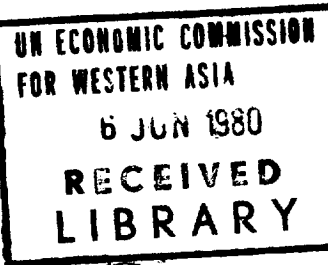




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Item 7 (d) of the Provisional Agenda

Establishment of the
Regional Water Resources Council

The following information about WMO water related activities in the ECWA region, were received after finalizing the document E/ECWA/96. Therefore, it appears as an addendum to the document and belongs to the section 3.2 "Related Information Received".

3.2.6 A Summary of the Activities of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in the Field of Hydrology and Water Resources in the ECWA Region

1. WMO Eighth Congress (Geneva 1979), in its resolution 32 (Cg-VIII), requested the WMO Executive Committee and the Secretary-General "to arrange for WMO collaboration in the projects of the United Nations system of organizations and UN Economic Commissions, in particular those benefiting the developing countries in implementing the Mar del Plata Action Plan".

2. Eighth Congress also approved for implementation in 1980-1983 the following projects within the WMO Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP). These projects are being implemented to assist WMO Member countries, including ECWA Member countries, in all activities relating to hydrology and water resources.

(a) Operational Hydrology Programme (OHP)

- (i) OHP standardization and regulatory activities.
- (ii) Institutional co-operation of hydrological services of members.
- (iii) Hydrological data-collection systems, networks, instruments, transmission and retrieval.
- (iv) Design data for water-resource development projects.
- (v) Hydrological forecasting.

All the above five projects support the WMO Hydrological Operational Multipurpose Subprogramme (HOMS) referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 below.

(b) Hydrology in Environmental Management and Development

- (vi) Forecasting and mitigation and natural hazards of importance to hydrology.
- (vii) Hydrological aspects of rural water supply and food production.
- (viii) Hydrological aspects of industrial and community water supply, energy production and environmental modification of the hydrosphere.

(c) Co-operation with Water-Related Programmes of other International Organizations

- (ix) Co-operation with the IHP of Unesco.
- (x) Co-operation with the UN system (UN, UN Economic Commissions, UNEP, FAO, WHO, IAEA).

- (xi) Co-operation with international river basin commissions and non-governmental scientific organizations.

3. The WMO Hydrology and Water Resources Programme is carried out mainly through the WMO Commission for Hydrology (CHy), in close collaboration with the other WMO commissions. CHy meets every four years, its sixth session being scheduled to be held in Madrid, Spain, from 21 April to 2 May 1980, and carries out its terms of reference through a number of working groups and individual rapporteurs and consultants.

4. Considering that WMO activities in the field of hydrology and water resources should acquire a more significant impact at the national level and that they be of maximum assistance to developing countries, the WMO Congress launched, in 1980, a Hydrological Operational Multipurpose Subprogramme (HOMS), to be implemented within the OHP and consisting of the organized transfer of hydrological technology operationally used in network design, observations, collection, processing and storage of data and hydrological modelling, and including instrument catalogues, software packages, and general guidance and detailed manuals on the use of this technology under different conditions.

5. With respect to the WMO Asia region, which includes most of the ECWA Member countries, it is proposed to support the regional development and field application of components of HOMS through a WMO/UNDP field project which will cater for the hydrological and water resources requirements of most of the ECWA Member countries.

6. The ECWA Second Regional Water Meeting in Riyadh noted that an international project on the assessment of water resources was proposed for joint execution by WMO and Unesco in close co-operation with the UN Economic Commissions and with other UN agencies as necessary. It was further proposed that the project be tested in pilot studies. More detailed information on this project is contained in a document "Assessment of Water Resources", which was jointly submitted by WMO and Unesco to the ECWA Second Regional Water Meeting.

7. The WMO Regional Association II (Asia), which includes most of the ECWA Member countries, has appointed a working group on hydrology which conducts many hydrological activities in the region and prepares relevant guidance material on subjects such as: hydrological networks, international hydrological codes, use of WMO World Weather Watch (WWW) facilities in the region for hydrology, hydrological maps, droughts and tropical cyclones, and organizes regional seminars on the above and other related subjects.

8. WMO has not a separate region covering the ECWA member states and thus has some difficulty in identifying and co-ordinating regional field projects in hydrology and water resources which are specifically addressed to this region. Many of the ECWA member countries do, however, benefit from inter-country projects of other WMO regions.

From the preceding information it can be deduced that there is a scope for the Council to co-ordinate and co-operate with WMO in water related activities particularly those having subregional and/or regional dimensions.
