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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL
TO UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCES
AND ECWA REGIONAL MEETINGS**

Note by the Executive Secretary

84-0170

1. Reporting the follow-up action on United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings is a standing item on the agenda of the Commission's session.

The document at hand contains annexes giving a summary of the background, proceedings and/or follow-up action at the regional level for the following conferences and meetings:

(a) ECWA/FAO Regional Intergovernmental Consultation on Rural Development in the Near East Region as a follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), held from 3 to 6 October 1983 at Baghdad;

(b) The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting on the International Youth Year held from 9 to 13 October 1983 at Baghdad, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 36/28 and ECWA resolution 112(IX);

(c) The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held at Baghdad from 12 to 16 December 1983 in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 415(V) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/29;

(d) The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population to be held in Amman from 25 to 29 March 1984 in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 38/48.

Annex I

8(a) INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. In pursuance of the implementation of its 1982-1983 work programme in the area of rural development, the secretariat, in collaboration with the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), convened an inter governmental consultation on rural development as a follow-up to the world conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), which was held at ECWA headquarters in Baghdad, from 3 to 6 October 1983. The consultation was attended by the delegates from Afghanistan, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq (3), Mauritania, Morocco (2), Pakistan (2), Saudi Arabia, Sudan(2) Turkey and Democratic Yemen, by the representatives of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)(5) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(FAO)(5), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Food Programme (WFP). In addition the meeting was attended by three consultants from Egypt, Jordan and Pakistan.

2. This Intergovernmental Consultation on Rural Development was the first in the ECWA/Near Eastern region, held as a follow-up to the programme of action of WCARRD and in response to the decisions of member countries for a continuous monitoring and avaluation of the progress made in the field of agragarian reform and rural development. The objectives of the consultation were:

(a) to review the national agrarian reform and rural development policies and programmes and to asses the progress in the alleviation of rural poverty since the WCARRD (1979);

(b) to identify the factors which most determine the success or failure of agrarian reform and rural development programmes;

(c) to outline and adopt a common regional position with regard to the formulation and implementation of national policies toward achieving the aims of the WCARRD programme of action. The programme of action for the WCARRD follow-up involves assistance to member countries of FAO and ECWA in iden-

tifying and reviewing policies and programmes and implementing activities aiming at the improvement of their agrarian reform structures and the development of their rural areas.

3. The documentation for the Consultation included two documents prepared by the ECWA secretariat on "Innovative experiences in rural development projects" and "The role of pricing policies in support of small farmers;" one document prepared by IFAD on "Monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects;" and five documents prepared by FAO on "The programme of socio-economic indicators," "Improving the delivery system of agricultural services for small farmers," "Trends in alleviation of rural poverty," "Major land tenure changes in the Near East Region," and "People's participation in rural development."

4. In addition to the above eight documents, a major agenda item of the Consultation was the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Review of Experiences with Rural Development Projects, which was held by the secretariat, in Baghdad, just prior to the Consultation, from 29 September to 2 October 1983.

5. After intensive deliberations, the Consultation reached the following conclusions and recommendations.

A. Innovative experiences in rural development projects.

6. The Consultation appreciated the innovative experiences as cited (settlement of agricultural graduates in Iraq, Egypt and Sudan or providing them with loans and assistance in Cyprus; massive literacy campaign of Iraq; Nubin resettlement; the Hema grazing system in the Syrian Arab Republic and the regional development approach to rural development in the Jordan Valley, etc), and recommend that the term 'innovative' should be broadly defined to include all successful and effective experiences in the context of WCARRD countries in the Near Eastern region should take the initiative to compile and evaluate their successful experiences in the field of rural development and agrarian reform for possible replication elsewhere. FAO was requested to institutionalize the process of identification and evaluation of innovative experiences for dissemination among the countries and to ensure that specific innovative experiences of the countries would be discussed in subsequent meetings organized by FAO, ECWA and other agencies.

B. Major land tenure changes.

7. The Consultation noted the slow progress in initiating new agrarian reform programmes in the post-WCARRD period and recommend that:

(a) Governments should proceed more vigorously with programmes of land redistribution, tenancy reforms, land consolidation and allied institutional changes, as adopted by countries in the WCARRD programme of action;

(b) Steps should be taken for the independent evaluation of the real impact of the implemented and ongoing agrarian reforms, including their impact on women;

(c) Special emphasis should be placed on spending up existing measures and adopting new ones for combating fragmentation of farm holdings, and different experiences of various countries in that field should be analysed for their dissemination;

(d) Land reclamation and land settlement schemes should be evaluated in order to better orient those schemes towards the benefit of the rural poor;

(e) Agricultural censuses and sample surveys should be carried out on a regular basis by all countries and those censuses and surveys should be broadened to cover data on land ownership in addition to data on land holdings.

