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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF ESCWA**

1. The second session of the Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was held in Beirut from 24 to 26 February 1997. The Report on the work of the Statistical Committee at its second session (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4 (part I)/Add.6) contained a set of recommendations adopted by the Committee. The following is a review of the recommendations on which ESCWA was requested to provide follow-up as well as an account of the efforts made in that regard:

A. RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 9 (B)

2. In the recommendation contained in paragraph 9 (b) of the Report, concerning cooperation between ESCWA and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), the Committee:

"Stressed the importance of the cooperation between ESCWA and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) in the preparation of the biennial Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries and in the organization of the Training Workshop on Industrial Statistics, and expressed its hope that such cooperation could be continued and intensified in the future".

Follow-up action

3. Pursuant to the above paragraph, agreement was reached between ESCWA and AIDMO on the continuation of the existing cooperation between them. Indeed, 1997 saw the publication of the third issue of the Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries, 1985-1995, as well as the holding of a Training Workshop on Industrial Statistics and Their Link to the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA), which took place in Beirut from 12 to 18 November 1997.

B. RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 11 (B)

4. In the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 (b) of the Report, concerning the Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session, the Committee:

"Called on ESCWA to take note of the observations of the United Nations Statistics Division regarding technical cooperation in the ESCWA region".

Follow-up action

5. Pursuant to the above paragraph, ESCWA took the remarks into account, as can be seen in the Report on Technical Cooperation in the field of statistics presented at the current session (E/ESCWA/STAT/1999/IG.1/3).

C. RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARAGRAPHS 15 (B) AND (D)

6. In the recommendations contained in paragraph 15 (b) of the Report, concerning the work programme of the Statistics Division of ESCWA, and in paragraph 15 (d), concerning the use of the Internet, the Committee:

"(b) Called on ESCWA to submit future work programmes of the Statistics Division to the Committee before submitting them to the relevant United Nations bodies for approval";

"(d) Called on ESCWA and its member States to make maximum use of the Internet".

Follow-up action

7. With regard to paragraph 15 (b), ESCWA submitted the work programme of the Statistics Division to the Statistical Committee at its third session before submitting it to the competent bodies, in particular the ministerial meeting of the Commission, to be held in June 1999.

8. With regard to paragraph 15 (d), ESCWA placed information and a set of statistical indicators on the Internet to provide researchers who use the Internet with access to the statistical information and data available at ESCWA. In addition, ESCWA makes use of the Internet to gain access to information from other bodies that use the Internet. At ESCWA, access to the Internet starts with the ESCWA home page, at <http://www.escwa.org.lb>.

D. RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 17 (D)

9. In the recommendation contained in paragraph 17 (d) of the Report, concerning the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in the ESCWA region, the Committee:

"Called on ESCWA to hold workshops on national accounts focusing on actual experiences".

Follow-up action

10. ESCWA held a Training Workshop on Industrial Statistics and Their Link to the United Nations System of National Accounts in Beirut from 12-18 November 1997.

11. ESCWA also organized an Expert Group Meeting on Evaluation of the Initial Stages of the Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in the ESCWA Region in Beirut from 18 to 22 May 1998. A report on that Meeting is being submitted to the Committee at its third session.

E. RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 21 (D)

12. In the recommendation contained in paragraph 21 (d) of the Report, concerning the implementation of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in the ESCWA region, the Committee:

"Requested ESCWA to send the study entitled 'Purchasing power parity: volume and price level comparison of economic aggregates for the ESCWA region, 1993' to the countries participating in the ICP for their endorsement before its publication by ESCWA".

Follow-up action

13. ESCWA sent that study to the countries concerned.

F. RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 27 (B) AND (C)

14. In the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 (b) and (c)* of the Report, concerning technical cooperation in statistics, the Committee:

"(b) Praised ESCWA for the advisory services it provided in the area of national accounts and economic statistics and in the area of electronic data processing and household surveys and stressed the importance of continuing those services;

"(c) Requested ESCWA to continue its efforts to provide the services of a regional adviser on sampling to enable the countries of the region to meet their needs in that area".

Follow-up action

15. With regard to paragraph 27 (b), ESCWA constantly provided advisory services in the field of electronic data processing and household surveys. In addition, it filled the previously vacant post of regional adviser for national accounts and economic statistics, so as to be able to continue to provide those services.

16. With regard to paragraph 27 (c) of the same recommendation, concerning the provision of the services of a regional adviser on sampling, ESCWA was unable to create a new post for that field owing both to its financial straits and to the rarity of that specialization in the region.

G. RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 29 (D)

17. In the recommendation contained in paragraph 29 (d) of the Report, concerning geographical information systems (GIS), the Committee:

Requested ESCWA to continue to conduct workshops on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and called on the Commission to prepare a regional project on GIS for the member States.

Follow-up action

18. With regard to this paragraph, ESCWA has prepared a regional project on GIS and will organize a regional training course on this subject in May 1999. A report is being presented to the current session in that regard.



* Correction has been made to reflect more faithfully the Arabic original.