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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

**PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
WORK PROGRAMME**

Part XII

Transport and Communications

XII. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

This programme consists of only one subprogramme with a total of seven programme elements. Total resources under this programme are shown below:

| Description | Allocated | | | Utilized | | | Balance | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----|--------|----------|----|--------|---------|----|--------|
| | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total |
| Professional w/m) | 168 | - | 168 | 111.5 | - | 111.5 | 56.5 | - | 56.5 |
| General Service (w/m) | 96 | - | 96 | 96 | - | 96 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Consultancy (w/m) | 4.5 | - | 4.5 | 3 | - | 3 | 1.5 | - | 1.5 |
| Consultant (\$US) | 17,000 | - | 17,000 | 18,800 | - | 18,800 | -1,800 | - | -1,800 |
| Travel (\$US) | 12,000 | - | 12,000 | 10,800 | - | 10,800 | 1,200 | - | 1,200 |
| Meetings (\$US) | 11,500 | - | 11,500 | 9,700 | - | 9,700 | 1,800 | - | 1,800 |

Note: Total utilized includes work-months for overall programme management and administration.

A. SUBPROGRAMME: DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED TRANSPORT

During the 1984-1985 biennium, activities concentrated on regional transport development strategy formulation and on maritime and land transport policies and networks as well as on transport facilitation and co-operation in Western Asia.

One programme element was postponed to the next biennium and another was terminated. The other five programme elements were completed.

Programme element 1.1: Development of national and multinational merchant fleets

Further to the publication in 1984 of the study on "Development of national merchant marines and promotion of multinational shipping enterprises" (E/ECWA/TCT/84/6), in 1985 under this element work concentrated on the preparation and finalization of the study on "Possibilities of expanding the bulk fleets in Western Asia" (E/ESCWA/TCT/85/13). In this respect the consultancy foreseen under the programme element and which is entitled "Quantitative analysis of certain aspects of shipping" was carried out in February-March 1985 and the consultant's report was finalized in April 1985.

The details of findings and recommendations contained in the study on bulk fleets completed in December 1985 are submitted in the form of a report to the present thirteenth session under agenda item 6(a) (see document E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.23). This report underlines the requirements for bulk fleets development in the ESCWA region and includes concrete recommendations. Various forecasts and future prospects for bulk sea trade are discussed in the report and developments concerning oil tanker fleets as well as dry bulk carrier fleets are examined. Policies for development of bulk fleets are proposed in the light of the above analysis and they include programmes for expansion at country and regional levels.

Two final outputs foreseen under this programme element were therefore completed during the biennium 1984-1985. Resource use under this element was as follows:

| Description | Allocated | | | Utilized | | | Balance | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----|-------|----------|----|-------|---------|----|-------|
| | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total |
| Professional (w/m) | 24 | - | 24 | 29 | - | 29 | -5 | - | -5 |
| Consultancy (w/m) | 1.5 | - | 1.5 | 1.5 | - | 1.5 | 0 | - | 0 |

Programme element 1.2: Multimodal transport and the transfer of modern technologies in ports and shipping to Western Asia

This activity was postponed by the twelfth session to the next biennium owing to post vacancy. Professional resources allocated to this activity under the regular budget amounted to 24 w/m of which only 10 w/m were utilized as shown in the table below:

| Description | Allocated | | | Utilized | | | Balance | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----|-------|----------|----|-------|---------|----|-------|
| | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total |
| Professional (w/m) | 24 | - | 24 | 10 | - | 10 | 14 | - | 14 |
| Consultancy (w/m) | 1.5 | - | 1.5 | - | - | - | 1.5 | - | 1.5 |

Programme element 1.3: Development of interregional and intraregional land transport links in Western Asia

During 1985, activities within this programme element included the finalization of the study initiated in 1984 on the "Development of land transport links in Western Asia" (E/ECWA/TCT/85/8). The study was published in July 1985 and distributed to the authorities concerned in member countries. The report to the Commission at its

thirteenth session on the study appears under agenda item 6(a) (see document E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.24).

