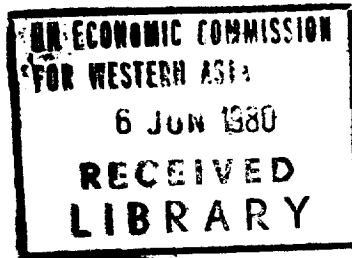
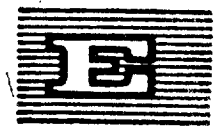




UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



1823



Distr.
GENERAL
E/ECWA/95
18 March 1980
Original: ARABIC

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA
Seventh session
19 - 24 April 1980
Baghdad, Iraq

Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda

Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission

(Note of the Executive Secretary)

1. At its sixth session the Commission adopted resolutions 67(VI) to 76(VI). The following is a summary presentation of the action that was taken in the implementation of these resolutions:

Resolution 67(VI): The headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

2. Document No. E/ECWA/95/Add.1 refers.

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Resolution 68(VI): Reconsideration of Commission resolution 37(IV)
adopted on 28 April 1977

3. On 29 April 1979 the Commission adopted resolution 68(VI) whose operative paragraph provides as follows:

(The Commission) "Decides to reconsider its resolution 37(IV) adopted on 28 April 1977 and recommends that the Economic and Social Council suspend the membership of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Commission."

4. At its second regular session for 1979, which was held between 3 July and 3 August 1979, the Economic and Social Council, when considering the report of the Commission on its sixth session ^{1/}, examined the Commission's recommendation. At its 36th meeting held on 27 July 1979, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 49/1979 which stated in paragraph (b) that the Council had decided:

"To postpone consideration of the recommendation contained in resolution 68(VI) of the Commission, thereby the membership of Egypt in the Economic Commission for Western Asia remains unaffected."

1/ E/1979/49/Add.1.

Resolution 69(VI): Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197
on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors
of the United Nations system

5. Document E/ECWA/92 refers.

Resolution 70(VI): Co-operation among developing countries

6. Document E/ECWA/94 refers.

Resolution 71(VI): Combating desertification in the ECWA region

7. A brief report on the action taken in implementation of this resolution in 1979 is contained in paragraph 11 (b) of document E/ECWA/91.

Resolution 72(VI): Assistance to member countries in the field of external trade policies and planning

8. Pursuant to the provisions of the resolutions which reiterated the urgency of establishing a regional project to help member countries increase their capabilities in the field of external trade policy and planning services^{1/}, the joint proposal for a regional project, formulated in close co-operation with UNCTAD, ITC and ECWA was presented to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its consideration and finance.

9. In the light of the observations received from the United Nations Development Programme, it was decided to reformulate the project proposal. For this purpose, a request for preparatory assistance was presented on 3 January 1980 to the United Nations Development Programme. The objective is to finance a three-month preparatory mission, with a view to ascertaining the very specific areas where assistance is required (direct support, institution-building, training) and the appropriate forms and channels for rendering such assistance. As envisaged, the mission will be composed of one UNDP representative, one ECWA representative and one high-level expert from outside the system, and will visit and consult selected member countries. The mission will then proceed with the necessary consultations with UNCTAD, ITC and the concerned regional organizations, and prepare a draft project document for the consideration of the United Nations Development Programme.

^{1/} As stipulated under the provisions of resolution 57(V) on the same subject. (See: Follow-up Action on the Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifth session in October 1978; E/ECWA/76, 19 April 1978).

Resolution 73(VI): Regional co-operation in the field of transport

10. Operative paragraph 1 of this resolution invited the Governments of member States "to participate actively in the meeting envisaged for early 1980 to review the study prepared by the secretariat on the subject of the development of an integrated transport system in Western Asia". Operative paragraph 2 requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission "to submit at the seventh session his recommendations and proposals for follow-up action on this subject".

11. An intergovernmental meeting on the development of an integrated transport system for Western Asia was held in Beirut between 3 - 7 March 1980. The final report on the three-volume study prepared by the secretariat was reviewed. Emphasis was placed on volume I whose recommendations were discussed in detail.

Following their amendment and reformulation, these recommendations were adopted unanimously by the meeting. The recommendations dealt with the different areas of transport in general and with roads, railways, ports, navigation, training and planning in particular. They included 30 short-term and 5 long-term recommendations, all contained in the final report of the meeting which was adopted on 7 March 1980 (E/ECWA/TRANS.2/L.1). The meeting called upon the secretariat to follow up these recommendations and to take the necessary measures for implementing them. The secretariat intends to distribute the complete study along with the report to all the member States for their consideration, comments and guidelines concerning the follow-up and implementation of its recommendations. The secretariat hopes to be able to submit the detailed results of the meeting to the eighth session of the Commission.

Resolution 74(VI): Assistance to member countries in the field of development finance and administration

12. Pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of the resolution, all the necessary preparatory action with the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) for a survey mission to the countries of the region have been completed. The proposed survey, which is planned to be carried out in May 1980 in collaboration with DTCD, will examine various aspects of financial management in member countries, assess present and future public personnel requirements, ascertain training needs and capabilities in specific areas of public finance and administration, identify priority areas for technical assistance and examine ways and means of meeting such technical assistance needs.

13. The findings and proposals of the survey mission shall be discussed with member countries and the regional organizations concerned, prior to submitting them to the United Nations Development Programme for its consideration and finance.

Resolution 75(VI): Cartographic development and co-operation
in the ECWA region

14. In its operative paragraph (2), resolution 75(VI) requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to secure resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and other sources so as to render this unit operational by the inclusion of cartographic activities in the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981.

15. The Executive Secretary made every effort possible to include the Unit under the regular budget. He also established contacts with some governments of the industrialized countries to secure resources under their technical assistance programmes for its establishment. However, the secretariat's efforts have not been fruitful so far. The Executive Secretary will continue to pursue this question.

Resolution 76(VI): The Third United Nations Development Decade

16. Pursuant to the provisions of this resolution, an intergovernmental committee of development experts from the member States of ECWA was set up to prepare, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, a report on the views of the ECWA region on the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade.

17. A meeting of the committee was subsequently convened in August 1979 to examine the draft working paper prepared by the ECWA secretariat on the development strategy for the ECWA region in the Third United Nations Development Decade.

18. In view of the importance of this meeting and further follow-up action need towards the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly (scheduled for August-September 1980), the Commission decided to deal with the subject in detail under a separate item of the agenda. Reference should, therefore, be made to item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda.