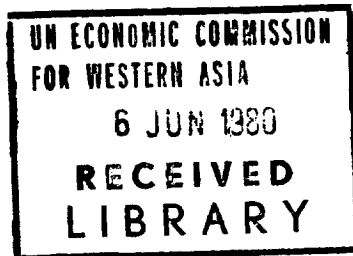




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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR WESTERN ASIA TO THE ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS

80-3226

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I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. At its seventh meeting, on 22 April 1980, the Commission adopted the following resolution and decided to transmit it for action by the Economic and Social Council:

78(VII). Relocation of the offices of the Commission to Baghdad<sup>1/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing that the activities of the Commission and its ability to serve the member States depend considerably on the level of competence and performance of the officers and employees of its secretariat,

Realizing fully that the ability of the staff members and experts of the Commission to discharge their responsibilities with the required competence is intimately related to the working and living conditions provided for them by the United Nations,

Recognizing with appreciation the valuable efforts expended by the Executive Secretary, his staff and his experts in the discharge of their responsibilities to the Commission,

Expressing its grateful appreciation to the Government of Iraq for all the moral and material support it has provided and continues to provide to the Commission in order to facilitate its work at the permanent headquarters at Baghdad,

Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give special consideration to all issues and matters that may affect the competence and efficiency of the staff members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, in order to provide the secretariat of the Commission with the appropriate means and the favourable working conditions which will enable it to avail itself of the highest standards of competence in rendering its services to the member States.

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<sup>1/</sup> See para. 42 below.

## II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE SIXTH SESSION

### A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

4. The Commission has not yet established any subsidiary bodies.

### B. Other activities

5. For information on the activities of the Commission, reference should be made to documents E/ECWA/91, E/ECWA/95, E/ECWA/95/Add.1 and E/ECWA/106.

### C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

6. The Commission continued its co-operation with the specialized agencies and other organizations within the framework of its work programme and the standing agreements.

11. The Commission adopted the proposals contained in document E/ECWA/109, as amended, for the organization of its work and entrusted the Chairman, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, with the arrangements for the schedule of meetings.
12. By virtue of article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, the Commission invited the representatives of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the seventh session.
13. The delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization expressed a reservation with regard to the invitation extended to the United States of America to attend the session in a consultative capacity. The delegation of Iraq supported this reservation.
14. At its second meeting, the Commission unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Hasan Ali, Minister of Commerce and Head of the delegation of Iraq, as Chairman; His Excellency Mr. Ali Ensour, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Hizam Al-Shohati, Minister of Economy, Yemen Arab Republic, as Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Hayyan Salim Haidar, a member of the Delegation of Lebanon, as Rapporteur for the session.
15. In accordance with rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission, the officers of the Commission examined the credentials of representatives to the session and found them to be in order.
16. The delegations of Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen expressed a reservation concerning the participation of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the session and requested that their statement in this connexion be considered as an official document of the session. It was accordingly circulated in a note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/110).

6. Report on the activities of the Commission:
  - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme
  - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission
  - (c) Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolutions 27(III) and 28(III) concerning the Palestinian Arab people
7. Follow-up at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:
  - (a) United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development
  - (b) World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
  - (c) Third United Nations development decade
  - (d) Establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council
  - (e) Second Regional Population Conference of ECWA
  - (f) Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women
  - (g) Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia
  - (h) Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization
8. The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account
9. Revised programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981
10. Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and the strengthening of, the regional commissions
11. Co-operation among developing countries
12. The establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council

22. He affirmed the importance of economic action within the Arab framework, and, consequently, of joint economic efforts by the countries of Western Asia, and the positive impact of such efforts not only on the member States of the Commission but also on the developing countries and on the world economy in general. He stressed the importance of the application of a unified strategy for joint Arab economic action to ensure the most efficient utilization of the available resources and to maintain national security, particularly in food and technology. He called for the expansion of the active participation of member States in the planning and implementation of the Commission's programmes, so that the activities of the Commission might be rendered compatible with the development needs of the region. This participation could be secured through the assistance rendered by experts of these countries, at all levels, in the implementation of the Commission's programmes and in the provision of advisory services. It could also be secured through a clear definition and development of relations between the Commission and the agencies concerned in the member States.

23. The Secretary of the Commission then read out the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, to the seventh session of the Commission, in which he thanked the Government of Iraq for its generous hospitality in acting as host to the Commission at its session in Baghdad for the second consecutive year. He added that this year would further be marked by the relocation of the headquarters of the Commission to Baghdad which would open a new phase in its service to the region.

24. The Secretary-General stated that the Commission was meeting at a time when the international community was facing critical problems which threatened to jeopardize efforts towards social and economic progress. In a move to meet this challenge, a special session of the United Nations General Assembly would be held later in the year to adopt a new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and to launch a new round of negotiations on such issues as trade, raw materials, energy, development, monetary questions and finance. The Commission's deliberations would be particularly important in this respect, in the light of the recommendations of the development experts from the region.

countries achieved their development differed from those of the ECWA region; it would therefore be harmful and indeed dangerous to try to imitate their patterns of development. Many developmental concepts and experiences needed to be reassessed, revised and brought into line with the requirements and the realities of the region. Greater effort needed to be directed towards the social aspects of development.

29. One of the obstacles confronting the region in the present decade was the continuing disparity in income among its member countries. Among the many measures taken to reduce this disparity was the creation of several funds for the concessionary financing of development projects in the region and in the Arab world in general. The more affluent States also provided aid on a bilateral basis to those countries that were in need. The Executive Secretary asserted that aid was no longer sufficient, in view of the growing development requirements of these countries. Ways and means must be devised for directing the financial surpluses of the region towards the full exploitation of its available human and material resources, within the context of regional co-operation.

30. The Commission had completed a number of studies for the identification of projects suitable for regional co-operation. Major studies were being conducted in the areas of transport and communications, water, and science and technology. The Commission had organized a number of meetings and seminars at which vital topics such as the brain drain, the search for alternative patterns of development, human settlement, housing, the region's contribution to the formulation of an international development strategy for the present decade, food security, trade, and energy supply and demand in the Arab world were debated. The Commission had also conducted a number of field studies.

31. Referring to the difficulties that had confronted the work of the Commission and had impeded its services, the Executive Secretary indicated that the members of the Commission had not benefited equally from its services, and some members had hardly benefited at all. He stated that some members had not been attending ECWA meetings and seminars and that their absence had detracted from their importance and the universality of the conclusions reached. The secretariat, moreover, had been finding some difficulty in obtaining access to the information, data and statistics it needed to implement the



dealing with transnational corporations, environmental co-ordination and technical co-operation activities. The report also summarized the consultant services rendered by the Commission to member States. Referring to paragraph 85 of the report, which dealt with the establishment of the Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the Commission endeavoured to co-ordinate its actions in this regard with the League of Arab States and its Economic and Social Council. He explained that the report on the follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission (E/ECMA/95) was brief because some of the Commission's high-priority resolutions were scheduled for discussion under different agenda items. Proceeding to the follow-up action on the two resolutions of the Commission on the Palestinian Arab people (E/ECMA/106), he recounted the circumstances relating to the implementation of resolution 27(III).

35. During the discussion of this item, a number of representatives complained that the Commission had rendered technical assistance and consultant services to Egypt.

36. Some delegations contended that co-ordination between the Commission and Arab economic institutions and organizations had been inadequate and proposed the adoption of a recommendation reaffirming the importance of such co-ordination. With that purpose in view, the member States should be urged to invite the Commission to attend the meetings of Arab organizations and funds.

37. Several representatives called for increased co-operation with the Commission and urged the member States to provide it with all the data it required in its work and to attend all its seminars and conferences. One delegation expressed special interest in the work of the Statistical Unit and urged that it be given additional support. The same delegation also inquired about the fate of the project for establishing a regional electronic data processing centre.