In the field of land transport development, including roads and railways, activities were also carried out in preparation for the next programme period and field missions to Egypt, Jordan and Syria were undertaken.

Resource use under this element was as follows:

| Description | Allocated | | | Utilized | | | Balance | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----|-------|----------|----|-------|---------|----|-------|
| | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total |
| Professional (w/m) | 24 | - | 24 | 20 | - | 20 | 4 | - | 4 |
| Consultancy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Programme element 1.4: Land transport harmonization and standardization

This element was implemented in 1984 in the form of a report to the Commission on draft procedures and/or draft conventions as measures to facilitate border crossings. The table below shows the resource use.

| Description | Allocated | | | Utilized | | | Balance | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----|-------|----------|----|-------|---------|----|-------|
| | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total |
| Professional (w/m) | 24 | - | 24 | 12.5 | - | 12.5 | 11.5 | - | 11.5 |
| Consultancy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Programme element 1.5: Economic aspects and planning of integrated transport in Western Asia

On the basis of the work already carried out in this programme element in 1984, the study on the "Strategy for the development of integrated transport in Western Asia" (E/ESCWA/TCT/85/9) was completed and published in October 1985. A report on this study to the Commission for the thirteenth session appears under agenda item 6(a) (see document E/ESCWA/13/4/Add.25).

Within the framework of the same programme element, the consultancy report on the mission carried out in October-November 1984 was published in January 1985 under the title: "Forecast of transport development in the ECWA region with special emphasis on regional transport development prospects" (E/ECWA/TCT/85/2).

Other work under this programme element included activities pertaining to the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific 1985-1994. The background paper prepared on the decade was discussed during the third session of the Technical Committee and by the twelfth ministerial session in April 1985. Subsequently ESCWA resolution 138(XII) on the subject was adopted. In this context, the secretariat finalized and published in May 1985 the Programme of action for the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (E/ECWA/TCT/85/6). Activities in this field are continuing during the biennium 1986-1987 and will be reported to the Commission at its fourteenth session in 1987 as stipulated in paragraph 4 of the above-mentioned resolution.

Resource utilization during the biennium was distributed as follows:

| Description | Allocated | | | Utilized | | | Balance | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----|-------|----------|----|-------|---------|----|-------|
| | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total |
| Professional (w/m) | 24 | - | 24 | 26 | - | 26 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Consultancy (w/m) | 1.5 | - | 1.5 | 1.5 | - | 1.5 | 0 | - | 0 |

Programme element 1.6: Development of transport training needs in Western Asia

This programme element was terminated during the eleventh session of the Commission, as indicated in document E/ECWA/XI/CP/4/Add.1. Allocated professional resources under the regular budget were 24 w/m. Resources were redeployed to other elements. Training issues are incorporated in various other programme elements which cover transport policy and planning issues and modal transport developments.

Programme element 1.7: Improvement of transport information system in Western Asia

In 1985, activities under this programme element were conducted in two fields. The first involved the finalization of the terminal report on the preparatory assistance project (RAB/82/030) for an intraregional maritime information system in the ESCWA region. This report was published in March 1985 (E/ECWA/TCT/85/3). The ESCWA secretariat is following-up this issue with UNDP. The second field involved the preparation and finalization of the first issue of the ESCWA Transport Bulletin which contains technical articles and data on transport developments in the ESCWA region. The Bulletin will be published and distributed during the first half of 1986. Other issues will follow yearly.

The table below shows resource allocation under this element:

| Description | Allocated | | | Utilized | | | Balance | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----|-------|----------|----|-------|---------|----|-------|
| | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total | RB | XB | Total |
| Professional (w/m) | 24 | - | 24 | 14 | - | 14 | 10 | - | 10 |
| Consultancy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

OTHER ACTIVITIES

During 1985, the ESCWA secretariat participated in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) organized seminar on the harmonization of customs procedures held in Barcelona from 28 to 31 October 1985 and submitted a position paper on the topic. Furthermore, co-ordination and consultations with the secretariat of the Gulf Co-operation Council and the League of Arab States continued on matters related to transport facilitation and to transport development strategy respectively in order to develop joint action and arrangements.