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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Sixth session  
28 April - 5 May 1979  
Baghdad, Iraq

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the session

The sixth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia will be officially opened by H.E. Mr. Taha Muhieddine Maarouf, Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq.

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

Item 2: Election of officers

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

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

- Provisional agenda (E/ECWA/73)
- Annotated provisional agenda (E/ECWA/73/Add.1).

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In accordance with Rule 5 of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure, the Executive Secretary has drawn up the provisional agenda for the session in consultation with the Chairman. The provisional agenda includes items as determined by the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission or by decision of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly of the United Nations or the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

The Commission can either adopt the provisional agenda as it stands in document E/ECWA/73 or approve it in an amended form in accordance with Rule 9 of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure.

Item 4: Organization of work

In this connexion the Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/81 containing proposals that the Commission may decide to adopt for the organization of work during the session.

Item 5: Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the sixth session of the Commission

The Commission will have before it, for its consideration, document E/ECWA/83 regarding applications received from States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the sixth session of the Commission, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV).

Item 6: Report on the activities of the Commission

The activities of the Commission since the fifth session are reported under the following subitems.

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

Document E/ECWA/75 contains the interim report on the implementation of the work programme for 1978-1979 since the fifth session together with activities undertaken by the Commission outside the scope of the work programme;

(b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission

With regard to this subitem the Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/76 summarizing the action taken to implement the provisions of certain resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifth session in October 1978 and at previous sessions.

A special report has been devoted to "the Practices of Transnational Corporations in the Oil Industry in the region" in document E/ECWA/76/Add.1 in implementation of the Commission's resolution 42 (IV) which called for giving this issue top priority. The subject of the economic survey of the ECWA countries, which the Commission's resolution 43 (IV) gave high priority in the work programme, will be submitted before the Commission in document E/ECWA/80 under item 3 of the provisional agenda.

Item 7: The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account

During its fourth session the Commission adopted resolution 45 (IV) in which it was decided that the agenda of each of its sessions should include an item on the financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund. As its fifth session the Commission decided to change the name "Voluntary Fund" to "Financial Contributions Account". This Account represents funds available to the Commission outside the ordinary budget of the United Nations;

Item 8: Fourth and final biennial review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade

Under this item, the Commission will have before it, for its consideration, documents E/ECWA/80, E/ECWA/80/Add.1 and E/ECWA/80/Add.2. The first two documents comprising ECWA's fourth and final review and appraisal report of progress in the implementation of IDS for the United Nations' Second Development Decade in Western Asia, are prepared pursuant to paragraph (31) of General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV). The report focusses on a review and evaluation of achievements in various economic and social aspects of development during the seventies against the targets and objectives as specified in the Strategy. It identifies problem areas and examines the prospects for development in these areas during the next next decade.

Document E/ECWA/80/Add.2, which draws on the conclusions of the review and appraisal exercise, briefly recapitulates the pre-occupation of the international community with the preparation for a new international development

strategy for the next decade and ECWA secretariat's involvement and views in this connexion. In presenting its views on the preparation of the IDS, the secretariat of the Commission has identified a number of issues as priority areas for the development of the region during the next decade. The Commission is thus invited to deliberate these issues with the view to providing further guidelines for the future work of the secretariat on the subject.

Item 9: Work programme and priorities, 1980-1981

Under this item, the Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/74. This document contains a draft of the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 under the various substantive programmes as envisaged by the medium-term plan for 1980-1983. Due emphasis has also been given to areas where strengthening has been recommended by the AMS or to areas which were stressed by resolutions of the Commission or by the General Assembly in connexion with its budget policy for the 1980-1981 period.

Item 10: Establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission

At its fifth session the Commission adopted resolution 63(V) regarding the establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission. The two operative paragraphs of the resolution requested the Executive Secretary "to prepare a detailed study on the modalities and possibilities for establishing subsidiary bodies of the Commission in consultation with Arab and international organizations and member States" and "to submit the study to its sixth session".

Considering the short interval between the fifth and the sixth sessions and the secretariat's absorption for the duration of this period in a number of top priority matters such as the 1980-1981 work programme, no tangible progress was made in the preparation of the requested study. The accompanying document, E/ECWA/76, contains a summary of the measures taken by the secretariat in response to the Commission's request. Accordingly, the Commission may wish to defer consideration of this item during the present session and request the Executive Secretary to submit the study in question to the coming session.

Item 11: Progress report on the headquarters of the Commission

The Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/78 which contains a report on the action taken with respect to the Commission's permanent headquarters in accordance with the Commission's resolution 52 (V) as well as action taken for

setting up temporary offices in Baghdad. Document E/ECWA/78/Add.1 deals with the financial implications of the relocation should the Commission decide relocation to temporary accommodations.

Item 12: The role of the regional commissions in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and resolution 1978/74 of the Economic and Social Council

For consideration of this item the Commission will have before it document E/ECWA/79. Section A of this document highlights those aspects of resolution 32/197 which stress the importance and role of the regional commissions in restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. It also underlines the efforts made by ECWA secretariat and the support needed in this respect. Section B of this document, dealing with the implementation of resolution 1978/74 on regional co-operation and development, stresses ECWA's continuous efforts to promote and support subregional, regional and interregional co-operation and co-ordination, particularly the promotion of TCDC and ECDC. This section further deals with some plans for an intensified programme for the promotion of such co-operation and co-ordination.

Item 13: Plan of action to combat desertification in the ECWA region

Desertification problems and desert development issues are of great importance as they are intimately intertwined with almost every facet of economic and social development in the ECWA countries.

Thus, in follow-up to the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification adopted at the United Nations Conference on Desertification and General Assembly resolution 32/172, the ECWA secretariat has undertaken a preliminary stocktaking of current and planned involvement in activities to combat desertification in the ECWA region. Also, a number of possibilities for intercountry and regional co-operation projects/programmes have been identified, and interest has been indicated to undertake action in various areas so far neglected. ECWA's preliminary Plan of Action, prepared in connexion with the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, will provide the base from which ECWA will undertake intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to combat desertification and assume its co-ordinating and catalytic role in the formulation and execution (within the scope of its competence) of intraregional programmes adopted by member States.



To discuss the implementation of the Plan of Action at the regional level and to define regional programmes more precisely a post-conference technical seminar is planned to be convened in 1980.

Item 14: Other business

Under this item, the Commission will take up any urgent matter that it may decide to add to the agenda.

