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Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

Revised Work Programme and Priorities, 1980-1981

Note of the Executive Secretary

1. The Commission at its sixth session, considered under agenda item 9, the proposed work programme and priorities for the period 1980-1981. The document (E/ECMA/4) then under consideration constituted the budget estimates for substantive programmes which were still to be reviewed by the Secretary-General. In comparison to the 1978-1979 work programme, these estimates included a growth in staff establishment by three professional posts (one each in development planning, statistics and programme evaluation) and six local-level posts (two each in development planning and statistics and one in Natural Resources and Programme Evaluation).

2. After review of the Commission's additional staffing proposals, the Secretary-General decided to forward to the legislative bodies the following seven additional posts for their consideration.

The professional posts (one each for development planning, statistics and programme evaluation) and four local-level posts (two for development planning, one for natural resources and one for programme evaluation). This request was approved, without change, by the General Assembly.

3. With regard to official travel of staff the sum of \$ 314,000 was envisaged in document E/ECWL/74, while the Secretary-General forwarded to the legislative bodies a request for \$ 252,000. Finally an amount of \$ 164,800 was approved by the General Assembly.

4. The Commission's requested resources for consultants were largely maintained by the Secretary-General, although some changes in distribution were effected and approved by the General Assembly.

5. At its 34th session, the General Assembly approved the Commission's programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981.

6. In view of the resource reductions effected by both the Secretary-General and the General Assembly, it has become necessary to revise the work programme for 1980-1981, document E/ECMA/90 reflects these reductions. It must be noted that although the original texts for the various programmes have been maintained for every programme element, the envisaged

outputs will in many cases be affected by the considerable reduction in travel resources. As travel resources constitute one of the tools to implement the work programme, their reduction will, in many cases, reduce the scope and coverage of the envisaged outputs as well as change their nature. The Secretariat will attempt to restore some of the reductions by requesting supplementary estimates at the appropriate time.

7. The Revised Work Programme and Priorities, 1980-1981⁸ include the additional resources made available to the Commission as a result of redeployment of activities from United Nations Headquarters. Reference is made in this connexion to document E/ECN.4/92 to be considered under item 10 of the provisional agenda.