doubtful quality and considerable demographic work is required for their adjustment. Financial constraints in some ECWA countries and manpower constraints in other have also impeded rapid development.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/1217/(XII) operative paragraph 3; E/Res/1215/(XIII) operative paragraph 2; World Population Plan of Action-operative paragraphs 72-77.

(d) Strategy and Output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Although the problem of missing or unreliable demographic and related socio-economic data will continue well beyond 1979, by the end of that year the activities listed in 4(i) (a) above as well as continuing national and international efforts will have had a marked impact on improving the situation. The proposed

studies, and conferences will lead to inter alia: (a) more up-to-date estimates; (b) greater awareness of the gaps and importance of reliable data; and (c) the compilation and dissemination of the most recent data.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

This subprogramme will be pursued through the development of national registration systems and the undertaking of national population and housing censuses and population surveys, and through data collection and analysis at the regional level, and will consist of two closely interrelated elements. The data collection element will contain two types of activities: assistance to governments in their national demographic data collection efforts and the direct undertaking of regional surveys by ECWA. The statistical and demographic analysis elements on the other hand aim at determining the reliability of existing demographic and related socio-economic data, adjusting them for increased accuracy and filling the gaps by estimates and projections.

The sequence of activities and resulting major outputs are: (a) assistance to countries in undertaking the 1980 round of censuses (technical departments); (b) assistance to countries in undertaking other population surveys, on a regional and subregional basis where the nature of the problem requires such an approach (technical departments); (d) the compilation and evaluation of population and related socio-economic data (government technicians, researchers); (e) estimates and projections to fill gaps in the available data (policy-makers); (f) the preparation of the data for use by researchers and development planners; and (g) in-depth demographic studies on specific issues of major importance to development plans in the region (policy-makers, technical departments).

The expected output is the successful completion of censuses and surveys and the publication of these results and the continuing publication and dissemination of ECWA's demographic data sheets for the countries in the region including related socio-economic data. It should be noted that these data provide benchmark estimates on such important topics as labour force distribution. Labour force activi

rates, literacy, and educational attainment of the various agencies and bodies of the United Nations. With regard to regional surveys, the output would depend on the approval by UNEFA for the undertaking and financing of the census of Palestinians, the survey of Arab Scholars and the survey of intraregional migration.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

During this period the data collection and analysis subprogramme is expected to continue but with somewhat greater attention being paid to the analysis component since substantial amounts of data are anticipated from the 1980 round of censuses and surveys. In addition, given the expansion of the population programmes work activities over the last few years, an increased demand for assistance to countries of the region is foreseen. This increased demand will include comparative analysis, further estimates and projections, socio-demographic analysis, and assistance in demographic data collection systems, such as vital registration systems. In addition, the ECWA population programme anticipates that it will be providing greater technical training in data collection and analysis techniques to the staff of member states which are expected to assist in the building and expansion of the statistical infrastructure of these countries.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

None.

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that the activities will assist the countries in the region to improve their machinery with regard to demographic data collection and analysis, and will help directly in standardizing concepts and results. Although explicit achievement indicators are difficult to specify owing to the nature of the tasks, country participation in the 1980 round of censuses and surveys and the setting up and improving of vital registration systems will provide some indication of the impact of these activities. Another indicator will be the extent to which data analyzed and disseminated by ECWA will be used.

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 8 : Population

Subprogramme 2 : Population Development and Population Policy

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist member countries in the assessment of the relationships between the various aspects of development and the current and prospective trends of the population in the region.

(b) Problem addressed

In most countries of the region, local experience in assessing the relationships between population trends and development aspects has so far been limited. Although some measure intended to facilitate the use of demographic statistics in development planning have been adopted in some countries, an integrated approach to development will necessitate the undertaking of intensive and in-depth research into the determinants and consequences of population trends. Furthermore, it is generally accepted that a comprehensive development policy cannot be effectively undertaken without due consideration being given to the population factor, and that population policy should be an important component of overall development policy and planning.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/1833/(XVII) operative paragraph 4; E/Res/1347/(XLV) operative paragraph 4 (a); E/Res/1672/(LIII) operative paragraph A-1 (a); E/Res/3362/(S-VII) operative paragraph VI (1 and 2). World Population Plan of Action operative paragraphs 78, 79 and 80.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

As with other subprogrammes, population development and population policy is a continuing one with projects and activities overlapping and interdependent with those of other subprogrammes. However, by the end of 1979 it is

expected that the proposed activities mentioned in 4(a) will help facilitate cooperation and enhance coordination of actions and programmes both between the Member Governments themselves and between them and the international community. The completion of these studies and conferences will permit future population trends to be better discerned particularly in relation to their most important impacts on development and to their most significant social and economic determinants in the context of this region's conditions. These studies and conferences are also expected to shed light on deficiencies in the integration of population factors in present development plans in the region and on ways of improving this integration.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Pursuing the subprogramme's objective will entail the undertaking of research into the determinants and consequences of population trends, advising governments and training institutions on the relationships between demographic, economic, and social aspects of development, aiding governments of the region in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of population policies and the integration of the population factor in development plans and programmes, and promoting concerted regional actions.

The following activities are planned in this regard during the biennium.

Updating of "country population profiles" in which the most recent demographic and related socio-economic data on countries of the region will be analyzed, supplemented and presented in a brief and simple form (researchers, technical departments).

The undertaking of projections of population and related socio-economic variables which will go beyond systematic and standardized projections (policy-makers, technical departments).

Studies of specific population development questions, in particular a study of population and manpower in the ECWA region, containing statistics,

estimates and projections of components of population growth, composition, and structure of labour force, educational status and attainment, and other important variables and an analysis of their interrelationships; (planners, technical departments).

Publication and dissemination of monographs on population and development and on population policy in the ECWA region which will be based on the papers presented at the Population and Development Conference and the Second Regional Population Conference (researchers, policy-makers, technical departments).

The preparation of a comparative study on "decision-making in population policy; the role of national population commissions" which will try to study the location and function of existing commissions to compare these with existing commissions elsewhere, and to identify models for establishing such commissions that are relevant to the conditions of the ECWA region (policy-makers).

The preparation of reports on the monitoring review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action in the region (policy-makers).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

During this period, there will be greater emphasis on the determinants and consequences of population phenomena as most of the censuses for the countries of the region will have been completed. For example, one study which is envisioned deals with the consequences of international migration for the countries in the region. Also, given the conferences and studies scheduled prior to this period, attempts will be made for greater coordination and harmonization of population policies at the national and regional levels.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

None.

(e) Expected impact

The activities envisaged under this objective will enable the countries in the region to adopt an integrated approach towards population problems, and will facilitate the formulation of integrated population policies in the fields of health, social welfare, income distribution, and distribution of social services. In addition, these activities will enable Governments to consolidate their efforts in the population field, which will enhance action programmes and speed economic and social development and regional integration.

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 8 : Population

Subprogramme 3 : Population Education and Information

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to increase knowledge and awareness of population questions through population, education and information activities.

(b) Problem addressed

In most countries of the region the need for demographic training has been recognized. Courses in demography and population statistics have been introduced in universities and colleges and training programmes have been launched to train officials handling population statistics. However, there is a growing need in almost every country for more trained demographers at all levels. This need has been felt not merely by departments directly concerned with censuses and statistics, but also by several other departments concerned with economic planning, housing, labour, education, public health, etc.

(c) Legislative authority

L/Res/2211/(XXI) operative paragraphs 3(a) X and 4; E/Res/1672/(LIII) operative paragraph D-4 (a).

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

At the end of 1979, the population programme anticipates to have completed a number of activities which will contribute to the increase of technically trained personnel and technical assistance and research in population and related fields. Among these activities are: The publication and dissemination of the Population Bulletin Nos. 14, 15, 16 and 17 both in English and Arabic which will contain recent demographic techniques and research results useful for training in the various institutes and universities of the region.

The publication of nineographs which contain state-of-the-art material suitable for training in demography and population studies.

The establishment of a nucleus of training staff at the Population

Division of ECWA who would assist countries in setting up and executing training programmes and would provide specialized training to trainees visiting the Population Division.

