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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Standing Committee for the Programme

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Agenda item 6

REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME BUDGET 1984-1985
ON A SECTOR BY SECTOR BASIS

Programme: Development issues and policies

PROGRAMME STAFFING TABLE
(PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL SERVICE POST REQUIREMENTS)

Organizational unit: ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Programme : DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES - 240

| | <u>Regular budget</u> | | <u>Extrabudgetary sources</u> | | <u>Total</u> | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | 1982-1983 | 1984-1985 | 1982-1983 | 1984-1985 | 1982-1983 | 1984-1985 |
| <u>Professional category</u> | | | | | | |
| USG | | | | | | |
| ASG | | | | | | |
| D-2 | | | | | | |
| D-1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| P-5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| P-4 | 4 | 4 | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| P-3 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| P-2/1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 7 | 7 | - | - | 7 | 7 |
| <u>General Service category</u> | 6 | 5 | - | - | 6 | 5 |
| Grand total | 13 | 12 | - | - | 13 | 12 |

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

A. Programme

This programme is intended to be ECWA's major contribution to the monitoring, articulation, analysis and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (IDS) at the regional level. The programme envisages continual short and long-term assessments - quantitative as well as qualitative - of the development alternatives facing the member countries of the region, with special emphasis on the problems of the least developed countries of the region. One of its major tasks will be to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA). The programme, which is managed by the Development Planning Division, will consist of three subprogrammes during the 1984-1985 biennium. The three subprogrammes and their elements, along with their output, are described below.

Subprogramme 1: Special measures in favour of the least developed countries of the ECWA region

(a) Resource requirements:

| | Thousands of US dollars | Percentage of programme total |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Regular budget | 315.2 | 30.0 |
| Extrabudgetary | 45.0 | 32.0 |

(b) Reference: Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989
(A/37/6) ch. 10, paras. 10.152-10.155.

(c) Programme elements:

1.1 Programme direction and management^{**}

Output: This programme element does not envisage a tangible output. Its activities comprise those of the Chief of the Division, who also serves as the focal point for ECWA's support programmes in favour of the least developed countries, as provided for under the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA). His activities also relate to all the programmes managed by the Development Planning Division.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1984-1985

| | <u>Regular budget</u> | <u>Extrabudgetary resources</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Professionals | 24 WM | - |
| General Service | 18 WM | - |
| Consultants | - | - |
| Travel | \$ 5,000 | - |

1.2 Review and analysis of trends, policies and measures for the implementation of the SNPA in ECWA member LDCs^{*}

Output: Reports to the Commission on the trends, policies and measures for the implementation of the SNPA in the least developed member countries of ECWA during the first quarters of 1984 and 1985. This programme element also deals with the implementation and follow-up of ECWA resolution 107(IX) on international assistance to flood-stricken areas of the PDRY during the first quarters of 1984 and 1985.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1984-1985

| | <u>Regular budget</u> | <u>Extrabudgetary resources</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Professionals | 18 WM | - |
| General Service | 18 WM | - |
| Consultants | - | - |
| Travel | \$ 5,000 | - |
| <u>Ad Hoc</u> Expert Group | \$ 5,000 | - |

* Highest priority.

1.3 Improving national/regional capability in project formulation and implementation*

Output: Reports to the Commission on the studies of the methodology and applications of project evaluation and formulation for key sectors of the economies of the least developed member countries within the framework of the SNPA, during the first quarters of 1984 and 1985.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1984-1985

| | <u>Regular budget</u> | <u>Extrabudgetary resources</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Professionals | 6 WM | - |
| General Service | 12 WM | - |
| Consultants | - | \$ 40,000 |
| Travel | \$ 3,200 | \$ 5,000 |
| Others | - | - |

Subprogramme 2: Perspective planning

(a) Resource requirements:

| | <u>Thousands of US dollars</u> | <u>Percentage of programme total</u> |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Regular budget | 287.1 | 27.4 |
| Extrabudgetary | 95.0 | 68.0 |

(b) Reference: Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989
(A/37/6), ch. 10, paras. 10.148-10.151.

(c) Programme elements:

2.1 Medium and long-term planning models for the ECWA countries.

* Highest priority.

Output: Reports to the Commission on medium and long-term planning for ECWA countries in the first quarters of 1984-1985. The main output of this programme element during the 1984-1985 biennium will be a set of prototype econometric planning models for different types of economies (e.g. oil, non-oil and LDCs) of the region. Each of them will be applied, with suitable modifications, to one or more (up to a maximum of four in all) economies of each type. The aim of these models is to assist the member countries in exploring the medium and long-term development alternatives available to them under varying assumptions of domestic resource situation and external environment (1984, 1985).

Towards the end of the biennium, an attempt will be made to link country-specific models on a regional and sub-regional basis, so as to enable the development of an integrated regional model in the next biennium. In this connection, an expert group meeting is planned during the fourth quarter of 1985 (XB).

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1984-1985

| | <u>Regular budget</u> | <u>Extrabudgetary resources</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Professionals | 48 WM | - |
| General Service | 36 WM | - |
| Consultants | - | \$ 40,000 |
| Travel | \$ 6,000 | \$ 20,000 |
| Others (data processing) | - | \$ 20,000 |
| <u>Ad Hoc</u> Expert Group | - | \$ 15,000 |

Subprogramme 3: Review and analysis of economic trends

(a) Programme resources:

| | <u>Thousands of US dollars</u> | <u>Percentage of programme total</u> |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Regular budget | 446.7 | 42.6 |
| Extrabudgetary | - | - |

(b) Reference: Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989
(A/37/6), ch. 10, paras. 10.156-10.159.

(c) Programme elements:

3.1 Survey and analysis of economic and social developments in the countries of Western Asia*.

Final output: Publication: Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region, first quarters of 1984 and 1985.

In 1984 the surveys will simultaneously serve as the review and appraisal report on the International Development Strategy. The surveys will include in-depth studies on major economic and social problems facing the ECWA region for which consultancy input has been envisaged.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1984-1985

| | <u>Regular budget</u> | <u>Extrabudgetary resources</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Professionals | 72 WM | - |
| General Service | 36 WM | - |
| Consultants | \$ 9,000 | - |
| Travel | \$ 9,000 | - |
| <u>Ad Hoc</u> Expert Group | \$ 18,000 | - |

* Highest priority.

B. Resource requirements

Established posts

Staff resources required to implement the above-outlined programme are estimated at 168 work-months at the professional and higher levels and 120 work-months at the general service level. All the proposed staff resources would be under the regular budget and their distribution by subprogrammes would be as follows:

| Subprogramme | <u>Work-months for established posts (P-1 to USG) and general service</u> | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | RB | | XB | | Total | |
| | Prof. | G.S. | Prof. | G.S. | Prof. | G.S. |
| 1. | 48 | 48 | - | - | 48 | 48 |
| 2. | 48 | 36 | - | - | 48 | 36 |
| 3. | 72 | 36 | - | - | 72 | 36 |
| Total programme | 168 | 120 | - | - | 168 | 120 |

Provision of the required professional as well as local-level work-months would be made from the present seven professional posts in the 1982-1983 biennium (one D-1, one P-5, three P-4 and one P-3) and five local-level posts. This presents a decrease in the total level of staff resources for this programme. This decrease is the result of the proposed redeployment of one local-level post (research assistant) to the programme of Statistics. Such a redeployment is justified in the light of the secretariat's efforts to centralize data gathering (series) under the statistics programme.

Consultants

(a) Regular budget

Programme element 3.1: A total of \$ 22,000 will be required during the biennium in connection with programme element 3.1. This will cover the preparation by highly-qualified consultants of two research studies on major economic issues (such as food security, infrastructure development and human resource development) facing the ECWA region. The studies will be used as a major input in the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region. These studies, based on high-level expertise and first-hand knowledge of the issues involved, will serve to stimulate discussion on major development issues and will provide fresh insights to policy-makers and planners of the region.

(b) Extrabudgetary resources

Programme element 1.3: Four country case studies (\$ 10,000 each) are to be prepared in two key sectors of two of the least developed member countries. The consultancy services are needed because only 12 work-months of staff resources will be available for this programme element, which will be used for giving support to and completing the consultants' work and for preparing the designs for the studies.

Programme element 2.1: Two country modelling exercises (\$ 30,000 - 6 work-months) and one technical paper (\$ 10,000 - 2 work-months) on a selected aspect of model-building in the region (such as rate of exploitation of natural resources, human resource development and intra-regional resource transfers). The consultancy resources are required to supplement the available resources in the programme and to make up for the lack of expertise in particular countries and problem areas.

AD hoc expert group

The total requirement under this head of \$ 23,000 arise in respect of programme elements 1.2, and 3.1. The following are details of each of them:

Programme element 1.2: An Ad hoc expert group meeting of planners and policy-makers of the member LDCs will be held in early 1985 to review the progress on implementation of the SNPA. The meeting will take place in one of the least developed member countries, will last for three days and will be attended by 10-12 persons (\$ 5,000 RB).

Programme element 2.1: A five-day expert group meeting will be organized at ECWA headquarters towards the middle of 1985 to discuss the prototype and country-specific models from the points of view of methodology and policy usefulness. About 15-20 experts will attend the meeting (\$ 15,000 XB).

Programme element 3.1: An expert group meeting is planned towards the end of 1984 to assist in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy in the ECWA region. The meeting will be held at ECWA headquarters for three days and will be attended by about 15-20 planners, development economists and social scientists who will be invited to prepare papers on different aspects of the implementation of the International Development Strategy in the ECWA region (\$ 18,000 RB).

Travel of staff

(a) Regular budget

The estimated requirements (\$ 28,200) are in connection with the following programme elements:

Programme element 1.1: \$ 5,000 for the Chief of Division for undertaking important missions in the region and for participating in inter-agency meetings related to the work programme of the Development Planning Division.

Programme element 1.2: \$ 5,000 for travel of staff for consultations with member Governments of the least developed countries, to collect data on these countries and to participate in meetings in connection with the implementation of the SNPA.

Programme element 1.3: \$ 3,200 for consultation with member LDCs on the design and completion of project evaluation studies.

Programme element 2.1: \$ 6,000 for missions to member States for consultation on country-specific econometric planning models for providing assistance to member countries in model-building and computer software and for participation in inter-agency modelling work.

Programme element 3.1: \$ 9,000 for the collection of data and discussions with senior officials and other experts in member countries on the current economic and social situation and on major issues facing the region; and for participation in inter-agency meetings on the current world economic situation, development strategy and global negotiations on the New International Economic Order.

(b) Extrabudgetary resources

A total of \$ 25,000 of extrabudgetary travel resources are needed for the two programme elements requiring substantial consultancy inputs (1.3 and 2.1). Extrabudgetary resources in each of these elements of \$ 5,000 and \$ 20,000, respectively will be used for giving support to consultants' work and for discussions with the Government concerning the final form of the consultants' work and for providing assistance when needed.