C. Growth with equity

8. The Consultation appreciated the study presented by FAO on the assessment of absolute poverty in the Near Eastern region and considered it a pioneering analytical approach for the assessment of the relationship between economic growth and the alleviation of rural poverty.

9. The Consultation recommended that the study should be published after updating the data and widening its scope to include such factors as terms of trade, prices, employment, land markets and sectoral flow of resources.

10. The Consultation also recommended that the analytical framework used in the study should be applied to country-specific studies to be undertaken by the countries, with the possible assistance of FAO/ECWA, and that the results of those studies should be examined in a follow-up meeting.

D. People's participation in rural development.

11. The Consultation fully endorsed the need for measures to promote the effective participation of people in the economic and social aspects of rural development policies, programmes and

projects. It recommended that further steps should be taken for:

(a) The removal of obstacles in the way of the rural poor so that they can improve their economic and social conditions through the organizations which represent their interests;

(b) Decentralization of government services to local levels;

(c) Increasing the access of the rural poor including the landless to productive assets including land and credit;

(d) Facilitating the meaningful participation of rural women in farm production and rural institutions;

(e) the promotion of non-governmental organizations (NGOS) in the rural areas in order to mobilize local development initiatives to meet their own needs and that a meeting should be organized on the participation of NGOs in the field of agrarian reform and rural development.

E. Price policies for small farmers

12. The Consultation noted with satisfaction the studies being carried out on agricultural price policies in the ECWA/Near Eastern region which will be discussed at the next FAO Near Eastern Regional Conference. It recommended that price policies should be designed which keep in view farm production/land tenure relations obtaining in the countries, and which take into account the interests of:

(a) The landless and the subsistence farmers, who are net buyers of food

(b) Nomads who are major producers of livestock and livestock products but who by-passed by the price system;

(c) Urban consumers.

F. Delivery systems for small farmers.

13. The Consultation noted the management problems arising from the multiplicity of organizations and agencies providing inputs and agricultural services to the diverse categories of farmers and recommended that co-ordination among the delivery agencies should be improved and effectively linked with the receiving system. In this regard, the Consultation observed that the ultimate success of the rural development programme was

critically tied to the nature and strength of a receiving system which was defined to consist of a set of formal and informal institutions, with a broad-based participation of rural households.

14. The Consultation further observed that the achievement of distributive justice and growth was dependent on the horizontal and vertical linkages between the receiving and delivery systems on the one hand and basic supportive research and training systems on the other.

15. The Consultation also observed that local government, where appropriate, in addition to instituting accountability should be trained and tuned to the needs of small farmers and the rural poor.

G. Monitoring and evaluation

16. The Consultation appreciated the work of IFAD, FAO and other United Nations agencies in promoting the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems as a part and parcel of all agricultural and rural development projects in the Near Eastern/ECWA countries and made the following recommendations:

(a) The Near Eastern/ECWA countries need to focus on building national capabilities to carry out monitoring and evaluation activities at the project level, and on using local institutions and expertise within and outside the Government to design and carry out those activities;

(b) In the case of large integrated rural development programmes, having components of various agencies, it was necessary to establish suitable co-ordinating mechanisms to identify a central or "lead" agency that would be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation, while the individual ministries or agencies continued to review progress in the areas of their direct interest and responsibility;

(c) The consolidation of work mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation should be viewed as part of establishing or strengthening permanent national capabilities in the countries. That could be achieved through the creation of special units.

(d) The Consultation recognized the difficulties which certain countries encountered in setting up benchmarks for a period around 1980 and in organizing data collection systems for monitoring and evaluation in the second cycle of the periodic reporting to the 1987 FAO conference. The meeting agreed that it was necessary for countries to start preparing long-term programmes of integrated censuses and surveys for providing the

required indicators as frequently and efficiently as possible and to seek suitable technical assistance for that purpose.

17. The recommendations of this Intergovernmental Consultation are being taken into account by the secretariat in the implementation of its 1984-1985 work programme. However, the scope of the secretariat's activities in the field of rural development is constrained by the limited resources of its regular budget. A fuller implementation of the Consultation's recommendations will largely depend upon the secretariat's ability to mobilize extrabudgetary resources (see ECWA document E/ECWA/AGR/IG.1/10).

Annex II

8(b) THE WESTERN ASIA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

1. The United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions 34/151 of 17 December 1979 and 35/126 of 11 December 1980, designated the year 1985 as International Youth Year. Participation, Development, Peace. In its resolution 36/128 dated 13 November 1981 it also endorsed the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities for International Youth Year which was prepared by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and included in the report of the Secretary General to the general Assembly (A/36/215; see also A/37/237/Add/1). The Programme stressed specific measures and activities which should be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year and the importance of holding regional meeting for the purpose of realizing the objectives set for the Year.

2. Furthermore, on the basis of General Assembly resolution No. 36/28 dated 13 November 1981 and the Economic Commission of Western Asia resolution 112(ix) of 12 May 1982, the secretariat of ECWA planned regional meeting for the International Youth Year. That meeting was attended by States members of the Commission. In co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, ECWA invited member States, Arab regional organizations, sub-regional organizations, international organizations and non-governmental organizations and unions concerned with youth, to attend the Regional Preparatory Meeting Devoted to the International Youth Year for Western Asia.

3. The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting was convened from 9 to 13 October 1983 in ECWA headquarters, at Baghdad within the framework of the objectives of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, and with the aim of creating wider and deeper understanding of the actual situation of youth, their problems and aspirations in order to integrate them into the economic and social development efforts in the region of Western Asia. The Meeting also aimed at examining the situation and needs of youth in the region with a view to exchanging experiences gained during Youth Year and adopting a Regional Plan of Action for Western Asia for the International Youth Year and beyond.

4. The ECWA secretariat, in the light of these aims and objectives, prepared two basic working documents, namely:

- (a) The situation and needs of youth in western Asia;

(b) The Regional Plan of Action for International Youth Year in Western Asia.

5. Other documents sent by the secretariat of the International Youth Year and UNESCO were also made available to participants as background documents.

6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following members of ECWA: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Democratic Yemen.

7. The Socialist Republic of Romania participated as an observer.

8. The meeting was also attended by the following Arab regional organizations: The League of Arab States, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, the Arab Labour Organization, the Arab Organization for Social Defence, the Co-operation Council for the Arab Gulf States, the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

9. The following international organizations also participated in the meeting: The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Volunteers, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, and the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year.

10. The following non-governmental organizations were also present: The International Planned Parenthood Federation, the International Union of Students, the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

11. The substantive Agenda of the meeting included:

(a) The situation of youth in the Western Asia region:

- (i) issues and problems;
- (ii) policies and programmes for youth development.

(b) Approaches to development and the participation of youth;

(c) Administrative structures for the implementation of youth policies and programmes;

(d) Youth and peace in Western Asia;

- (e) Regional Plan of Action for the International Youth Year and beyond.

12. The regional inter-governmental meeting, in addition to adopting the Regional Plan of Action for Western Asia for the International Youth Year, highlighted the following recommendations contained in the Regional Plan of Action and Submitted additional recommendations:

(1) Requests the Secretary General of the United Nations to convene a World Conference in 1985 on the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace under the aegis of the United Nations for the adoption of the Global Plan of Action on Youth.

(2) Also requests the Secretary General to consider the period 1986-1995 as the United Nations Decade for Youth in order to intensify efforts required for the formulation and implementation of policies, programmes and activities in the field of youth to be undertaken at the national, regional and international levels.

(3) Requests the Executive Secretary of ECWA to take all necessary steps to convene a regional meeting for representatives of the national co-ordinating committees in Western Asia in early 1985 to be organized by ECWA in co-operation with the Secretariat for the International Youth Year as well as concerned international and regional organizations in order to evaluate the achievements of the International Youth Year.

(4) The members states of the Economic Commission for Western Asia which have not already done so should set up National Co-ordinating Committees or other forms of co-ordination for the IYY with broad participation of young people and representatives of youth organizations and provide them with the necessary technical and financial resources.

(5) Regional interagency consultation and co-ordination should be strengthened as a useful tool in planning, promoting and implementing activities in the field of youth in the context of the implementation of the recommendations concerning the International Youth Year.

(6) The Secretary General of the United Nations should take all necessary measures to strengthen the ECWA secretariat in order to enable it to fulfil the extended mandate entrusted to it in the field of youth, including the implementation of the Western Asia Regional Plan of Action for IYY.

(7) All members of ECWA should keep the secretariat as well as the IYY secretariat informed of their national activ-

ities concerning the preparation and observance of the International Youth Year.

(8) The ECWA secretariat, in close co-operation with the International Youth Year Secretariat, should take appropriate measures for the dissemination of information of particular relevance to national measures and activities undertaken by the members.

(9) Urges the members of ECWA to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Youth Year.

(10) Requests the Secretary General of the United Nations should bring the present Regional Plan of Action with its recommendations to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirtyeighth session and to the Third session of the Advisory Committee as a contribution to the global plan of action on youth.