The expansion of the reference centre of the Population Division which would be available to representatives of Member States as well as various researches:

The strengthening of efforts to provide assistance in securing research grants and fellowships.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Among the major steps to be taken toward the achievement of the goals of this subprogramme are: (1) continuation of the publication of the Population Bulletin and training materials in Arabic (for training institutions, researchers); (2) continued improvements in the centre of population information (for training institutions and researchers); (3) assistance to universities and institutes in the setting up and execution of training programmes in population statistics, demography, and population studies; and (4) continuation of efforts to provide assistance in securing research grants, fellowships, and aid to potential candidates.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

During this biennium the population programme will continue to assist in the development and strengthening of national and regional facilities for training research, information and advisory services in the field of population. In addition, there will be continuation in the publication of relevant technical information (both in English and Arabic) and the securing of grants for local researches and potential advanced-level students.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

None.

(e) Expected impact

The planned activities are expected to enable the Governments in the region to introduce more and better training programmes in demography and population studies. The regional training programme will permit graduate and specialized training in population data collection, analysis, and research in Arabic and in the context of regional conditions. The development of a regional information centre within the Population Division of ECWA will provide a valuable research facility for researchers both in the region and abroad. In general, the activities envisaged will mobilize people and resources, increasing the supply of technically trained personnel and action-oriented research in the region and will bring regional and international experience and cooperation to bear on national population issues.

9. Development Finance and Administration

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 9 : Development Finance and Administration

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Development Planning Division in which there were seven professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which one was supported from extrabudgetary sources. As of 1 January 1978, the Division has the following five substantive programmes: Development Planning Projections and Policies; International Trade and Development; Development Finance and Administration; Labour, Management and Employment; and, Transnational Corporations*. Of the five programmes of the Division, only the Transnational Corporations Programme is accommodated with a sub-divisional arrangement at the 'Unit' level. The remaining four programmes are managed within the Development Planning Division without a corresponding sub-divisional set up.

The staff situation in the Development Finance and Administration Programme on 31 December 1977 was as follows:

P r o g r a m m e	P r o f e s s i o n a l S t a f f		
	IB	XB	Total
Development Finance and Administration	2 ^{**/}	-	2 ^{**/}

* Reference documents A/31/6/Add.1 and A/32/6.

** Only one professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977.

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

Nil

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraphs 10.30 to 10.33 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1; 1.2; 1.4

(ii) In 1980-1981

1.1; 1.3

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None.

5. Other organizational matters

Programme formulation and implementation can be rendered more effective if individual programmes are identified with sections/units within the Division.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal Co-ordination within the Secretariat

It is expected that all the Commission's activities related to rural development will be planned and formally coordinated through a Secretariat "Committee on Rural Development". Activities in this programme related to or touching upon the administrative aspects of rural development will be coordinated through this committee.

2. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations System

None.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

Significant joint activities are expected to be developed with the Division

of Public Administration and Finance, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

This programme comprises, at present, one subprogramme for budgetary purposes. The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to the subprogramme is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme *	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Mobilization and Management of Financial Resources and Improvement of Administrative Capabilities for Planned Development	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* In the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (L/32/6) this programme consisted of two subprogrammes entitled 1. Financial Mobilization and Budgetary Development and 2. Sustaining Administrative and Institutional capacity for development in the Region. These two subprogrammes have been reformulated under the indicated title.

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 9 : Development Finance and Administration
Subprogramme 1 : Mobilization and Management of Financial Resources
and Improvement of Administrative Capabilities for
Planned Development.

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist Governments of ECWA member countries to develop their capabilities in formulating and implementing sound policies for the mobilization, allocation and management of their financial resources and for the strengthening of their public administration systems for development.

(b) Problein addressed

The past decade has witnessed a rapidly increasing and active role of the governments in the process of economic and social development in the countries of Western Asia. This has been accompanied by efforts aimed at formulating appropriate policies for an integrated development strategy to be implemented through comprehensive plans and programmes. The recent rapid growth in public revenues, especially in the oil-producing countries of the region, has added impetus to this process. However, despite the unprecedented high level of government activities in various economic and social sectors and the rapid increase in financial resources, government financial and administrative systems in almost all countries of the region are yet to be developed and adapted to the growing and complicated requirements of development plans and programmes. The major problem areas of concern under this programme are outlined as follows:

- Assessment of financial flows and estimation of financial requirements of development plans and programmes are seldom dealt with in detail

as an integral part of the planning and programming exercise. Financial planning suffers from serious conceptual and methodological shortcomings in almost all countries of the region. Annual financial plans, where available, remain limited in scope and weak in terms of the linkages of their components and the **dynamic** interrelation between these components and the physical aspects of development plans and programmes. The existing gaps, the resulting inconsistencies, and the lack of policy options have often created imbalances affecting plan implementation and the achievement of its goals.

- Development plans and programmes in countries of Western Asia have been providing for an increasing share of public sector outlays towards achieving the objectives envisaged in various fields. Government budgetary systems suffer from major shortcomings in almost all countries of the region. They are characterised by weaknesses in terms of concepts, techniques, coverage and purpose, as well as, in their linkages with the process of planning. Inadequacies in the accounting and auditing systems have added to the ineffectiveness of the budget as an instrument of public policy.

- The rapidly growing share of government outlays (both recurrent and development) has prompted governments to accord a serious examination of their revenue systems. New sources of finance have been explored along with efforts made to improve the yield of the traditional sources. Despite these efforts, however, the performance of the revenue system, in general, and of the tax system, in particular, leaves much room for improvement in terms of structure and administration, whether seen from the view point of yield, resource allocation, income distribution and/or stabilization objectives.

- Efforts at planning and programming the process of development in countries of the region have compelled governments to establish and develop the necessary institutional framework with adequate technical and administrative capabilities. Despite these efforts, however, plan formulation, implementation and evaluation in almost all countries of the region suffer, inter-alia, from institutional weaknesses and inadequacy of technical and managerial skills. Deficiencies in the traditional administrative system have further added to the problem. Stipulations made at remedying these shortcomings have remained very general in nature.

(c) Legislative authority

The legislative authority for this subprogramme is:

A/Res/2626 (XXV)*, operative paragraph 41; 2561 (XXIV)*, operative paragraph 4; 2562 (XXIV)*, operative paragraph 2; 2563 (XXIV), operative paragraph 1; and resolution 3202 (S-VI) Section II, 2(g).

E/Res/1632 (LI), operative paragraph 3; 1633 (LI), operative paragraph 2; 1977 (LIX), operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3; and, resolution 2018 (LXI), operative paragraph 2(a) and (b).

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Two studies will be completed on: (1) Financial planning in selected countries of Western Asia, and, (2) Tax structure change and economic

*/ Mandate more than five years old.

development in selected countries of Western Asia. Two reports will be prepared on: (1) Annual review and assessment of trends and developments in public finance in the region; and, (2) The fourth review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy in the field of development finance for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The study on financial planning will be the first of two studies on the subject. The study on the reform of the tax systems in the countries of the region will be submitted to a working group meeting on tax reform planning in Western Asia, to be held late in 1979. The studies and reports are aimed at assisting in the development of appropriate guidelines for policy action to be initiated by governments in the region as well as by organizations involved in the above fields at the national and regional levels.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

During the biennium, efforts will concentrate on a number of activities aimed at contributing towards the fulfillment of the objective envisaged under the 1980-1983 medium-term plan. Work on financial planning (second study) will continue and cover the remaining countries of the region. It will culminate in holding a regional meeting aimed at establishing guidelines for instituting comprehensive financial planning as an integral part of development plans and programmes. As a continuation of efforts in tax reform planning, the follow-up action to the recommendations of the working group meeting, to be held in 1979, will be closely monitored and evaluated. This will be supplemented by studies to be conducted on major taxes, institutional and administrative needs and problems confronting the countries concerned.

Work will be initiated on the interrelationship between government budget and the accounting and auditing systems as related to project formulation, implementation and evaluation. Similarly, efforts will also concentrate on examining the various aspects of the public administration systems (central and local) in selected countries of the region, with a view to delineating specific areas for further analysis. These activities are expected to result in the following major outputs:

- The scope of and problems in financial planning in countries of Western Asia (study, primarily intended for member Governments).
- The interrelationship between government budgets, accounts and audit systems (study, primarily intended for government authorities concerned).
- Administration of major taxes in selected countries of Western Asia (study, primarily intended for government authorities concerned).
- Administrative reform planning in Western Asia (study, primarily intended for government authorities concerned).
- Seminar on financial planning in countries of Western Asia (intended for member countries, national, regional and international organizations involved).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Efforts during this biennium will follow the strategy described under (ii) above and, hence, concentrate on specific activities with the following major outputs:

- Financial and managerial aspects of public enterprises in selected countries of Western Asia. (study)

- Prospects for tax harmonization among the countries of Western Asia (study).
- Working group meeting on the role of public enterprises in the the process of development in the region.
- Civil service systems and needs in selected countries of Western Asia.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

None.

(e) Expected impact

No objective indicators of the impact of this subprogramme are possible to establish at this stage. It is, however, expected that the activities specified above under the strategy for the subprogramme, and the corresponding output, will provide specific guidelines to assist the Governments of member countries in initiating appropriate policy measures and programmes aimed at:

(i) formulating comprehensive financial plans (medium- and short-term) and improving the concepts and techniques used; (ii) remedying the institutional, conceptual and administrative weaknesses which characterize government budgetary accounts and audit systems and increasing their effectiveness as an important tool in planning; (iii) institutionalizing the tax system, designing the individual taxes to be compatible with the prevailing socio-economic structures and development objectives and priorities, and improving the administrative capabilities needed for their effective implementation; and, (iv) systematically increasing the technical, managerial and administrative capacities of the public administration system with particular emphasis on areas relating to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development plans and programmes.

10. Science and Technology

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 10 : Science and Technology

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division in which there were nine professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which none was supported from extra-budgetary sources. The Division had no branches/sections/units as of 31 December 1977. The staff situation on 31 December 1977 in this programme was as follows:

Programme	Professional Staff		
	RB	XB	Total
Science and Technology	2	-	2

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None.

4. Expected completion and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraphs 10.34 to 10.36 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/5) are expected to

be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

1.1 (continuing activity), 2.1, 3.1 and, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, programme element 3.3 is expected to be completed. Due to ACABQ cuts, the implementation of programme element 2.2 will be limited in scope unless the extrabudgetary resources allocated to it are becoming available.

(ii) In 1980-1981

3.2, 3.4

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None.

5. Other organizational matters

The multidisciplinary and cross-divisional nature of the programme and the increasing importance attached by member states to the transfer and development of technology, may require towards the end of the medium-term period a review of the present administrative set-up under which the Science and Technology programme is discharged (e.g. separate entity).

B. Coordination

1. Formal coordination within the Secretariat

(a) Activities dealing with Science and Technology at the farm level will be planned and coordinated through the Secretariat "Committee on Rural Development" to be established towards the end of 1979.

(b) The ECWA "Working Group on Food Security" will coordinate the activities related to the technological aspects of food security.

2. Formal coordination within the United Nations System

Within the context of joint UNEP/ECWA programming and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between UNEP and ECWA in this regard,

activities related to appropriate and environmentally-sound technologies within the context of the envisaged Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, will be coordinated or jointly undertaken with UNEP.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

Apart from joint activities to be undertaken with other units of the ECWA Secretariat, it is expected that significant joint activities will be undertaken with UNCTAD, UNIDO, WIPO, FAO, UNESCO, ILO and ECA in the strengthening of the technological capacities of the countries of the region through the planned Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology. Joint activities are further expected to be undertaken with the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology and Office for Science and Technology with respect to follow-up on the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table : Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme*	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. "Regional co-operation in the Transfer and Development of Science and Technology	-	-	-	100	100	100	100	100	100
(a) Regional co-operation in Science and Technology	38	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Transfer, development and choice of technology	29	68	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Application of science & technology in selected sectors	33	32	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* (a) through (c) denote the three subprogrammes appearing in paragraph 10.35 of the Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6). Under the 1980-1983 medium-term plan these three subprogrammes are to be amalgamated into one subprogramme entitled "Regional Cooperation in the Transfer and Development of Science and Technology".

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 10 : Science and Technology
Subprogramme 1 : Regional Cooperation in the Transfer and Development
of Science and Technology

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to (i) promote regional cooperation in the transfer and development of science and technology; and (ii) to assist the governments of member states in their efforts to: strengthen their technological capacities, establish and follow up on appropriate national and regional institutions and formulate policies and procedures for the selection of appropriate technologies.

(b) Problem addressed

Science and technology planning has not been given proper attention and importance and, in most cases, is not integrated in the overall national planning exercise of the member countries. The choice of appropriate technology has significant effects on the various aspects of economic development, and the interdependence between science and technology and development planning is of vital importance to the member countries. Moreover, the strengthening of technological capacities in the member countries necessitates the establishment and/or strengthening of appropriate national and regional institutions, most of which are non-existent in the ECWA region. Finally, the present level of application of new and appropriate technologies to various sectors is extremely low in all ECWA countries even though such technologies are important means for achieving rapid resource development.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3201(S-VI) operative paragraph 4(p); A/Res/3202 (S-VI), operative paragraphs IV(a), IV(b), IV(c), IV(d), IV(e) and VII(h), E/Res/1900(LVII), operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 6; A/Res/3362 (S-VII), part III; E/Res/2028(LXI), operative paragraphs 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), and E/Res/2034(LXI), operative paragraphs (a) and (b).

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

In the event the Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology is established, it is expected to contribute to the strengthening of the Arab countries' technological capacities and to promote regional co-operation in this field. The expected completion of studies during the 1978-1979 programme biennium and the convening of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, coupled with the published proceedings of ECWA's Seminar on Technology Transfer and Change in the Arab Middle East (1978), are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the importance of, and the necessity for science and technology planning to be integrated in development planning, to the regulation of the transfer of technology, the gradual development of self-reliance of these countries in this field, and finally to recommendations which could lay down the foundations and orientation of future programmes in science and technology.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

After the 1978-1979 biennium, the strategy to be followed and the major outputs during 1980-1981 would be mainly dictated by the results of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (1979) and the priorities of the member countries in this field. In addition, work on the mechanisms for establishing the transfer and development of technology, including the proposed Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, and other new national centres, will necessitate follow-up and support, especially in the early stages of the Centre's operation.

The programme's framework during the biennium will be characterized by the following sequence of activities: -i- collection, processing and dissemination of basic data and relevant information on science and technology for the

countries in the region.

Output: Biennial review of the status of science and technology in the ECWA region for researchers, concerned government departments: -ii- Follow-up on the institutional mechanisms for the transfer and development of technology,

Output: First evaluation report on the progress achieved and difficulties encountered in the establishment, operation and management of the Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology and other similar national centres in the region (for Member Governments). Other output could be expected in the light of subsequent developments on this subject. -iii- selected aspects of technology choice.

Output: A new case study report will be prepared, -iv- Follow-up on the findings of the Expert-Meeting on Regional Cooperation in Computer Applications.

Output: Report on the usage of computer technology for resource development.

Withing the context of the Secretariat's work on rural development and food security, efforts will be focussed also on science and technology at the farm level and technological and aspects of food security.

Outputs in this regard will consist of studies or reports on appropriate technology at the farm level and on the technological dimension of food security problems in the ECWA region.

Other programme elements emanating from the results and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development will constitute a significant part of the strategy to be followed in 1980-1981 and will, to a large extent, determine the other major outputs of this biennium.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The intended strategy for this biennium consists of preparing in-depth studies on issues dealing with the transfer, development and application of technology, supporting regional and national institutions for the transfer and development of technology, following-up on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, organizing and attending meetings and seminars in this field.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the Legislation requiring them:

None.

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that by 1983 the Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology will be fully operational; this institution is expected to serve all Arab countries and contribute to the strengthening of their technological capacities. Furthermore, the impact of the programme should also be felt by the support to and establishment of new national centres which will be part of the institutional network for the transfer and development of technology. No other objective and verifiable indicators of the impact of this subprogramme are possible at this stage, but it is expected that the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (1979) and the experience gained by member States in preparing national papers for and participating in the meetings of and preparatory to the Conference will lead to a start in the integration of science and technology planning in the overall national and regional planning, a better choice of appropriate technologies, effective measures for regulating the transfer of technology, and to gradual self-reliance in the technological field. Furthermore,

all the above activities are likely to result in an increase of the absorptive technological capacities of member countries, leading eventually to a more balanced and effective application of science and technology to development.

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11. Social Development

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Programme 11 : Social Development

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Social Development and Human Settlement Division in which there were 9 professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which 1 was supported from extrabudgetary sources. The staff situation in the Social Development Programme on 31 December 1977 was as follows:

Programme	Professional staff		
	RB	XB	Total
Social Development	4	1	5

3. Divergencies between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None.

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraphs 10.37 to 10.38 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979: 1.1; 1.3; 1.4; 2.4; 2.5; 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 4.3; and 4.4.

(ii) In 1980-1981: 2.1; 4.1; and 4.2.

(b) Consequent reorganizations

None.

5. Other organizational matters

Programme element 1.2; is deferred to the 1981-1982 biennium.

Programme element 5.1; is discontinued.

Programme element 2.2; is deferred to the 1982-1983 biennium.

Programme element 2.3; is also deferred to the 1982-1983 biennium.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal co-ordination within the Secretariat

(a) It is expected that towards the end of the programme biennium 1978-1979 a "Committee on Rural Development" will be established. Activities related to subprogramme 2 "Integrated Rural and Community Development" will be co-ordinated through this committee.

(b) An ECWA "Working Group on Food Security" will be operational towards the end of the programme biennium. Activities dealing with urban and rural co-operatives in relation to food security in the region to be carried out under subprogramme 2. "Integrated Rural and Community Development" will be co-ordinated through this working group.

2. Formal Co-ordination within the United Nations System

ECWA is a member of the United Nations Interagency Working Group on the Advancement of Women which co-ordinates women programmes. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and ECWA have co-ordinated policies with regard to field studies, advisory services and training programmes in the field of women. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Women and ECWA have co-ordinated project proposals for women in the region.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

Apart from significant joint activities to be undertaken with other units of the ECWA Secretariat, no significant joint activities are expected at this stage with other units in the United Nations System.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table: Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme	1973-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Social Integration and Change*	-	100	71	60	50	55	50	50	50
(a) Participation of youth	22	-	-						
(b) Integration of women	22	-	-						
(c) Developmental social welfare	22	-	-						
(d) Absorptive capacity	-								
2. Integrated Rural and Community Development**	34	-	29	40	50	45	50	50	50
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Subprogramme 1 combines, for the 1980-1983 period, the 1973-1979 subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, and 5 referred to in Document A/32/6 paragraph 10.38.

** Subprogramme 2 was included as subprogramme 4 in Document A/32/6 paragraph 10.38.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 11 : Social Development
Subprogramme 1 : Social Integration and Change

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist Governments in the formulation of policies and plans aiming at the acceleration of social integration and change paying considerable attention to plans and programmes intended for integrating youth, women and disadvantaged groups in national development.

(b) Problem addressed

The potentialities of youth, women and disadvantaged groups have only been developed to a limited extent due, in large part, to the absence of comprehensive policies and plans aiming at the integration and participation of youth, women and disadvantaged groups in national development. The lack of such comprehensive policies and plans aggravates problems such as unproductive employment, ineffective vocational and technical training schemes for youth and women, a narrow interpretation of services for social integration and welfare, and ineffective institutional machinery for the delivery of services to marginal, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3517 (XXX) - operative paragraphs 6, 7, 45.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The biennium 1978-1979 will witness efforts directed towards the compilation of surveys, studies and statistical data on the situation of youth, women and developmental social services in the region. Several studies will be undertaken to provide sectoral national planners in the region with adequate information for subsequent assessment and identification of problem areas with regard to social integration and change.

At the end of 1979, the Division should be in a position to start assessing and identifying existing impediments and social factors hindering the social integration of population groups. A regional conference on women to be held in 1978 to be attended by experts and planners is expected to ratify a regional plan of action. The Division will assist two countries in the region in the implementation of some recommendations, emanating from the Regional Plan of Action for Women. Also, assistance to two countries will be provided in the establishment of national machineries responsible for programmes for women's advancement and integration in society. In addition, an assessment of the work programmes as well as the organizational structure of women's organizations of two countries in the region in the light of the Regional Plan of Action will have been carried out for the benefit of policy-makers in these countries. A Regional Seminar on Developmental Social Services will be held in 1979 and will be attended by experts and social development planners in the region to evaluate and assess social welfare requirements and resources for the social integration of population groups. Policy guidelines and recommendations emanating from case studies, surveys and reports will be presented to social development planners, experts and policy-makers for possible adoption.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The biennium 1980-1981 will witness efforts by the Division towards providing two countries in the region with guidelines for developmental social services for youth and women, for concerned government departments and policy-makers. Elaborate guidelines designed to formulate policy for the active participation of youth, women and vulnerable groups will be formulated for the benefit of policy-makers. The Division will also continue identifying much needed programmes and projects which facilitate social integration and change. Ostensibly, data collection is a necessary and continuing activity for government departments, researchers. Policy guidelines for the training of women leaders will be

formulated and given consideration by expert-groups for further elaboration and analysis. The guidelines will deal with methods of institutional organizations, popular participation and project planning for government departments, national women-organizations. The Division will also prepare for and participation in the World Conference on Women and consult with policy planners and experts in the region in this regard.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The biennium 1982-1983 will witness efforts by the Division towards the translation of guidelines into action programmes for the integration of youth, women and disadvantaged groups in two or three countries in the region. The emphasis will be on the development of projects proposals for possible adoption. Expert opinion will be sought regarding the development of social services for the relevant population groups. Advisory services and training programmes will be geared to the examination of policy aspects and reform of the developmental social welfare systems in two or three countries in the region.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them:

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that one or two countries in the region will increasingly provide for and initiate development-oriented action programmes for the effective in integration and active participation of youth, women and vulnerable groups in national development. The envisaged activities and outputs will assist one or two governments in the region in their appraisals of social change and provide alternative solutions to problems of social integration and resource distribution. The awareness of alternative solutions is expected to lead to reform of the social service systems. Some countries are expected to have initiated reform policies in this regard towards the end of the biennium.

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 11 : Social Development
Subprogramme 2 : Integrated Rural and Community Development

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist Governments in the promotion of integrated rural and community development policies and plans aiming at a balance rural development; the proper formulation and implementation of integrated rural development schemes and the strengthening of existing rural institutions.

(b) Problem addressed

Scarce attention is being paid at present by Governments in the region to plans and projects which would eventually lead to a comprehensive development of the rural sector and to an increase in the participation of the rural population in the development process. For the most part, rural development and community development projects in the countries in the region have mainly been of an ad hoc or of a sectoral nature. Consequently, there is a need (which has not been fully recognized by the countries in the region) for initiating an integrated approach to rural development which would improve the quality of life of the rural population and which necessitates the strengthening of existing rural institutions and/or the building of new ones.

(c) Legislative authority

A/Res/3517 (XXX) - operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 45.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

The biennium 1978-1979 will witness efforts by the Division in the compilation of data on existing rural development and community development projects and programmes in the region. By the end of 1979, the Division will have undertaken surveys and studies to provide guidelines and information which assist

in formulating proposals for an integrated rural and community development policy. The data collected and surveys undertaken will be provided to rural development experts in the region as a first phase in the assessment of rural development projects and schemes. An interagency workshop on the role of communication in integrated rural development will be held to train government officials in the effective use of communication and its role in integrated rural development. The Division will prepare for and participate in the world Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development scheduled for 1979 in Rome.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

This biennium will witness efforts by the Division in further data collection and identification of problem areas in the field of integrated rural and community development (for researchers, technical departments). Further studies will be undertaken on assessment of existing community and rural development schemes in one or two countries in the region (for policy-makers, government technicians). Assessment reports on the institutions, services and national machineries required for integrated rural and community development in two countries in the region will also be undertaken for the benefit of national planners and policy-makers. Advisory services will augment the training programmes on the role of communication in integrated rural development (experts in the field, extension workers).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

This biennium will witness efforts by the Division in further data compilation on existing rural development projects, advising agricultural ministry experts and rural development and community development experts in the assessment of existing rural institutions, training programmes, etc. Two studies will be undertaken to analyze the available services and institutions servicing rural areas in the region. The assessments mentioned above will lead to the

provision of policy guidelines for consideration by experts in the region. The policy guidelines can lead to alternative solutions to be discussed by rural development planners in order to initiate reform measures in the context of integrated rural and community development. Policy guidelines will be presented to a Workshop on Land Reform in 1982. Further guidelines will be presented to an Intergovernmental Meeting on Rural Development scheduled for 1983.

(e) Expected impact

It is expected that some countries in the region will increasingly include and provide for an integrated approach to rural development and it is expected that better national (co-ordination) bodies will be established for concerted action for effective integrated rural development projects.

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Statistics

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 12 : Statistics

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental Review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body, but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Statistics Unit in which there were four professional staff on board as of 31 December of which none were supported from extrabudgetary sources.

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None

4. Expected completion and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraphs 10.40 to 10.41 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979:

1.1; 1.2; 1.5 (i) and 1.6 (i); (ii) (iv)

(ii) In 1980-1981:

1.3; 1.4 (i); 1.5 (ii); 1.6(iii) and 1.7

(b) Consequent reorganizations

The above expected completion dates do not cause any need for reorganization of the programme.

5. Other organizational matters

The programme has two subprogrammes. Programme elements 1.5; 1.7 and 1.8 of subprogramme 1 under the 1978-1979 Programme Budget are included under subprogramme 2 under the 1980-1981 Medium-term Plan. Programme element 1.6 is now spread over subprogramme 1 and subprogramme 2 under the 1980-1983 medium plan.

In addition, the following chronological changes in the programme elements will take place:

1.3, 1.4(i), 1.5(ii), 1.6(iii) and 1.7 are no more included in the 1978-1979 biennium and are now included in the 1980-1981 biennium. 1.3 and 1.7 start in 1978-1979 and are completed in 1980-1981. 1.4(ii), 1.4(iii) and 1.8 are now included in the 1982-1983 biennium.

B. Coordination

1. Formal co-ordination within the Secretariat

Formal coordination will be instituted to achieve the maximum possible pooling and consolidation of statistical activities within the ECWA Secretariat under the umbrella of the Statistics Programme.

2. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations System. In accordance with a written agreement between ECWA and ECA, the Statistics Unit has been receiving statistical information on the African Arab Countries from ECA. However, a new agreement should be reached whereby Statistics staff from ECWA will be able to visit these countries for data collection. It is also expected to conclude a formal agreement with the UN Statistical Office for the implementation of the household survey capability programme in the ECWA region.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983: It is expected to organize and conduct joint training activities with the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait (a UNDP project for which ECWA is the executing agency).

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes. The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogramme is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table: Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Development Statistical Services *	85	83	85	65	-	65	70	-	70
(2) Real Income Comparisons of the EECWA Countries*	15	17	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Development of National Accounts, Finance & Price Statistics	-	-	-	35	-	35	30	-	30
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Beginning with the biennium 1980-1981, programme elements 1.5, 1.7 and 1.8 will be detached from subprogramme 1 and included in the "National Accounts, Finance & Price Statistics" subprogramme.

** Beginning with the biennium 1980-1981 this activity will be included in the "National Accounts, Finance & Price Statistics" subprogramme.

Programme 12: Statistics

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

Subprogramme 1: Development Statistical Services

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist in the development of statistics and statistical services of the countries of the ECWA region as well as of the ECWA Secretariat.

(b) Problem addressed

Countries of the ECWA region are desperately in need of internationally comparable statistics so they can sharpen their perspectives by making comparisons with developments in other countries in appraising and reviewing their economic and social progress within an international setting. Progress towards this end has been hampered by lack of comparable statistics emanating from the various ECWA countries. This lack is a natural result of the weaknesses of the statistical systems in most ECWA countries. Among the main factors contributing to this situation are the lack of expertise, serious staff shortages and recruitment problems in the national statistical services of the region. Member States of ECWA as well as other Arab regional institutions, suffering from lack of adequate statistical information needed by planners, policy-makers and administrators at both the national and regional levels, have expressed the pressing need to deal with this serious problem.

At the country, as well as the regional level, policy-makers and planners in the past years, have concentrated their efforts on economic growth. This is reflected in the progress made in various fields of economic statistics. In recent years, the issues related to the quality of life and social equity have also become of concern to planners, policy-makers and those responsible for administering and monitoring national and regional programmes designed to deal with these

issues. There is, therefore, a need to engage in the development of social statistics, social indicators, statistics on children and youth and statistics on housing. The need also exists for engaging in the development of statistics on the distribution of income, consumption and wealth. The latter has assumed particular urgency since the present inflationary trends have implications on the distribution of real income within and among countries of the ECWA region.

Recent events have heightened the widespread concern about likely foreseeable future shortages in energy and natural resources. The need for statistical data on energy and primary commodities, on flows of trade and on prices, both at the national and international levels, have become stronger and more urgent.

(c) Legislative authority

The principal authority for these activities is to be found in

(i) A/Res/resolution 2563 (XXIV) operative paragraph 1; (ii) E/Res 1556(1) operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 6; (iii) E/Res/1818(LV) operative paragraph 1.C; and (iv) ECWA/Res/41(iv) operative paragraphs 1 and 2.

(d) Strategy and output

This subprogramme aims at assisting the ECWA countries in developing their statistical information services, in identifying and filling gaps in the statistical base, in providing support to existing national and regional training centres through participation in their training programmes and the provision of advisory services in curriculum development, and in stimulating co-operative action at the regional level for identifying and meeting common needs and problems. The strategy to be followed consists of studying the existing national statistical systems in the region, identifying their weaknesses, suggesting methods of improving and expanding the systems and assisting in the implementation of these methods. It includes the collection, compilation, evaluation, processing and dissemination of statistical information and the development of adequate and reliable statistical

series and indicators on the demographic, social and economic aspects of the countries in the region. This will necessitate extensive travel to the countries of the region and conducting studies, training workshops and seminars in economic and social statistics, international trade statistics and energy statistics as well as rendering technical assistance and advisory services in sample surveys, censuses and statistical methodology to the Member States. It will further include the maintenance of a computer-based file on demographic, economic and social statistics.

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

At the end of 1979 a comprehensive assessment of the existing national statistical systems will be completed and submitted to the First Meeting of Statisticians of the ECWA region for study and recommendations. Data will have been collected through a questionnaire designed for identifying gaps and for providing indicators to be included in the Statistical Abstract of the Arab World. Technical assistance and advisory services in sample surveys, censuses and statistical methodology will have been rendered to all Governments requesting it.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Recommendations adopted by the First Meeting of Statisticians will be followed up with a view to assisting the countries to develop their statistical information services and to improve the timelines, subject coverage, consistency and inter-country comparability of data. The Programme's efforts will be more effective and resourceful as a result of building up a computer-based file on demographic, economic and social statistics to serve as a major source of statistical information for the substantive divisions of the ECWA Secretariat as well as for governments, regional institutions, planners and researchers. An improved questionnaire will be developed and a more up-to-date and improved Statistical Abstract of the Arab World will be published. An International Trade Yearbook of the Arab World

and a Compendium on Energy Statistics will be published for the benefit of the ECWA countries, ECWA substantive divisions and researchers. The Second Meeting of Statisticians of the ECWA region will review the progress of work and adopt relevant recommendations. Advisory services to the ECWA countries in sample surveys, censuses and statistical methodology as well as support and guidance to existing national and regional statistical training centers will continue throughout the biennium.

(iv) The biennium 1982-1983

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Second Meeting of Statisticians of the ECWA region, improved issues of the Statistical Abstract, Compendium on Energy Statistics and International Trade Yearbook of the Arab World will be programmed. The implementation of the United Nations standard classifications in trade, industry and energy in the countries of the region will be further pursued, while substantive support to statistical training centers in the region will be strengthened as to produce more cadres in order to solve the problem of shortage of trained personnel in the region. Advisory services in statistics and statistical methodology to the countries requesting such services will be maintained.

(e) Expected impact

This subprogramme is expected to satisfy the rapidly growing and persistent demand by the substantive divisions of the ECWA Secretariat as well as the regional institutions for demographic, economic and social statistics by providing reliable and comparable national statistical series, regional data and indicators pertaining to all the demographic, economic and social aspects of the countries in the region.

Through the Meetings of Statisticians of the ECWA region, this subprogramme aims at assisting some countries in the region in adopting practical measures leading to the improvement of their statistical systems and services. Thus, it is expected that by 1984 some of the ECWA countries that have not yet adopted some

of the United Nations classifications, will have implemented measures recommended by the Meeting of Statisticians including the use of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and the forthcoming Harmonized System being developed by the Customs Co-operation Council. It is also expected that some of the least developed countries in the region which have very poor statistical systems, will be able to produce and publish essential statistical information not available so far. By 1983, it is expected that around five countries of the region will have improved their statistical systems and their household sample survey capabilities.

Programme 12: Statistics

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia

SUBPROGRAMME 2 : Development of National Accounts, Finance and Price Statistics

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist countries in the region in developing their national accounts, finance and price statistics and in implementing the United Nations System of National Accounts and system of price statistics, and to study the international real income comparisons of the ECWA countries.

(b) Problem addressed

More than nine years have passed since the publication of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA). Considerable efforts have been made by some national statistical offices in the region in co-operation with the ECWA Secretariat to develop some of the accounts recommended in the SNA. However, some ECWA countries do not yet have a system of national accounts and do not publish their national accounts. Thus countries need assistance in introducing and using the SNA and in applying it to improve and expand basic statistics.

Within countries, national accounts statistics provide important indicators required for assessing and appraising the economic growth and framework for development-policy formulation. The dissemination of national accounts statistics is to be used: by countries, to compare their development with that of other countries; and by international organizations, especially within the United Nations family, to assess the progress achieved in the Second Development Decade.

The unusually high rise in prices in the ECWA countries during the past few years and its corresponding effect on the magnitude of the gross domestic product estimates have rendered the classical time-to-time comparisons of the gross domestic

products of any one country quite misleading for assessing economic growth. The use of such estimates for country-to-country comparisons has been even more misleading, since the problem is further complicated by the use of official exchange rates, which usually do not reflect the relative purchasing power of currencies, in converting estimates from one national currency to another.

Furthermore, the unusually high rise in prices in the ECWA countries, whose major population consists of traditional farmers, labourers and white-collar city workers, has led many Governments to intervene by fixing the prices of essential food commodities and gasoline. Thus, a good part of their budgets provides for subsidies, with prices losing their meaning. With the lack of adequate studies on prices and the effect of their fluctuation, Governments adopted spontaneous unplanned economic policies with undesirable effects.

This situation calls for a carefully planned co-ordinated system of price and quantity statistics, as well as a system of reasonably accurate comparisons of intercountry differences in production, incomes and purchasing power of currencies.

(c) Legislative authority

The principal authority for these activities is to be found in the following:

(i) A/Res/2563(XXIV) operative paragraph 1; E/Res/1566/L) operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 6; (iii) E/Res/1818 (LV) operative paragraph 1.C and (iv) ECWA/Res/41/IV operative paragraphs 1 and 2.

(d) Strategy and output

The strategy to be followed in this connexion comprises of activities aimed at assisting countries in the region to introduce and use the SNA as well as introduce and use a co-ordinated system of price and quantity statistics. The strategy also includes assisting the countries in the adoption of comparable

methodological principles (standard definitions, classifications, etc.) and the introduction of comparable valuation with regard to the aggregates estimated in value terms of national currencies. It further include the maintenance of a computer-based file on national accounts, finance and price statistics in a form suitable for retrieval by the substantive divisions of the ECWA Secretariat, the regional institutions and researchers.

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

At the end of 1979, a series of national accounts estimates for the ECWA countries will be available in the ECWA Secretariat and few bulletins on national accounts will have been published thus facilitating the work of analysis in economic and social planning and programming. A training workshop on estimates of national accounts at constant prices will have been held and trainees will have started applying the methodology discussed in their respective countries. A study will also have been published on the existing price statistics in the ECWA region. The Programme will have participated in the national and regional training programmes in national accounts and will have rendered advisory services in national accounts, finance and price statistics. It is expected also that one of the least-developed countries in the region will have adopted the SMA.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

The series of national accounts estimates will be developed and expanded further and a National Accounts Yearbook of the ECWA countries will be published. A working group on statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation in the ECWA countries will be held, and studies will be launched on the comparative costs of living in the ECWA countries and on the feasibility of introducing an integral system of price and quantity statistics and a system of international comparisons of gross product and purchasing power in the ECWA region. Technical assistance will be rendered to requesting governments in national accounts, finance and price statistics. At least two additional countries

are expected to adopt the SNA.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The National Accounts Yearbook will be expanded and improved and a report on the real income comparisons between the ECWA countries will be issued and submitted to the ECWA countries and the Meeting of Statisticians of the ECWA region. A seminar on price index numbers in the context of comparisons of real incomes and purchasing power parities of the ECWA countries will be held. The adoption of comparable methodological principles by the countries in the region will be pursued. Participation in national and regional training programmes and advisory services to the Member States will continue.

(e) Expected impact

This subprogramme represents a step towards the achievement of the long-term goal of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order insofar as it facilitates the work of analysis in economic and social planning and programming. The Statistics Unit has already contributed to the adoption of the SNA by some Member States. It is expected that at least five more countries will be able to adopt the system by the end of 1983. The introduction and use of the System of National Accounts (SNA) contributes towards providing a framework for the development of coherent national statistical systems. The Training Meeting on Estimates of National Accounts at Constant Prices will provide the countries of the region with the tools for the factual assessment of national progress towards achieving the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade.

The work on prices and real income comparisons will contribute to the adoption of comparable methodological principles, the introduction of comparable valuations

with regard to the aggregates estimated in value terms of national currencies, the use of data in an international context and the international comparison of aggregates of the domestic product and expenditure of the ECWA countries. It will also provide information on the different impact of the inflationary process upon different countries in the region.

The Statistics Unit has also contributed to the training of statisticians in the regional training institutes and shall continue to participate in the process of training of statistical cadres in the region especially in the field of national accounts.

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13. Transport, Communications and Tourism

Organizational Unit: Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 13 : Transport, Communications and Tourism

A. Organization

1. Intergovernmental review

The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission which meets every year. The last meeting was in April 1977. This plan submission has not been approved by this body but will be submitted to its Fifth Session in May 1978.

2. Secretariat

The Secretariat Unit responsible for this programme is the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division in which there were six professional staff on board as of 31 December 1977 of which one was supported from extrabudgetary sources.

3. Divergences between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

None

4. Expected completions and consequent reorganizations

(a) Expected completions

The following programme elements described in paragraphs 10.45 to 10.47 in the Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 1978/1979 (A/32/6) are expected to be completed:

(i) In 1978-1979

See paragraph 5.

(ii) In 1980-1981

2.1 2.2 2.3 commenced under preceding biennium will be completed.

(b) Consequent reorganizations

Nil

5. Other Organizational matters

In line with the policy of concentrating resources over fewer subprogrammes during the 1980-1983 planning period and in view of the resources available to the programme, it was considered necessary to revise the 1978-1979 programme. This revision consisted of an amalgamation of the subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 into a new subprogramme "Development of Integrated Transport". Consequently programme elements under the old subprogramme 1 and 3 will not lead to separate outputs as mentioned in the Proposed Programme Budget 1978/1979, (A/32/6, paragraph 10.45) but will form integral parts of the new subprogramme. Moreover, programme element 1.1 will constitute an input to the Statistical Abstract of the Arab World and will not be produced as a separate output. In addition, the cancelled programme element 3.2 will be reinstated; related activities expanded as to form a new subprogramme.

B. Co-ordination

1. Formal Coordination within the Secretariat

(a) Activities under subprogramme 1 "Development of Integrated Transport" will be planned and coordinated with other integration activities under the auspices of an ECWA "Taskforce or Working Group on Regional Integration" expected to be functioning towards the end of the biennium 1978-1979.

(b) Through its subprogramme 1, the Division will participate in and contribute to the Secretariat's activities related to rural development to be coordinated by the "Committee on Rural Development" envisaged to be operational during the medium-term plan period. In addition, the Division will participate in and contribute to Secretariat's activities related to food security to be coordinated through the "Working Group on Food Security" to be established towards 1980.

2. Formal Coordination within the United Nations System

(a) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

It is expected that by 1980's a formal agreement will have been signed with UNCTAD stipulating the areas and mechanisms for formal coordination. An agreement has been reached with UNCTAD to establish focal points for developing relationships and formal coordination.

3. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1980-1983

It is expected that significant joint activities will be developed with:

- (a) IMCO in the area of shipping;
- (b) ESA (Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport) in the area of inland transport.
- (c) ITU in the area of telecommunications; and
- (d) ECE on International Rules and Regulations for Inland Transport.

C. Allocation of resources to subprogrammes

The trend in the percentage allocation of resources to subprogrammes is expected to be approximately as shown in the following table:

Table: Allocation of resources to subprogrammes
(percentage)

Subprogramme*	1978-1979			1980-1981			1982-1983		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
1. Development of Integrated Transport	-	-	-	78	100	82	78	100	82
(1) Transport, Communications and Tourism statistics	10	4	8						
(2) Transport integration	61	75	66						
(3) Transport and Communications Technologies	15	4	11						
2.(4) Development of Tourism	14	0	10	11	0	9	11	0	9
3. Development of Telecommunication Services	0	17	5	11	0	9	11	0	9
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* (1) to (4) denote the four subprogrammes appearing in the Programme Budget for the Biennium 1978-1979 A/32/6 paragraph 10.45. As explained in paragraph 5 Section A. Subprogrammes (1) (2) (3) have been amalgamated into Subprogramme 1 "Development of Integrated Transport". Subprogramme 3 constituted previously a programme element under subprogramme (3).

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 13 : Transport, Communications and Tourism
Subprogramme 1 : Development of Integrated Transport.

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist member countries in their efforts to improve the efficiency of existing facilities and networks of transport with respect to new development projects, to achieve better intercountry and inter-nodal transport integration.

(b) Problems addressed

In the ECWA region, especially in the least-developed countries of the region, the existing transport networks and facilities are largely deficient and, in many instances, inconsistent with the present pattern of political boundaries and population settlements, which have undergone radical structural changes over the last twenty years. The recently acquired wealth from the oil resources has placed urgent demands on population changes by creating new poles of economic development, new centres of production and consumption with respect to both commodities and services. Such changes have already required that some of the existing networks and facilities should be re-adjusted and that new ones should be established to meet the present and future needs.

Technological developments in the field of transport having particular relevance to the development of the region include the unitization of cargo, especially deep-sea ferry services, containerization in shipping and overland transportation and the increased use of wide-bodied aircrafts in passenger and freight transport. Because of the geographical and environmental conditions of the region, with population centres separated by large zones of arid areas, the selection of new transport and communications techniques should be focussed on

those which help overcome these natural obstacles at the lowest cost and maximum dependability.

The structural changes referred to above imply new problems and relationships to which the member countries must adjust their priorities. They also pose for the countries to review their transport and communications systems. Furthermore, the new transport techniques require, in most cases, the maximum co-ordination and standardization of various components and links in the overall system.

(c) Legislative authority

E/Res/1818 (LV) operative paragraph 1.a

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Studies under the general heading of "Transport Integration in the ECWA Region" would have been completed by the end of 1979. Dissemination of the study and the recommendations derived therefrom for member governments' consideration will lead to convening intergovernmental expert-group meetings, to review the study and recommend further actions for the second phase, i.e. the feasibility studies in specific disciplines of the transport and communications systems in the region.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

During the biennium 1980-1981, follow-up action as indicated above (feasibility studies) will be carried out.

In addition to follow-up action in the form of feasibility studies, the development of integrated transport will be pursued through efforts including advisory services aiming at (i) the application of international conventions and regulations and harmonization of national and regional regulations;

(ii) the regional standardization and simplification of transport and travel documents; and (iii) the establishment of regional training centres for various categories of transport personnel.

The output during this biennium will consist of reports on project feasibility (government technicians and financial institutions); proposals on the Application of International Conventions and Regulations primarily intended for policy-makers; Proposals and Reports on Regional Standardization and Simplification of Travel documents for technical government departments and operators; Proposals for the establishment of Regional Training Centres for Transport Personnel (for government departments and regional organizations).

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The subprogramme must necessarily be designed on a continuing basis to assist the member countries in their efforts to formulate and implement projects relating to the transport and communications networks with a view to achieving transport integration in the region. Identification of projects to achieve such integration will therefore be a continuing activity with related outputs in the form of project proposals and feasibility studies intended for government technicians and financial institutions. In addition, the following major outputs are expected during the biennium 1982-1983; Proposals and reports on the establishment of national and regional shippers' Councils and consultation machineries; road haulage enterprises; port management associations on subregional and regional basis intended for technical departments, chambers of commerce and associations and reports of symposia, seminars, workshops, etc. in transport planning, management and operations for government technicians and policy-makers.

(e) Expected impact

Under the pressure of new requirements, efforts have been made almost everywhere in the ECWA region, to expand the capacity of the transport systems in

co-operation with Regional Organizations, for the achievement of economic unity and integration. The planned activities are expected to provide the member countries with new perspectives for formulating their transport development programmes and projects, in harmony with their neighbours, which should lead to more efficient and economical transport networks in the region.

Incorporation of new techniques in the transport systems of individual countries should take place within the framework of overall technological developments in the transport and communications networks in the region to avoid incompatibility of the national transport systems for meeting the desired international links which could render regional integration more difficult.

The studies and expert-group meetings planned to be carried out over the plan period are expected to provide a framework for concerted action, and to harmonize policy decisions at national and regional levels on these aspects. As regards the investment projects to acquire and operate specialized transport fleets, the contemplated regional co-operation between Arab countries is expected further to improve the utilization of equipment and facilities and thus increase the efficiency of the transport systems.

In addition to the above, it is expected that by the end of biennium 1982-1983: Shippers' Councils at national/subregional and regional levels would have been established in the region to provide effective machinery for negotiations with Conference Lines on matters relating to freight rates and protection of shippers' interests; Member countries would have acceded to the various International Conventions pertaining to transport and substantially progressed application thereof in individual countries through administrative and where needed legislative action. Regional standardization of transport and travel documents for facilitating international traffic would have been achieved and the establishment of some regional training centres for various categories of transport personnel will be under active consideration or established.

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 13 : Transport, Communications and Tourism
Subprogramme 2 : Development of Tourism

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to promote development of tourism by an increased effort to pooling of resources and the development of national potential and infrastructure.

(b) Problems addressed

Western Asia is rich in its diversified cultural heritage dating from the earliest civilizations and even today evidenced by ancient tangible remains. It is rapidly becoming a showcase for industrial development while implementing projects on a scale previously unknown in the world. There is a range of predictable climate and seasonal change which can also be put to constructive use in establishing healthy pleasure travel and tourism. The region is relatively "undiscovered" and therefore offers something different.

Development and exploitation of tourist facilities offers one more channel of diversification to broaden the economic base of individual member countries.

Problems existing today stem from an overall lack of facilities for travellers in the region, especially those for mass travel, package tours, etc., which reduce cost per person and attract a wider market. There is no subregional or regional masterplan for the orderly phasing of tourist development projects which could lead to successful international promotion and eventual exploitation.

(c) Legislative authority

E/Res/1818 (LV), operative paragraph 1.a.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

Country studies have been carried out to explore and assess the

tourism development potential of selected countries within the framework of two regional subgroupings, namely Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, on the one hand, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic, on the other. The studies recognized tourism development opportunities and pointed to the need for intercountry cooperation the coordinated development of tourism infrastructure and facilities and in organization of the promotional machinery required.

During the biennium 1978-1979, follow-up action is planned to the recommendations of these studies including group meetings for concerted action in this regard.

By the end of 1979, a common strategy for the development of tourism infrastructure in the above subregional groupings would have been established.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Within the formulated strategy for the development of tourism infrastructure activities will particularly concentrate on the identification of specific investment opportunities in the two selected subregional groupings.

The strategy for the development of tourism infrastructure will be extended to cover the whole region with the aim to formulate a regional master plan for tourism development.

The output of this biennium will consist of studies on investment opportunities in tourism in two subregions for concerned government departments and financial institutions; and reports on a regional master plan for tourism development for technical departments.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

This programme biennium will pursue the adoption and implementation of the regional master plan of tourism through studies on specific problems, seminars and advisory services.

(e) Expected impact

By 1983 it is expected that some two subregional plans for the joint development of tourism infrastructure namely Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, are under active consideration.

It is further expected that by 1983 a few bankable projects will be formulated and their implementation initiated.

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia
Programme 13 : Transport, Communications and Tourism
Subprogramme 3 : Development of Telecommunications Services

(a) Objective

The objective of the subprogramme is to assist member countries in the development of telecommunications services at national, subregional and regional levels and to promote training facilities in the telecommunications field.

(b) Problems addressed

The countries of the ECWA region, directly or indirectly arising from the inflow of capital into the region, are undergoing a massive restructuring of the physical infrastructure, of which telecommunications is a vital part.

At the end of 1978, there will be a total of 2.8 million exchange lines in operation, and by 1980 this is planned to increase to 3.6 million, while projections indicate that by 1985, 6.9 million will be required and 13.2 million by 1990. At the same time international transmission links including satellite and cable links both within the region and to other areas, are advancing at an unprecedented rate necessitating the strengthening of regional cooperative efforts in various aspects of telecommunications.

There is thus, an increasing need for rationalization and intergovernmental cooperation covering standardization of equipment and systems, reciprocal arrangements for transmission over alternative routes, educational programmes, radio frequency management and monitoring, coordinated maritime telecommunications, etc.

(c) Legislative authority

E/Res 1818 (LV); operative paragraph 1.a.

(d) Strategy and output

(i) The situation at the end of 1979

It is expected that in co-operation with ITU and the Arab Fund for

Economic and Social Development, a study establishing coordinated telecommunications facilities and links between countries of Western Asia and between the region and the rest of the world would have been completed.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

During the biennium 1980-1981, an intergovernmental expert-group meeting will be convened to review the study or survey of the telecommunications facilities in the region and to provide guidelines and recommendations for action-oriented programmes. Within the context of such recommendations, proposals for the establishment of machinery for implementing the recommendations of the expert-group in telecommunications field are to be worked out particularly in relation to standardization of equipment for the region as a whole.

Member countries will be provided with assistance and advice on the establishment of adequate national telecommunications networks, well integrated with each other and with world linkage.

Outputs during this period will consist of "Action-oriented project proposals for the development of telecommunication services intended for government technical departments, policy-makers. Proposals for the setting up of regional machinery for increased regional cooperation in the telecommunications field particularly with regard to standardization of equipment (for policy-makers). Advisory reports on various aspects of telecommunications development for technical departments.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

Follow-up of activities initiated during the biennium 1980-1981 will be continued. In addition, the following major outputs are expected during the biennium 1982-1983: Proposals for the establishment of training facilities for development of expertise in the fields of planning, operation and maintenance of

telecommunications services for the region (for technical departments and regional organizations). Reports on the formulation of standard tariffs and charges for regional users (for technical departments).

(e) Expected impact

ECWA, in cooperation with the ITU, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and governments of the countries concerned, would provide assistance in establishing the organization and machinery for coordinated promotion of activities in the telecommunications field. These activities will materially assist in the provision of adequate national telecommunications networks fully integrated with regional and interregional linkages. Adequate provision of training facilities will become available for the management, operation and maintenance of telecommunication services. Some standardization of equipment will have been achieved leading to efficient utilization and economic maintenance facilitating also the possible establishment of a substantial integrated telecommunication manufacturing capacity in the region.

14. Transnational Corporations

Organizational Unit : Economic Commission for Western Asia
Joint ECWA/CTC* Unit

Programme 14 : Transnational Corporations

Subprogramme 1 : Transnational Corporations in ECWA

(a) Objective

The objective of this subprogramme is to assist the countries of the Region in their dealings with transnational corporations and their operations at the country and regional levels.

(b) Problem addressed

The development of a data system on transnational corporations for each of the countries of the Region is of utmost importance for generating information on transnational corporations' involvement in the Region. Also, appropriate arrangements are necessary to keep under systematic scrutiny the activities of transnational corporations. Their performance needs to be evaluated, and the extent to which they complement or clash with the goals and objectives of national development efforts and the principles of the New-International Economic Order, constantly examined. Research on transnational corporations in the Region, even in the oil sector where transnational corporations have been involved for sometime, is a grey area. Very little information is available on the micro and macro aspects of transnational corporations activities in the Region. Cumulative and annual flow of direct foreign investment in the countries of the Region need to be analyzed and policy implications have to be worked out. Countries in the ECWA Region are not yet fully equipped with the national expertise to deal with transnational corporations. There is need for technical advisory services and training programmes for government officials.

* Centre on Transnational Corporations (New York).

(c) Legislative Authority

E/Rcs/1961 (LIV) operative paragraph 11.

(i) The Situation at the end of 1979

Substantial information would be collected to establish a comprehensive information system on the operation of transnational corporations in the ECWA Region. Surveys would be carried out covering the presence of transnational corporations in the Region. Foreign investment laws, regulations and policies, contracts, and agreements between domestic enterprises and transnational corporations will be examined, with a view to assessing trends and identifying, for policy purposes, areas of particular concern to the member countries. Some aspects of transnational corporations in oil, shipping, banking and insurance would be covered. Information, research and technical assistance needs of the countries of the Region would be ascertained.

(ii) The biennium 1980-1981

Once the information system is established, more resources will be devoted to research and policy analysis. The work will be co-ordinated with the Centre's activities in a few sectors. Research will be conducted on various economic and social aspects relating to transnational corporations, particularly the balance of payments effect and employment impact of transnational corporations will be examined. Data will be collected on various aspects of foreign investment in the ECWA countries. These will include stock of foreign capital and annual inflow of foreign investment; outflow of funds which will include such elements as disinvestment of capital, repatriation of earnings on foreign investment and the other related items reflected in the balance of payments account.

Field visits will be undertaken in order to collect information. Intensive discussions will be carried out with the relevant authorities dealing with, and serving as focal points for, transnational corporations operations in the countries of the Region. Information and experience will be exchanged with the research organizations in the Region and with the other regional joint units on transnational corporations.

Studies will be prepared covering guidelines and policy recommendations. They will cover various aspects of governmental relations with transnational corporations, such as transnational corporations and economic development at a macro economic level, host country objectives and foreign investment, inter-governmental co-operation, laws and regulations and the monitoring of their implementation, taxation, evaluation of benefits and costs of various terms of foreign participations and transfer pricing.

Workshops, seminars and training programmes for government personnel dealing with transnational corporations will be organized in collaboration with the countries of the region and the Centre on transnational corporations aimed at strengthening the negotiating capacity of the host countries.

(iii) The biennium 1982-1983

The corporate profiles will be updated. Information on transnational corporations and comments on foreign investment policies will be provided to the countries of the Region. Studies on the selected sectors and some of the other projects will continue in the biennium 1982-1983. For each of the studies, research, including data collection, processing and analysis, extensive country visits and consultation with transnational corporations and policy-makers will be planned. Technical advisory services and training programmes will be organized.

(iv) Activities in the strategy that are considered likely to be of marginal usefulness and the legislation requiring them

None.

(e) Expected impact

The activities envisaged in the medium-term plan are expected to lead to increasing awareness of the issues on transnational corporations. They will provide the governments of ECWA countries with guidelines for policies with respect to foreign investment and transnational corporations in the light of their development strategies and plans. It is hoped that, through the above activities, negotiating capacity and bargaining power of the countries with respect to transnational corporations will be strengthened and improved. Government employees will get wider knowledge and experience through training programmes and workshops.