38. One representative stated that the findings of the studies on energy resources should be implemented and that studies on the utilization of nuclear energy and oil shale ought to be commissioned. Emphasis should be placed on heavy industry and joint ventures should be encouraged, for example, in the

42. On the subject of implementing resolution 67(VI) concerning the relocation of the ECMA offices to Baghdad, the representative of Iraq stated that the temporary headquarters was nearing completion and that the Iraqi Government had secured the furnishing and equipment which the secretariat had requested. Three buildings were available for occupancy by ECMA staff, especially those in the General Services category. The Iraqi Government had begun the construction, using pre-fabricated materials, of two schools, which would receive students in the scholastic year 1981/82. The two schools would accommodate about 1,500 pupils and instruction would be in English and French. For the scholastic year 1980/81, the Government would rent a temporary building. Construction had begun on the office buildings and residential units of the permanent headquarters. Completion of the office buildings was expected to take 23 months and that of the residential units 23 months.

43. One representative submitted a proposal concerning Arab co-operation in the transfer and development of technology, recommending that ECMA should support and assist national centres working in this field and that it should participate in the creation of such centres in those Arab countries lacking them. This would be accomplished through the preparation of an institutional model of structures and activities proposed for the use of national centres. Furthermore, a survey of the activities of those centres might be conducted and suggestions made concerning ways in which their activities might be co-ordinated. Another representative remarked in this context that the transfer of technology should be effected with due regard for the conditions prevailing in the Arab world.

44. A draft resolution recommending assistance in the reconstruction of Lebanon was adopted unanimously. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization rejected the inclusion of Egypt among the delegations sponsoring the draft resolution. He was supported by the majority of the members, and it was decided to delete Egypt from the list of sponsors.

45. During and after the discussion of this agenda item, the Executive Secretary responded to the questions raised and the observations made and he made it clear that the documents for the seventh session had been sent out on time and that any delay in receiving them was the result of communications

remained limited when compared to the need of member States for census services. On the question of industry, it was stated that the Commission concentrated on heavy industries which would strengthen regional co-operation. In connexion with the establishment of a regional computer centre, it was noted that a preliminary study on the introduction of computer technology in selected countries of the region had been completed. This study had been undertaken as a preparatory step towards the submission of the proposal for the establishment of the computer centre. Subsequent steps would be taken in the light of the comments of member States. On the question of the strengthening of national centres concerned with the transfer and development of technology, the secretariat was willing to contribute within the limits of its resources.

2. Follow-up at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings

47. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 7 with a brief review of document E/ECWA/100 indicating that the results of United Nations world conferences and of ECWA regional meetings had implications for regional co-operation in various areas of economic and social development. Hence, he considered it necessary to bring to the attention of the member States the findings and conclusions of these conferences and their impact on the priority areas in the work of the Commission. He further emphasized the usefulness of including this item on the agendas of the forthcoming sessions of the Commission, with a view to monitoring the conclusions and recommendations of world conferences and regional meetings, assessing their implications and proposing the follow-up action required. The brief statement of the Executive Secretary was then followed by introductory statements made in connexion with the eight specific subitems of this agenda item.

(a) United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

48. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/101 with a short review of the background of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the substantive preparatory work carried out within the region at the national and regional levels. It gave an account of the main results achieved by this Conference and of the follow-up measures so far taken

52. Another representative stressed the importance of strengthening the secretariat and supporting its requests for additional resources to enable it to discharge effectively its increasing responsibilities in the field of science and technology.

(b) World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

53. In introducing subitem (b) the Executive Secretary referred to General Assembly resolution 34/14, which endorsed the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and invited governing bodies of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to consider favourably the possibility of providing them with the necessary resources for complementary action to be taken in collaboration with FAO. He emphasized that in view of the importance of agrarian reform and rural development for a number of countries in the region, the secretariat had prepared the proposed draft action programme as contained in document E/ECWA/105, for the consideration of the Commission. The programme was aimed at assisting member States in the development of appropriate government policies and institutions with capabilities for more effective planning, execution and co-ordination of integrated rural development and land reform programmes.

54. In the discussion that ensued, one representative stated that some of the activities in the proposed programme could be eliminated. Of the remainder, some could be combined in order to reduce resource requirements.

55. Another representative indicated that the programme appeared fragmentary in nature for such a complex and important sector. It would not be feasible to embark on the programme prior to studying the sector and assessing its requirements. He suggested that, in view of resource constraints, efforts should concentrate on those projects that were most feasible and confined to a limited number of countries on a selective basis.

(c) Third United Nations Development Decade

56. The secretariat introduced subitem (c) in reference to the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/97/Add.1) on the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade, which was submitted by the Executive Secretary to the Preparatory Committee established by the General Assembly for its consideration in formulating that strategy. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the salient features of the development strategy for the region that emerged from the deliberations of the experts.

57. In the discussion that followed, several representatives, emphasizing the importance of the subject, commented on various aspects of the expert's report. It was indicated that the significance of the strategy for the 1980s emanated not only

(d) Establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council

64. The secretariat introduced agenda item 7 (d), submitted document E/ECWA/96 and asserted the need for regional and subregional co-operation in the development of water resources. Co-ordination in this field should contribute considerably to the development and effective management of common water basins and should serve as a sound basis for integrated surveys of surface and ground water resources. Hydrological and hydrogeological explorations in the ECWA region had confirmed the presence of major common water basins the development of which required both regional and international co-operation. Resolutions and recommendations regarding regional co-operation in matters concerning water resources had been adopted at the First Regional Water Meeting held at Baghdad in 1976 and at the Second Regional Water Meeting at Riyadh in late 1978 and the meeting of the five-member intergovernmental committee at Damascus in 1979 had put forward significant proposals. The secretariat then summarized the Commission's follow-up action in compliance with the resolutions and recommendations in question. The document cited above represented the culmination of all those efforts. The representative of the secretariat called upon the member States to take a decision regarding the establishment of the proposed Regional Water Resources Council and pointed out that the document mentioned above put forward for consideration three alternative proposals concerning the mandate and terms of reference of the Council.

65. During the ensuing discussion, one representative stated that he supported the establishment of the Council, provided that its mandate was restricted to the co-ordination of the established activities of Arab and international organizations and authorities active in water affairs in the region. The Council should discharge its task by compiling information concerning those activities, for discussion at its periodic meetings, and should provide appropriate advice. He explained that his proposal was motivated by the need to avoid any duplication of effort. The third alternative put forward in the document accorded with his own view. That alternative provided that the efforts of the proposed Council should be concentrated on the promotion of co-operation and co-ordination in all water resources affairs

co-ordinating water affairs at the regional level. Such a council or body would facilitate for the member States, inter alia, the exchange of experts and the implementation of short-term and long-term regional plans for the conservation and management of water resources and their development in the interest of an optimum exploitation.

70. A number of representatives stressed the importance of developing the water resources of the ECWA region - most of which lies in arid or semi-arid zones - and hence the importance of regional co-operation on water-related issues. It was clear from the findings of the study prepared by the five-member intergovernmental committee, formed at the Second Regional Water Meeting held at Riyadh in late 1978, that there were Arab and international organizations in the region whose activities included the study of certain aspects of water resources. The committee of five had recommended that the task of the Council be confined to co-ordinating and complementing the activities undertaken by the organizations already active in the region in the field of water resources.

71. Another representative said that the tasks remaining to the proposed Council did not justify its creation at the present time. He proposed that the tasks of co-ordinating existing activities and complementing them should be undertaken by the ECWA secretariat, which would then report on those activities to the member States at the next session of the Commission.

72. One representative stated that the tasks entrusted to the proposed Council as indicated in the document were of vital importance and required a great deal of work and effort. If the proposed Council carried out the mandate assigned to it, it would certainly be performing a considerable service to the region. He concluded by supporting the establishment of the proposed Council, provided that its mandate was limited to the collection, co-ordination and processing of data, the preparation of studies, the preparation and dissemination of publications and the co-ordination of the activities undertaken by the regional organizations and bodies in the water resources field. He further proposed that a permanent secretariat for the Council be incorporated in the ECWA secretariat.

of labour, he emphasized the need for ensuring freedom of movement of Arab citizens between all the Arab countries. Such a policy, he believed, would have the effect of maintaining a continuous interaction among the Arab peoples in the cultural, economic and social fields.

77. Another representative stated that the question of regional and interregional migration had been the subject of detailed discussions at various meetings of the Arab Labour Organization. It was suggested that the ECWA secretariat should closely co-ordinate its efforts regarding these and other issues with the view to maximizing the benefits for the Arab people.

(f) The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women

78. The secretariat submitted a note by the Executive Secretary on this subitem (E/ECWA/98) and stressed the essential role of women in the process of economic and social development. ECWA, the United Nations and its specialized agencies all had a special interest in raising the status of women. The Commission had been following up at the regional level the results of the 1975 World Conference of the International Women's Year. That follow-up included the organization of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held at Copenhagen in July 1980. That Meeting, held in the Syrian Arab Republic from 10 to 13 December 1979, was attended by representatives of 11 member States of ECWA, in addition to representatives of the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies, the United Nations and other international organizations. The recommendations of the Meeting were submitted for consideration by the World Conference. ECWA was pursuing its contacts for the holding of a meeting of the delegations of the member States, with a view to co-ordinating their efforts during the World Conference.

79. The Commission stressed in its deliberations the importance of the role of women in the development process and urged that particular attention be given to the problems of Palestinian and Lebanese women, especially the women of South Lebanon.

83. One representative expressed profound concern regarding the subjects that had been covered by the Seminar, and it proposed that the debate be continued at a future technical and scientific seminar. He noted that the recommendations of the Seminar were of a general nature and expressed support for the option mentioned on page 6 of the above-mentioned summary report, which called for the formulation of an independent environmental programme to take into consideration environmental issues common to the different sectors. The representative also questioned the absence of any permanent arrangement for the financing of the Commission's Environmental Co-ordination Unit.

(h) Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

84. The secretariat submitted agenda item 7(c) together with document E/ECMA/103. It noted that the Third General Conference of UNIDO, held at New Delhi from 21 January to 8 February 1980, reviewed the factors which caused the imbalance in the world industrial situation and prevented its rectification. The Conference had failed to reach an agreement on suitable forms of industrial co-operation that would involve a specific commitment on the part of the industrialized countries. It succeeded, however, in the preparation of a plan of action that established the principles for the formulation and implementation of new measures for international industrial co-operation in preparation for the re-structuring of world industry within the framework of a new international economic order. The secretariat stressed the need for intensifying efforts designed to promote participation in the New Delhi Plan of Action, to strengthen the industrial base in the region and to reinforce regional co-operation. In this connexion, it indicated its determination to expand its activities related to the formulation and implementation of regional industrial inter-ation strategies and policies. It also emphasized the need for the co-ordination of industrial development efforts at the intraregional and interregional levels, and it referred to the co-operation which had been initiated recently between ECMA and ESCAP.



3. The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account

87. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 8 and the documents prepared by the secretariat on the subject (E/ECWA/100 and Add.1 and Add.2) and drew attention to the increase in the budget of the Commission for the 1980-1981 period, compared with that for the previous two years. This increase amounted to \$ 3,633,800, including \$ 1,600,000 which represented the cost of transferring the Commission's headquarters from Beirut to Baghdad, the impact of inflation, and a limited number of posts which the Commission had secured despite the General Assembly resolution setting a limit to increases in expenditures in the United Nations system. He noted that the resources of the trust funds were used primarily to supplement regular budget resources for the implementation of the work programme. He notified the Commission that no new commitments to increase the resources of the Financial Contributions Account had been undertaken since the previous session. He welcomed the contributions received by the Commission from the governments of France and the Netherlands for the support of its activities from extra-budgetary resources.

88. In the discussion that followed, a number of representatives emphasized the question of the use of the surplus in the Financial Contributions Account to cover part of the deficit in the financing of the study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people. He noted that some of the projects financed from this Account fell within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Accordingly, funds allocated for those projects could be diverted to finance the above-mentioned study. One representative proposed that a committee, composed of Commission members, be formed to consider that possibility. Another representative proposed the consideration of the possibility of the submission of a recommendation to the United Nations for the allocation of the funds required. A number of representatives, however, were of the opinion that it should be left to the Executive Secretary to find the appropriate solutions for the completion of the study.

93. In the discussion that followed, several representatives emphasized the need for effective co-ordination with the relevant Arab regional organizations involved in agriculture, industry, oil and energy, science and technology and other vital fields. To the extent possible, activities that had common objectives with those of Arab regional and international organizations concerned should be linked together in order to avoid duplication and minimize cost. Under the industrial development programme of the Commission, efforts should be made to co-ordinate the work envisaged in the two subprogrammes dealing with the harmonization of industrial plans and policies and the specific industrial projects. It was necessary to develop a regional strategy for industrial development. In this, it was essential to make use of current similar efforts.

94. With respect to the harmonization of development plans, one representative expressed the view that the project on the subject should be completed in 1980. This was necessary in order to assist member countries in their efforts to launch their next development plans in 1981 in accordance with the recommendation of the Council of Arab Economic Unity to its member countries on unifying the period of their development plans.

95. One representative indicated that some of the studies envisaged under the agriculture programme were of a general nature and suggested that these studies should be made more specific and confined to countries that had gained experience in regional agricultural planning and adjustment. Efforts should be made to ensure that the studies would also have practical relevance. He added that the resources allocated to advisory services reflected minor increases for the period 1980-1981 only to cover inflation. Those resources needed to be augmented, in order to meet the growth in the demand of member States for such services in various fields. In view of the growing importance of science and technology, a separate division should be established with adequate resources to undertake work on various aspects of the application of science and technology to development in the countries of the region.

for the establishment of such bodies. The high-level intergovernmental committee of technical experts referred to above should be composed of senior officials concerned with the economy, planning and development.

98. Another delegation expressed its support for the conclusions of the meeting of executive secretaries of the regional commissions, held at Rabat in 1979, regarding the need for the gradual delegation of responsibilities to the regional commissions, including ECWA, depending on the nature of the activity concerned.

99. One representative noted that the establishment of subsidiary bodies, despite its importance, imposed material burdens on the Governments of some member States. Some countries were unable to participate in the work of these bodies because they lacked the required expertise.

#### 6. Co-operation among developing countries

100. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 11 in reference to resolution 70(VI) of the Commission which called upon the secretariat to undertake a number of activities aimed at promoting co-operation among the countries of the region. He stated that the activities of the secretariat, which were described in documents E/ECWA/94 and Add.1, included a number of studies, meetings and advisory services carried out within the scope of the work programme of the Commission. He emphasized the importance of collective efforts for self-reliance among the countries of the region and of co-operation between them and developing countries in other regional groupings. Within this context, he stated that the secretariat's efforts also involved negotiations with ECMA and ECLA on joint projects. Once completed, these projects would be submitted to the Commission for its consideration.

101. Several representatives emphasized the need for co-operation at all levels. They commended the efforts of ECWA in this connexion particularly in carrying out various activities and furnishing advisory services to the countries of the region and in conducting the study for the establishment of a regional information system. However, it was necessary to reinforce

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION  
AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION

77 (VII). Assistance in the reconstruction of Lebanon <sup>5/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling Commission resolutions 24(III), 40(IV) and 65(V) relating to the request addressed to ECWA for assistance in the reconstruction of Lebanon,

Realizing the importance of helping Lebanon to regain its economic vitality, social stability and prosperity in both the public and private sectors,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to co-operate with the United Nations co-ordinator and with the Development and Reconstruction Council in Lebanon in the study and implementation of projects for the reconstruction of Lebanon;

2. Recommends that a programme be established to cover this co-operation.

7th meeting  
22nd April 1980

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<sup>5/</sup> See para. 44 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

79 (VII). Strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account of the Economic Commission for Western Asia 7/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Noting with appreciation its considerable achievements, despite the limitations in human and material resources imposed upon it by the difficult circumstances of its sojourn in Lebanon,

Cognizant of the need to expand the work of the Commission into other areas of concern,

Urges all member States to strengthen the Financial Contributions Account of ECWA, so that the Commission may discharge its responsibilities vis-à-vis the growing needs of the member States and so that its activities, ranging from surveys and statistical research to analytical studies and training and consultant services, can be extended to cover all economic and social sectors and subsectors.