13. In addition, the meeting passed the following resolution:

The Meeting calls upon the youth of the world to support the struggle of Arab Youth in their just cause for life, freedom and peace after their exposure to immense suffering from wars, occupation and aggression, and in particular:

(a) To provide all forms of assistance and support to the Arab Palestinian youth for their legitimate rights and self-determination and the establishment on their own soil their sovereign state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian People.

(b) To provide all forms of support and assistance to the Arab youth in Lebanon and to assist them to overcome their hardships through safeguarding the independence and unity of their country.

(c) To exercise their good offices to appeal to Iran to accept all Iraqi and international peace initiatives to end the bloodshed caused by the Iraqi-Iranian war which entered its fourth year*.

* The delegation of Democratic Yemen expressed its reservation on para. (c) of this resolution.

Annex III

**8C THE WESTERN ASIA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE
SEVENTH UNITED CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION
OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS**

1. The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was the 5th of a series of regional preparatory meetings convened to discuss the provisional agenda of the Congress, to be held in 1985 in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 415(v) and 36/21 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/29 and to make appropriate recommendations concerning the preparations and documentation for the Congress. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for western Asia (ECWA) assisted in organizing this meeting in terms of logistic arrangements and in-session technical discussions.

2. The Meeting was held at the headquarters of ECWA, Baghdad, from 12 to 16 December 1983. It was attended by over 50 participants, including representatives and experts from 9 States members of ECWA, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the Executive Secretary and secretariat of ECWA, the Resident Representative of UNDP, the Secretariat of the Seventh Congress, and the representative of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/30.

3. The list of five substantive topics for the provisional agenda of the Congress recommended by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its seventh session and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council was adopted as the agenda for the Meeting. These topics were:

1. New dimensions of criminality and crime prevention in the context of development: challenges for the future.
2. Criminal justice processes and perspectives in a changing world.
3. Victims of crime.
4. Youth, crime and justice.
5. Formulation and application of United Nations standards and norms in criminal justice.

4. Discussion of the topics was facilitated by the document prepared by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) entitled "Discussion guide for the regional and interregional preparatory meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders" in addition to other documents submitted to the meeting.

5. As envisaged the Meeting discussed the situation in the ECWA region with regard to crime Prevention and Criminal justice covering the various items of the substantive agenda and focusing on features and characteristics that are specific to the region. In addition, it adopted one resolution entitled "establishment of a United Nations Arab Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders." The operative paragraph of this resolution reads as follows:

Requests the Secretary General of the United Nations to take appropriate measures, in co-operation with the Pan Arab Organization for Social defence of the League of Arab States to establish a United Nations Arab regional institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, to perform the following functions:

(a) To train criminal justice personnel, including policy-makers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police and correction officials, and social workers, with a view towards raising the level of efficiency and enhancing the effectiveness of their performance, placing particular emphasis on a system-wide integrated approach;

(b) To assist member States of the region to develop and strengthen their capacity, at the national level, in the area of crime and criminal justice data bases;

(c) To provide technical assistance and technical advisory services to Member States of the region in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) To conduct research and to organize seminars, symposiums, and training courses on priority issues in the region, particularly in relation to crime in the context of overall social and economic development;

(e) To serve as "a clearing house" for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data, and facilitate the exchange of information in this field, at the subregional, regional and international levels.

Annex IV

8(d) THE WESTERN ASIA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, MEXICO CITY, AUGUST 1984

1. The United Nations will convene an International Conference on Population at Mexico City in August 1984, which will review, inter alia, the implementation of the provisions of the World Population Plan of Action which was adopted by the World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) had initially planned to organize a regional meeting in preparation for the Mexico City Conference. However, since the League of Arab States was also planning to hold a workshop on the same subject, ECWA and the League of Arab States agreed to convene the meeting as a joint activity. This was regarded as a concrete step in the pursuance of General Assembly resolution 38/6 on "Co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States" as well as to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on the same subject (A/38/299 and Corr.1).

2. The regional meeting renamed Population Conference for the Arab World will be held at Amman from 25 to 29 March 1984, hosted by the Government of Jordan (Royal Scientific Society) and financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Invitations for attending this meeting were sent to ECWA member States, other Arab countries, concerned international and Arab regional organizations, United Nations technical advisers in demography in the region, and interested institutions and centres.

3. Relevant technical papers related to the agenda of the Conference are being prepared by both parties with a view to facilitating the adoption of a common position/declaration during the meeting as an input to the forthcoming International Conference. The main topics of the agenda include:

1. Demographic situation in the region.
2. Population and economic correlates.
3. Population and social services.
4. Population policies.

4. Upon the conclusion of the Population Conference for the Arab World, the Executive Secretary of ECWA will report its findings and recommendations to ECWA's eleventh session for its consideration.