7th meeting  
22 April 1980

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7/ See paras. 87-91 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

81 (VII). Inclusion of a programme on the environment in the work programme of the Economic Commission for Western Asia 9/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/193 of 29 January 1979 which emphasized that the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade should, inter alia, reflect in an appropriate manner "the need for the protection of the environment ... taking environmental considerations into account in accordance with the development plans and priorities of developing countries",

Aware that the efforts exerted for development in the ECWA region are giving rise to increased concern for the environment,

Taking note with appreciation of the note of the Executive Secretary on the Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia (E/ECWA/107),

1. Urges member States to take into consideration as appropriate the recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia, at the national and regional levels;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to establish an environment programme starting in 1984;
3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its eighth session a report on the action taken pursuant to the present resolution.

7th meeting  
22 April 1980

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9/ See paras. 82 and 83 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1. Endorses the Programme of Action in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the ECWA region;
2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps for securing adequate resources to implement the Programme of Action for the ECWA region;
3. Urges member States to contribute effectively to assisting the Commission financially in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the ECWA region;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its eighth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action

8th meeting  
23 April 1980

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly, in its resolution 32/197, on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, recommended that "the regional commissions should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level",

Recognizing the important role of water in the over-all socio-economic development of the region and the urgent need for accelerated progress in the development of this vital natural resource,

Having considered the report on the establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council (E/ECWA/96) and, in particular, appendix 15 (the report on the Commission's meeting at Damascus on 17 and 18 September 1979), which provided for the proposed terms of reference of the Water Resources Council to be amended so as to replace its executive functions by co-ordinating functions, in order to avoid duplication of the work of organizations already active in the area of water resources,

Noting with satisfaction the implementation of the tasks referred to in the resolution of the Second Regional Water Meeting held at Riyadh,

1. Decides:

- (a) That the Regional Water Council shall be established;
- (b) That the competence of that Council shall be restricted exclusively to the co-ordination of the efforts of the regional organizations and bodies active in the field of water resources in the region and to the conduct of activities that complement the work of these organizations;
- (c) That the Council's co-ordination efforts shall be discharged through the compilation of information concerning the organizations active in the region and the discussion of that information at its periodic meetings;



84 (VII). Formation of an intergovernmental expert committee on the Medium-Term Plan 12/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 63 (V) of 6 October 1978 on the establishment of subsidiary bodies,

Further recalling its resolution 69 (VI) of 1 May 1979 concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197,

Considering General Assembly resolution 34/224 of 20 December 1979 concerning medium-term planning in the United Nations,

Recognizing the need for the increased and more effective participation of regional intergovernmental organs in the planning process,

Taking note of the note by the Executive Secretary on the establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission (E/ECWA/93),

1. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee with the following terms of reference:
  - (a) To advise the Commission on the establishment of programme priorities for the period 1984-1989,
  - (b) To advise the Commission on the formulation of the Medium-Term Plan, 1984-1989,
  - (c) To recommend to the Commission, in co-operation with the secretariat, institutional arrangements, including the creation of technical bodies, for the effective implementation of the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan;

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12/ See paras. 96-99 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

85 (VII). Census of the Palestinian Arab people <sup>13/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling resolution 28 (III) concerning the census of the Palestinian Arab people,

Referring to the progress achieved in the implementation of the census operations, indicated in part two of the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/106),

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue the necessary measures for the completion of the project on the census of the Palestinian Arab people;
2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the next session a progress report on this project.

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<sup>13/</sup> See paras. 34, 41 and 45 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

87 (VII). International Year of Disabled Persons <sup>15/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 on the rights of mentally retarded persons,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 containing the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976 by which it proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979 by which it adopted a plan of action for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

1. Urges member States of ECWA to mobilize their resources in order to accelerate the preparatory work towards the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons, including the establishment of national machinery for planning and co-ordinating at the national level all activities of the Year in the field of disability prevention and rehabilitation of disabled persons, with special emphasis on the population in the rural areas;

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<sup>15/</sup> See para. 33 above.

ANNEXES

Annex I

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS  
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION

Note by the secretariat

1. As required under rule 24 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission, the secretariat has prepared the present statement of financial implications relating to draft resolutions submitted to the Commission at its seventh session, expressed in United States dollars.

2. Observations relating to the relevant draft resolutions are as follows:

(a) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (E/ECWA/L.101)

	\$
1. Consultants (5 m/m)	25,000
2. Travel of staff	5,000
3. Reporting costs	<u>3,000</u>
	33,000
4. Overhead charges	<u>5,000</u>
	38,000
	=====

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE FORMATION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT COMMITTEE ON THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN (E/ECWA/L.104)

	\$
1. General temporary assistance	5,000
2. Official travel of staff	<u>5,000</u>
	10,000
	=====

(c) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL (E/ECWA/L.103)

	\$
1. Salaries and allowances	59,300
2. Travel	3,000
3. Overhead costs	<u>2,700</u>
	71,000
	=====

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/89	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/89/Rev.1	Agenda
E/ECWA/89/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : additional list of items
E/ECWA/89/Add.2	Third General Conference of UNIDO: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/89/Add.3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECWA/90 and Corr.1 and Corr.2	Revised work programme and priorities, 1980-1981
E/ECWA/90/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/91	Progress report on the implementation of the work programme
E/ECWA/92	Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and the strengthening of, the regional commissions: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/93	Establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/94 and Corr.1 and Add.1	Co-operation among developing countries (follow-up to ECWA resolution 70 (VI))
E/ECWA/95	Follow-up action on resolutions of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/95/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : relocation of the Commission in Baghdad
E/ECWA/96 and Add.1	Establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council
E/ECWA/97 and Add.1	Third United Nations development decade
E/ECWA/98	Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/99	Invitations to States Members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the activities of the seventh session of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/99/Rev.1 and Rev.2	Consideration of the applications of States Members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the seventh session of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/100 and Add.1 Add.2	The financial status of the Commission's programmes - Statement on the Financial Contributions Account: report of the Executive Secretary

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/INF.25/Rev.1	List of documents
E/ECWA/INF.26	Provisional list of participants
E/ECWA/INF.26/Rev.1 and Rev.1 /Corr.1	List of participants
E/ECWA/L.96	Assistance in the reconstruction of Lebanon - Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization and Yemen: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.97	Relocation of the offices of the Commission to Baghdad - Jordan: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.98	Strengthening of the budget of ECWA - Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.99	Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system - Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.100	Inclusion of a programme on the environment in the work programme of ECWA - Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.101	Economic co-operation between the members of the Commission and other developing countries - Iraq: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.102	Programme of Action in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the ECWA region - Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.103	Establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council - Jordan and Saudi Arabia: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.104	Formation of an intergovernmental expert committee on the Medium-Term Plan - Iraq, Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.105	Census of the Palestinian Arab people - Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: draft resolution

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in Western Asia
E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.3/2	Housing Finance in the ECWA Region
E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/7	Final Report on the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, 1980
E/ECWA/ENV/WG.16/9	Final Report on the Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia
	Food Security Issues in the Arab Near East
	Industrial Development in Iraq
	Industrial Development in Syria, Prospects and Problems
	Industrial Statistics - Syria
	Regional Development of Selected Branches of Capital Goods Industry
	Industrialization in the Arab World, Options and Strategies, Year 2000
	Establishment of telephone cables industry in ECWA Region - A Techno-Economic Study
	Population Bulletin No. 16
	Population Bulletin No. 17
	Demographic and Related Socio-Economic Data Sheets for Countries of the Economic Commission for Western Asia
	Estimates and Projections of Population, Vital Rates and Economic Activity for Members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia
	Sources for Research on Population and Development in the ECWA Region
	The Population Situation in the ECWA Region
	Bibliography of Population Literature in the Arab World
	Basic Data on Population, Economy and International Migration in Arab Countries
E/ECWA/DPD/WG.14/1 Rev.1 & E/ECWA/DPD/WG.14/3 Add.2	Development Strategy for the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in the Third United Nations Development Decade.
	Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region, 1970-1978 - April 1979.

Symbol

Title

Series F No. 14 (Rev.1)

Input-Output Tables and Analysis

Statistical Abstract of the Region of the  
Economic Commission for Western Asia, 1968-1977,  
Third Issue, 1980

National Accounts Studies, Bulletin No. 3

Statistical Yearbook - 1980. No. 1

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<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/L.106	The economic and social situation and the potential of the Palestinian Arab people - Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.107	Third United Nations development decade - Democratic Yemen and Yemen: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.108	International Year of Disabled Persons - Iraq and Kuwait: draft resolution
E/ECWA/L.109	Draft report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

PUBLICATIONS  
AND PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS ISSUED DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/NR/10	Medium and Long Term Projections of the Demand for and Supply of Energy in the ECWA Region.
	Aspects of the Role and Operation of Energy Institutions in Selected Arab Countries.
	Introduction of an Adequate System for Collecting, Compiling and Analysis of Water Resources Data in the Region.
	Study on the Economics of Oil Refining in the ECWA Region
E/ECWA/TRANS.2/Rev.1/ SUMMARY	DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR WESTERN ASIA, volume I, Towards an Integrated Transport Plan - A Review.
E/ECWA/TRANS.2/Rev.1	DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR WESTERN ASIA, volume II, Aspects of Transport Demand.
E/ECWA/TRANS.2/Rev.1	DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR WESTERN ASIA, volume III, Transport Supply and Infrastructure.
E/ECWA/TRANS/W.G.15/1	Report on UNCTAD/ECWA SEMINAR IN PORT OPERATIONS.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/101	United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (Vienna, Austria, 20-31 August 1979)
E/ECWA/102	Establishment of a branch office of the Commission in Beirut: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/103	Third General Conference of UNIDO
E/ECWA/104	Second Regional Population Conference of ECWA
E/ECWA/105	World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/106	The Commission's programmes for the Palestinian Arab people: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/107	Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia (Beirut, Lebanon, 21-25 January 1980): note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/108	Follow-up at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/109	Organization of work: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/110	Statement by the heads of delegations of Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/111	Statement by the head of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/112	Statement by the head of the delegation of Iraq: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/113	Report of the Sub-committee on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade
E/ECWA/114	Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
E/ECWA/INF.24	Notes for the information of participants
E/ECWA/INF.25	Provisional list of documents

(d) CENSUS OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE

Commenting on the draft resolution in document E/ECWA/L.105, the Executive Secretary of the Commission stated that he would negotiate with UNFPA, which had already committed about \$200,000 to this project, with a view to its continuing the financing of the project until its completion. This would be done in consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organization. (For the final text adopted, see chap. IV above, resolution 35 (VII).)

(e) THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION AND POTENTIAL OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE

Commenting on the draft resolution in document E/ECWA/L.106, the Executive Secretary stated that, on the basis of the understanding reached with the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Chairman of the Commission, a specific measure had been decided upon in connexion with the study. He would communicate with the members of the Commission, with a view to securing the necessary funds to complete the project, in accordance with the request in operative paragraph 2. (For the final text adopted, see chap. IV above, resolution 36 (VII).)

2. Requests member States of ECWA to attend technical meetings of officers responsible for national programmes, as well as the regional seminar of policy-making officials, preferably at the ministerial level, to be held under ECWA auspices at Baghdad in the autumn of 1980 in order to exchange experiences and consider the most effective ways to implement and follow up the objectives of the Year at the regional level;
3. Requests member States of ECWA to make an effective contribution as a region to the international symposium to be held in July 1981 on technical co-operation among developing countries and technical assistance for disabled persons, particularly as regards the application of science and technology to the fabrication of prototype and the mass production of medical, education and vocational equipment, by utilizing indigenous resources and expertise;
4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECWA, in co-operation with the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies concerned, to strengthen the work of ECWA in the field of disability prevention and the rehabilitation of disabled persons, within the framework of the social development programmes of ECWA, taking into consideration the long-term plan of action in this field to be adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and the preparatory work for the international development strategy for the 1980s.

8th meeting  
23 April 1980

86 (VII). The economic and social situation and potential of the  
Palestinian Arab People 14/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 27 (III) on the preparation of a general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people,

Referring to the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/106), in part one of which the stages of the implementation of this study are detailed,

1. Reaffirms the need for the earliest possible completion of the study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to secure the remaining necessary funds so that this study can be pursued and completed as designed;
3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit a progress report on the preparation of this study to the Commission at its eighth session.

8th meeting  
23 April 1980

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14/ See paras. 34, 40, 88 and 90 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

2. Further decides that the Committee shall meet in the first quarter of 1981 and submit its recommendations to the Commission at its ninth session;
3. Recommends that member States nominate senior officials concerned with economic and social affairs, planning and development, to serve on the Committee;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to take necessary measures for the provision by the General Assembly of the necessary resources for the functioning of the Committee.

8th meeting  
23 April 1980

- (d) That the Council shall meet once a year, the exact date to be agreed upon between the secretariat and the member States, and that this meeting shall be held at least four months prior to the date of the regular session of the Commission;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary:

- (a) To assess the financial implications of the present resolution and to explore with the member States, regional and international funding agencies, other countries and development institutions the possibility of raising and securing the necessary funds that will enable the secretariat of the Commission to provide adequate secretarial support to the Council,
- (b) To report to the Commission at its eighth regular session on the progress achieved regarding the establishment of the Council, and in particular on the implementation of the tasks mentioned above.

8th meeting  
23 April 1980

83 (VII). Establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council <sup>11/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the recommendation to establish a Regional Water Resources Council adopted at its First Regional Water Meeting held at Baghdad,

Further recalling the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference, which constitute the Mar del Plata Action Plan, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2115 (LXIII) and 2121 (LXIII), which called upon the regional commissions to expand their activities in the field of water resources,

Further recalling Commission resolution 39 (IV) concerning regional co-operation in the field of water resources development, and the resolution adopted at its Second Regional Water Meeting held at Riyadh,

Noting that the United Nations Water Conference requested the regional commissions "to play a central role in the promotion of intergovernmental co-operation" in the respective regions, as a follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan, and specially recommended in its resolution VIII that they should, inter alia, "assign specific responsibility on water to an existing intergovernmental committee within the regional commission, or, if necessary, create a new one and establish or strengthen, as appropriate, the secretariat units of the commissions dealing with water, which would serve as the secretariat of the intergovernmental committee referred to",

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<sup>11/</sup> See paras. 64-72 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.



82 (VII). Programme of Action in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the ECWA region 10/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing that past development efforts and programmes have largely failed to reach and benefit adequately the rural areas in the countries of the region,

Recognizing further the rural-urban imbalances in the region and the great gaps in living standards,

Convinced that, in the ECWA region, agrarian reform is a critical component of rural development and that the sustained improvement of rural areas, in the context of the promotion of national self-reliance and the building of the New International Economic Order, requires fuller and more equitable access to land, water and other natural resources,

Having considered the results of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, organized by FAO in co-operation with other organs and organizations of the United Nations system,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/14 of 19 November 1979, which endorsed the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,

Taking note of the report of the secretariat on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (E/ECWA/105) and the Draft Programme of Action in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the ECWA region appended thereto,

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10/ See paras. 53-55 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

80 (VII). The restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations 8/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and in particular section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197 relating to structure for regional and international co-operation,

Further recalling its resolution 69(VI) concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 34/206 of 19 December 1979 on the implementation of section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197,

Taking further note of the report of the secretariat, contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/92), detailing the progress achieved in the decentralization of economic and social activities to, and the strengthening of, the regional commissions,

1. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to pursue, in collaboration with other regional commissions, his consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view to obtaining the resources required for carrying out the activities already identified by the secretariat as resulting from the increased responsibilities of the Commission in the light of General Assembly resolution 32/197;
2. Requests further the Executive Secretary to complete the identification of the activities to be carried out by the Commission within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system;
3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its eighth session on the progress achieved in the further decentralization of activities to, and the strengthening of, the Commission.

7th meeting  
22 April 1980

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8/ See paras. 96-99 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

78 (VII). Relocation of the offices of the Commission to Baghdad<sup>6/</sup>

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<sup>6/</sup> The text of this resolution is reproduced in para. 1 above.

co-operation among the countries of the region through the co-ordination of major development policies to undertake joint projects and to establish a regional system for the exchange of information on development efforts.

102. One representative considered the principle of the collective self-reliance of the developing countries as one of the fundamental principles governing international economic relations. He mentioned that the document on the Asian Regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Manila in 1980, neglected the concerns of the countries of Western Asia. He requested the secretariat to participate in meetings which were to be held on the establishment of a global system of trade preferences among developing countries and to present a detailed report to the member States with a view to assisting them in defining their respective positions concerning these vital issues. He also drew the attention of the Commission to the importance of the forthcoming meetings of the Group of 77 on the provisional agenda for international economic negotiations and for subsequent conferences.

#### Other business

#### Date and place of meeting of the next session

103. The Commission unanimously agreed to hold its eighth session at Baghdad at a date to be agreed upon in due time.

#### Adoption of the report

104. At its eighth meeting, on 23 April 1980, the Commission adopted the draft report on its seventh session, as amended during its discussions, for submission to the Economic and Social Council (see para. 3 above).

5. Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and the strengthening of, the regional commissions and the establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission

96. The Commission agreed, on the recommendation of one delegation, to consider agenda items 10 and 12 together. The Executive Secretary submitted a concise report on item 10 (E/ECMA/92) in which it was noted that General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system recommended that the authority vested in the regional commissions be expanded. Consequently, two posts were transferred to the Commission as from January 1980, but the decentralization of other activities and responsibilities (ocean economics, transportation, programme planning) did not take place. This question has been referred to the General Assembly for action at its thirty-fifth session. He appealed to member States to support secretariat proposals in the bodies concerned. The Executive Secretary then submitted a concise statement on item 12 (E/ECMA/93), in which he reported on consultations with member States and with members of the League of Arab States on the need for subsidiary bodies and for the setting of priorities in this connexion. The main objective of these bodies, which would not necessarily be permanent institutions, would be to serve as specialized auxiliary bodies which would provide assistance to the programme of action of the Commission in areas of top priority. The secretariat felt that this question should be given further study in depth by a high-level intergovernmental committee of technical experts.

97. During the discussion of these two items, one representative expressed his regret at the failure of the General Assembly to respond to the requests of the Commission's secretariat on the decentralization of authority to the Commission. He recommended that the secretariat should hold prior consultations with member States to ensure support in the General Assembly for its request. The transfer to the Commission of the executive responsibilities of some training and planning institutions was noted with satisfaction. He stressed that a pressing need should exist to justify the establishment of subsidiary bodies and recommended that the secretariat should submit a detailed report to the Commission at its next session on the staff requirements

89. One representative referred to the assistance rendered by his Government to the Commission during the period in which Beirut served as the temporary headquarters of the Commission.

90. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the surplus in the Financial Contributions Account did not constitute a large sum, when the commitments approved up to 31 March 1980 were taken into consideration. He also pointed out that the resources made available to the Commission from Arab funds were linked to specific projects, and the secretariat could not divert them to other activities. The secretariat was willing to respond to the wishes of members and to allocate a portion of the surplus to finance the study which was the concern of the Commission, and it was willing to do what was considered to be suitable.

91. One representative urged member States, especially those which possessed the capability, to contribute to increasing the Financial Contributions Account and to support the budget of the Commission. Other representatives expressed support for this appeal.

4. Revised programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981

92. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 9 with a brief explanation of the revision of the Commission's work programme for 1980-1981 as contained in documents E/ECWA/90 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/ECWA/90/Add.1. He stated that, in view of the resource reductions effected by both the Secretary-General and the General Assembly, the secretariat found it necessary to revise the programme of work and priorities adopted by the Commission at its sixth session.<sup>4/</sup> He added that, while the original texts for the various programmes had been retained in the revised version for every programme element, the outputs envisaged would in many cases be affected by the considerable reduction effected in travel allocations. As allocations for travel constituted one of the important elements in the implementation of the work programme, that reduction would, in many cases, reduce the scope, coverage and orientation of the programme elements thus affected.

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<sup>4/</sup> See E/ECWA/74 and Add.1

85. During the discussion, one representative stated that his country had looked forward to the Conference with great interest, in view of the importance of the questions discussed there, and of the positive results which the developing countries expected to emerge from it. He considered, however, that the Conference had been a failure as far as international co-operation was concerned owing to the unco-operative attitude displayed by the industrialized countries in opposing the suggestions put forward by the Group of 77. He added that the New Delhi Plan of Action contained positive principles for co-operation among the developing countries in the industrial sphere. The Commission could benefit from those principles in its efforts to strengthen co-operation among member States. He called on the Commission to take the necessary steps to bring about the maximum participation in the implementation of the suggestions of the Group of 77 and the New Delhi Plan of Action. He further referred to the recommendation contained in the work plan regarding the accelerated implementation of the resolution adopted by the Industrial Development Board at its twelfth session.<sup>3/</sup> That recommendation proposed that a comprehensive survey of industrial activity in the occupied territories of Palestine should be conducted, so as to help in improving economic and social conditions in those territories.

86. At the conclusion of the discussion of agenda item 7, the Executive Secretary indicated that the item had been placed on the agenda of the seventh session in order to take cognizance of the directives of the member States with regard to the impact of United Nations conferences on the ECWA work programme and in order to inform the member States of the conclusions of the regional meetings held by ECWA. The deliberations in the Commission would be of great benefit to ECWA in planning its future work programmes. He expressed his appreciation of the interest that this item had stimulated on the part of the member States and welcomed their request that it be made a regular item on the agenda of future sessions.

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<sup>3/</sup> Resolution 48 (XII) of 26 May 1978 on the role of the public sector in promoting the industrialization of the developing countries.

80. One representative emphasized the importance of the political decision to integrate women in the development process. He called upon the member States, as part of their preparations for the Copenhagen conference, to complete the questionnaire which the Secretary-General had circulated for the purpose of following up the application of national policies for the implementation of the World Plan for Women. The Commission should accord particular importance to the results of the analysis of the data obtained through the questionnaire. This would facilitate the identification of the urgent problems which concerned one or more groups of developing countries and the proposal of realistic solutions to them. It would also make it possible to benefit from the experiences of others in that area.

81. Another representative referred to the lack of co-ordination among the different organizations concerned with women's affairs. He stressed that one of the basic requirements for raising the status of women and increasing their participation in the development process was the availability of accurate statistical data on the extent of women's participation in economic activities. Such data were sorely lacking. He called on the Commission to work towards establishing uniform concepts which would expedite the collection of the necessary data and statistics.

(g) Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia

82. The secretariat submitted a note by the Executive Secretary containing a summary report on the work and recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia (E/ECWA/107), in which it was stated that, in light of the close relationship between the environment and development, the Seminar had adopted a set of recommendations related to an economic development strategy, land and water management, industrial development, oil and the conduct of future studies. The recommendations also formulated a general framework for the follow-up of their implementation.



(e) The Second Regional Population Conference of ECWA

73. The secretariat of the Commission introduced this subitem in reference to the First Regional Population Conference, held in 1974, at which it had been recommended that such a conference be convened every five years in order to review progress made in the field of population in the countries of the region and to make recommendations which would guide ECWA in developing its work programme in this field.

74. The Second Regional Population Conference of ECWA, which was held at Damascus in December 1979, adopted the set of recommendations contained in documents E/ECWA/104 and Corr. 1. These recommendations not only covered matters related to population growth but also referred to major problems facing member countries in the areas of internal migration and urbanization, intraregional and interregional migration. In this connexion, it was noted that one of the most important problems confronting the region was the forced migration of the Palestinian Arab people. The recommendations also emphasized the need for population data collection and analysis and for scientific research as the basis for formulating effective population policies.

75. In the discussion that ensued on this question, several representatives expressed their views on the significance of population and the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes and stressed that the Commission should adopt definite resolutions regarding such crucial issues as mortality, rural-to-urban migration, family planning and the integration of women in the process of development.

76. One representative attached importance to the formulation of appropriate policies commensurate with the specific circumstances and needs of each country. It was believed that while some of the recommendations of the Conference needed to be incorporated in the over-all development strategy for the Arab world, others - and particularly those pertaining to family size and family planning - were not of equal relevance to all the countries of the region. These could be applied only to countries where population growth seemed to constitute a burden on economic and social development. With respect to regional and interregional migration and the need to regulate the movement

in the ECWA region. The Council would then be an instrument for mobilizing efforts in support of regional co-operation in water affairs and the secretariat of the Commission would serve as the secretariat of the Council.

66. A number of representatives welcomed the document before the Commission and supported the establishment of the proposed Council in accordance with the mandate and terms of reference provided in the third alternative, which they believed to correspond most closely to the consensus of the members of the Commission.

67. A representative proposed that the mandate of the Council be reviewed in the light of its future performance. The Commission might then wish to extend the basis of the Council's activities and its mandate so that they would comply with the first or second alternative proposed in the document before the Commission, should that course be deemed necessary.

68. Another representative noted that regional co-operation in water resources affairs was a matter of vital importance, since some members of the Commission suffered from critical water shortages. With the social and economic development of the region, that problem was becoming ever more acute. He asked if the concept of water resources included desalinated water, which constituted a major resource in some countries of the region.

69. One representative spoke of the activities of some of the international and Arab organizations working in the region and requested that the secretariat communicate to the Commission the results of those activities, in view of their importance to the region. He referred to the importance of ground water and to the serious lack of basic information needed to assess such resources, the extent of which was for the most part not fully known. He urged that detailed studies be undertaken in an effort to protect, exploit and put to good use the water resources of the region, so as to conserve that important natural resource. Accurate rainfall and surface run-off measurements were needed, as well as information on the volume of water extracted and its replacement, with a view to developing sources of supply. The representative concluded by calling on the Commission to play an active role in setting up a council or a regional body for water resources entrusted with

from a definition of problems confronting the developing countries but also from the need for specifying the responsibilities of the advanced countries vis-à-vis those problems and from the deepening of the international awareness of them.

58. Despite the commendable efforts made, the proposed strategy for the region needed further elaboration, with a view to defining clear positions regarding fundamental development issues which confronted the region. As a prerequisite, the strategy should reflect the development experience of individual countries in regard to growth, the structural transformation of the economy and the progress achieved in social fields, in addition to assessing the implications for the 1980s at both the national and the regional levels. More specifically, the strategy should also give prominence to such other crucial priorities as the enhancement of the role of foreign trade in the development process, the reduction of income disparities both within and among the member countries, the mobilization of total savings within the economy and the role of the public sector in promoting economic and social development.

59. Adequate attention should also be devoted to the role of development planning, the strengthening of the administrative infrastructures and the creation and development of necessary institutions as part of the whole range of machinery needed to ensure the successful implementation of the strategy.

60. It was further asserted that the strategy should clearly reflect the persistent adverse effect resulting from the Arab-Israeli conflict in the region, the close association of the Zionist regime with the regime of Sadat, the continued occupation of Arab territories and the implications of these factors for the progress and prosperity of member countries.

61. The Executive Secretary welcomed the observations made on the experts' report and indicated that the discussions resulting from the keen interest shown in the subject had raised some additional important points that could be further crystallized so as to widen the views of the experts. Those additional points could also be communicated to the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly for consideration. Moreover, he urged representatives also to bring these views to the attention of their delegations at United Nations Headquarters to enable them to participate actively in the deliberations at the global level.

62. It was agreed to form a committee comprising the heads of the delegations of four member States, namely Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait, to suggest amendments to the documentation on the development strategy for the third United Nations Development decade before the Commission.

63. At the seventh meeting of the Commission, that Committee submitted its report (E/ECNA/113), which was adopted by the Commission with some amendments. The report called upon the secretariat to take the appropriate measures to amend the formulation of the strategy proposals in line with the Committee's suggestions. It also requested the secretariat to submit the document to the member States, with a view to its subsequent submission to the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly.

in this regard. It further noted that, on the recommendation of the Conference, the General Assembly had approved the establishment of a high-level intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, a supporting secretariat and an interim fund for the period 1980-1981 of not less than \$ 250 million. These recommendations, the secretariat added, were part and parcel of an adopted programme of action which set forth the requirements for specific action at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels in the sphere of science and technology for development.

49. In the discussion that followed on this question, several representatives indicated that their countries had participated actively in the substantive preparations for this Conference. One representative stated that the Conference had not succeeded in adopting effective and action-oriented resolutions which could contribute to the building and strengthening of the endogenous scientific and technological capabilities of the developing countries and assist them in mobilizing those capabilities for the utilization of science and technology for development. He further indicated that the main reason for this situation was the rigid and rather unco-operative position adopted by the industrialized countries present at the Conference. He further stated that his country supported the establishment of the interim fund for science and technology for development and indicated that the share of his country's contribution to this fund would be announced at the appropriate time.

50. Another representative stressed that it was virtually impossible to transfer technology to the Arab world effectively without preparing the ground for the successful absorption of technology and without taking into consideration the prevailing local and environmental conditions in the region.

51. One representative emphasized that the outcome of the Conference reflected the interests and priority needs of various groups of countries and notably countries in the Latin American region. He further indicated that it was necessary for the Commission to identify the priority areas of its member States in science and technology and to formulate a work programme which reflected their needs. He also enquired about the basis on which contributions to the interim fund would be made by members of the international community.

or distribution difficulties. On the subject of assistance to Egypt, he said that ECWA was bound in this regard by the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and was accordingly under the obligation to offer its services and assistance to all member States. He further stated that he shared the view of the delegations of member States on the need to provide ECWA with the requisite information and statistics and on the need for members to demonstrate more responsiveness and co-operate more fully with the Commission. Effective co-ordination required the fullest co-operation from all parties. In that connexion, he drew attention to the agreements concluded between ECWA and Arab regional organizations and to the meetings which had been held at the level of their senior officials. He stressed the role of the member States in accelerating the process of co-ordination between ECWA and the regional organizations and Arab funds. He referred to the financial difficulties impeding the effort to expand the work of the ECWA Statistical Unit. ECWA was experiencing great difficulty in obtaining any substantial increase in its budget, in view of the directives of the United Nations to all its organs and departments which restricted any expansion of their activity involving financial implications. He urged member States to support the Commission in its efforts to obtain more financial resources. He pointed to the efforts of the secretariat to promote co-operation and co-ordination with the Arab funds in areas of common concern, especially in the field of statistical studies. He cited the continuing co-operation which existed between ECWA and UNFPA in the implementation of resolution 23(III) on the census of the Palestinian Arab people and commended the efforts of some member States which were conducting population surveys, the findings of which were bound to be of benefit.

46. The secretariat submitted clarifications on a number of queries which were raised on the question of reporting progress made in the implementation of the work programme (E/ECWA/91). With respect to studies prepared by the Commission, it was noted that it was primarily up to the member States to translate these studies into practical measures at the national and regional levels. Regarding the census activities of the Commission, it was pointed out that the resources available to the unit concerned had increased substantially since it was established in 1975. The resources of the unit, however,

iron and steel and engineering industries. The foodstuffs industry should also be expanded in the interest of food security in the countries of the region. The studies prepared by the economic secretariat of the League of Arab States on the expansion of external trade, adherence to the Arab Common Market, the execution of joint transport and telecommunications projects, the participation of women in development and the impact of industrial projects on the environment, should be circulated and utilized.

39. A number of representatives proposed that certain amendments be made in the names of several official bodies and places appearing in Commission documents and that the designation "the Arab territories occupied since 1967" should accompany all references to the Gaza Strip and the Jordan West Bank.

40. Several representatives expressed regret that the implementation of Commission resolution 27(III) calling for a general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people had been delayed and expressed the hope that the study would meet the deadline set for it. Several representatives proposed that the secretariat should examine the possibility of meeting the financial difficulties that impeded the implementation of that resolution by covering a part of the expenses of the study by a withdrawal from the Financial Contributions Account.

41. A number of representatives expressed satisfaction with the follow-up on resolution 28(III) on the census of the Palestinian Arab people. One representative proposed the formation of an advisory committee of the member States to co-operate with the Commission in the implementation of that resolution. One delegation suggested that the census should also include the Palestinian Arab people outside the ECMA region, especially those resident in Latin America. Two delegations objected to that suggestion, preferring that the census be limited to the ECMA region. Another delegation expressed the readiness of its country to co-operate with the Commission in that study by providing it with the data relating to the population census that had been taken recently.

Commission's programmes. The single most important source of difficulty facing the Commission, however, resided in factors that circumscribed economic co-operation efforts in the region. While the primary responsibility of ECWA was to strengthen and develop economic co-operation in the region, it was its activities at the country level that had been receiving the lion's share of support from some member countries. The Executive Secretary drew attention to the fact that regional co-operation would assume the magnitude and the scope determined for it by the countries of the region alone. If the work of the Commission was to be developed and its responsibilities discharged to the full, counterpart bodies in the member States had to be associated effectively in the preparation of the Commission's programmes and the follow-up on their implementation, and there must be full co-ordination between the national and regional institutions involved.

32. The Executive Secretary concluded by expressing confidence that the relocation of the offices of the Commission to Baghdad in June 1980 would inaugurate a new era in which the Commission would put behind it the difficulties experienced in its formative stages. He thanked the Lebanese Government for all the assistance it had rendered to the Commission throughout its long stay in its temporary headquarters at Beirut.

33. The representatives of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, the European Economic Community, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made statements in which they expressed their readiness to support development efforts in member countries and co-operate with the Commission for that purpose.

1. Report on the activities of the Commission

34. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 6 with a brief review of progress made in the implementation of the 1979 work programme and follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission, particularly resolutions 27(III) and 28(III) on the Commission's programmes for the Palestinian Arab people. The progress report (E/ECHE/91) reviewed 13 subprogrammes and three sections

25. The Secretary-General pointed out that new tasks had been assigned to the Commission based on the General Assembly's decision to expand the regional commissions' responsibilities in such areas as those of global policy-making, programme planning and technical co-operation. He was confident that further involvement along these lines would enable the Commission to play an essential role in developing co-operation in the region.

26. In his introductory statement, the Executive Secretary welcomed the First Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of Iraq to the session. He thanked the Iraqi Government for acting as host to the preceding and the present sessions of the Commission and for facilitating the relocation of the secretariat of ECMA from its temporary headquarters at Beirut to its permanent headquarters in Baghdad. He reviewed the factors that circumscribed the development efforts of the region and he identified the major challenges of the present decade. The region's interdependence with the world economy and its interaction with prevailing world economic trends had grown considerably. The blame for the present economic crisis and difficulties could not be placed on the oil-producing countries; to do so was to introduce a serious impediment into the dialogue between the industrialized and the developing countries.

27. The Executive Secretary stated that the energy crisis, with its considerable impact on the economies of the world and the region, had revealed the magnitude of the dangers involved in the continued squandering of the world's non-renewable natural resources, especially oil. The continued division of the world into affluent and impoverished parts was fraught with dangers that threatened the well-being of the developed countries themselves. Hence, the need to change the prevailing world economic system in the interest of the developing countries. In fact, that was the essence of the North-South dialogue. The Executive Secretary was confident that the ECMA region had a major role to play in the success of that dialogue.

28. The Executive Secretary went on to say that a succession of rapid changes had overtaken the region during the past decade. Changes in the economy, however, were not accompanied by parallel changes in social and administrative institutions. The cultural and historical circumstances in which the industrialized



C. Account of proceedings

20. The session was inaugurated by the First Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Iraq, Mr. Taha Yassine Ramadan, who welcomed the holding of the seventh session in Baghdad and expressed his conviction, that the deliberations of the Commission would contribute significantly to strengthening economic integration among the member States as a contribution to Arab economic unity. The persistence of the world economic crisis called for an exceptional effort to alleviate the troubled conditions in the developing countries. Referring to the world economic conferences that had met to deal with the problems of the international community, he considered that they had all failed to effect the structural transformations necessary for establishing a new international economic order. Iraq believed in the need for closer co-operation among the countries of the region and among the developing countries in general. These deserved all possible assistance. He then alluded to the Iraqi proposal for the establishment of a long-term international fund for assisting the developing countries to offset the impact of the inflation exported to them by the industrialized countries.

21. The Chairman of the sixth session, Mr. Hasan Ali, Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Iraq, then made a statement, in which he referred to the political and economic problems confronting the world and their detrimental impact on the developing countries. He stressed that the advanced countries had a responsibility to alleviate the problems of economic and social development in the developing countries by working for the establishment of a new international economic order, by devising comprehensive solutions and by adopting practical measures that would serve the interests of all peoples, especially the peoples of developing countries. He referred, in that context, to the proposal of Iraq for the establishment of an international fund for long-term assistance to developing countries to enable them to cope with the impact of inflation. This fund would be financed jointly by the advanced industrialized countries, irrespective of their economic and social systems, in proportion to the inflation they exported to the developing countries, and by the OPEC countries in proportion to the annual increase in the price of oil exported to the developing countries.

17. The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt protested against the reservation which had been expressed, referring to Economic and Social Council decision 49/1979 concerning the membership of Egypt, and requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that its statement in this connexion be considered as an official document of the session and that its text be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It was accordingly circulated in a note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/111).

18. The delegation of Iraq objected to the contents of the note of the Arab Republic of Egypt referred to above and requested the Executive Secretary to ensure also that its statement in this connexion be considered as an official document of the session and that its text be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. This position was endorsed by the delegations of Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The statement was accordingly circulated in a note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/112).

### B. Agenda

19. At its second meeting, the Commission, after agreeing to the proposal of the Lebanese delegation to substitute for the item appearing in document E/ECWA/89/Add.1 a draft resolution on the reconstruction of Lebanon, adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work
5. Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the seventh session of the Commission.

### III. SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

#### A. Attendance and organization of work

7. The seventh session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was held at the Al-Mansour Melia Hotel, Baghdad, Iraq, from 19 to 23 April 1980.
8. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Commission:<sup>2/</sup> Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
9. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations Secretariat (New York), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, International Labour Organization, International Monetary Fund and International Telecommunications Union.
10. The following regional and governmental organizations attended the session as observers: Arab Statistical Institute for Research and Training, Baghdad, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, Islamic Development Bank, Industrial Development Centre for Arab States, League of Arab States, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, Iraqi Fund for External Development and the European Economic Community.

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<sup>2/</sup> For the names of the participants in the session, see documents E/ACWA/INF.26/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1.

2. At its eighth meeting, on 23 April 1980, the Commission decided to bring the following decision to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

"The Economic Commission for Western Asia, at its seventh session, endorsed the Commission's revised programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 contained in documents E/ECWA/90 and Corr.1 and Corr.2, after taking into consideration the observations made by some member States".

3. The Commission, at the same meeting, decided to recommend the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

" The Economic and Social Council,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on its seventh session (E/ECWA/114) and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in chapters I and IV thereof;

"2. Endorses the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 as contained in documents E/ECWA/90 and Corr.1 and Corr.2".

## ABBREVIATIONS

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization