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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**

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REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON  
THE WORK OF ITS SIXTH SESSION

MAY 1989

**NOTE**

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The sixth session of the Technical Committee was opened by the Chairman of the Committee's fifth session, on Saturday, 13 May 1989 at 10.30 a.m. He made a statement in which he reviewed the most important developments in the region, such as the end of the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah against the background of the Israeli occupation and the bloody events being experienced by the fraternal country of Lebanon.
2. The Executive Secretary of the Commission made a statement in which he welcomed the participants and reviewed the changes that had occurred in the region and which had had an impact on the course of its economic and social development, citing as an example the Iraq-Iran war and the planning, reconstruction and resumption of work that has followed eight years of fighting.
3. He spoke of the fearless intifadah of the Palestinian people, which had given them a unanimous voice and gained the respect and recognition of the international community through the proclamation of the State of Palestine. He also expressed his regret over the Lebanese crisis, which continued to deepen 15 years after it had first broken out. He hoped that the Arab peace efforts in this connection would be successful.
4. He spoke briefly on the economic aspects and developments in the region resulting from the decline in oil prices during 1988 and because of regional struggles. He noted the establishment of the Arab Co-operation Council, whose aim was to achieve economic co-ordination and integration in various sectors.
5. He spoke of the emergence of a trend towards reliance on the private sector and harnessing its resources in the interests of development, since some of the institutions of the public sector had become less efficient. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), together with certain specialized agencies, had held a seminar on this subject; it had also prepared a study on this new development.
6. He said that during 1988, ESCWA had made efforts to serve member countries either through the provision of assistance, the preparation of studies, the provision of technical consultancy services or through a series of co-operation activities in numerous fields such as desertification, agricultural planning, energy, industry, agriculture, transport, technology, water resources, household surveys, population statistics, women and child health.
7. The Executive Secretary reviewed the follow-up on resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its fourteenth session, drawing attention to the implementation of these resolutions, especially those concerning modifications to the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989, made in the light of observations made by the Technical Committee at its fifth session, the preparation of studies of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people and the drop in the vacancy rate from about one third to around 10 per cent.

8. He said that ESCWA had held the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting on the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia, the Intergovernmental Meeting on Trade in Services and Development in the ESCWA Region and the Third Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region.

9. He said that the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991 attached particular importance to human resources development, in addition to offering technical assistance to member countries; initiatives had also been taken in numerous fields such as water management and the rationalization of water consumption, manpower planning, the development of public sector companies, rural development and small-scale industries; new issues dealing with systems of welfare and social security had also been included. He added that the environment programme had been included in the regular budget, whereas before it used to rely totally on extrabudgetary funds.

10. He stated that developments in the region made it necessary for ESCWA to devote attention to other issues such as the rationalization of the public sector, the development of private initiative, the reconstruction of areas destroyed by war or natural disasters and the strengthening of co-operation with various Arab economic groupings. That would be done in co-operation with Arab member Governments and specialized regional organizations, while the Commission would strive to provide funds from extrabudgetary sources whenever the need arose.

11. The Executive Secretary concluded his statement by drawing attention to the items contained in the new medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which were in accordance with the views and recommendations of member countries, as well as developments in the region and in the world as a whole.

I. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

A. Report of the Executive Secretary on  
the activities of the Commission  
(agenda item 6)

1. Progress made in the implementation of the programme  
of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989  
(agenda item 6(a))

(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4(Part I)/Rev.1 and Corr.1 and (Arabic only) Suppl.1  
and (Part II) and Corr.1 and E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.1-10)

12. The Committee began its deliberations by discussing this sub-item. The Executive Secretary briefly reviewed the documents presented under this sub-item. He said that they reflected the activities of the secretariat in various fields and programmes and that they contained many details of independent activities, each of which had an output which took various forms such as studies, publications, reports, training courses, meetings, etc.

13. The Executive Secretary spoke of the vacancy situation, saying that they had constituted over one third of the total number of staff members in the Professional category in 1988, as a result of the conditions experienced by the secretariat in preceding years. Working conditions and the question of transferring the headquarters of the Commission had prevented the secretariat from covering all the activities approved by the Commission at its fourteenth session. However, the performance of the secretariat had improved, in spite of those conditions, in comparison with preceding years.

14. He also mentioned that the secretariat had reconsidered the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989. The execution of some of its outputs had been delayed until the current year; others had been reconsidered and cancelled, amended or included in new activities more suitable to the requirements of the members of the Commission.

15. The participants expressed their appreciation of the efforts exerted by the secretariat in preparing those documents, whether in the form of studies, meetings or seminars.

16. A number of representatives stressed the need to send documents to the member countries sufficiently in advance of the session in order that they could be presented to the relevant authorities. In this way the delegations could convey the views of the latter to the Technical Committee at its session.

17. Some representatives expressed a wish to obtain a summary of document E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4(Part I)/Rev.1 and Corr.1 showing the amendments made by the ESCWA secretariat to its adopted programmes in order to enable members of the delegations to discuss them.

18. One representative wondered how legitimate it was to make amendments to the programme of work and priorities that had already been adopted by the Technical Committee. The Executive Secretary explained that the Technical Committee had agreed to the proposal of the secretariat to make amendments not exceeding 18 per cent of the total number of outputs. The Technical Committee had approved of that by requesting the Executive Secretary to submit a recommendation on that matter to the sixth session of the Technical Committee.

19. Another representative suggested that the secretariat should consult member States on amendments before they were adopted. The Executive Secretary added that in the light of the proposals and recommendations made by participants, the secretariat was prepared to discuss the question of maintaining certain outputs it had suggested cancelling.

Summary of delegates' comments, proposals and recommendations  
concerning the Commission's programmes

Food and agriculture

20. One representative stressed the need to concentrate on case studies, in other words to study applications in member countries, and said that such studies should constitute the main elements of the food and agriculture programme, along with study and training workshops. A representative of the secretariat stated that ESCWA had already undertaken such studies within the framework of that programme.

21. Some representatives spoke on the subject of vacancies in the Joint ESCWA/FAO Agriculture Division and the consequent cancellation of certain outputs. A representative of the secretariat stated that the Division had been able to compensate for that through its co-operation with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and that the Division was a joint division between ESCWA and FAO.

Development issues and policies

22. One representative suggested that this programme should concentrate on developments in the international arena and the position of the Arab world with respect to them. It should also concentrate on events in the Arab arena connected with the establishment of bodies such as the Gulf Co-operation Council and the Arab Co-operation Council, in view of the interesting implications of these councils.

Environment

23. One representative stressed the need to devote attention to the environment programme, in view of its importance for mankind, animals and plants.

24. The Executive Secretary stated that environmental questions were an object of great interest and that an international conference would be held in 1992 on the environment and development. He stressed the need to involve the secretariat in the activities of that conference, in co-ordination with the countries of the League of Arab States. He mentioned that the secretariat had agreed with Headquarters in New York that ESCWA should be provided with a regional adviser for environmental affairs. He stressed the need to co-ordinate the programmes with the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Western Asia in Bahrain.

Human settlements

25. The Committee took note of the programmes and activities of the secretariat in this field.



### Industrial development

26. One representative noted the importance of trade in processed goods and food industries. He said that trade in processed goods was a key element in industrial development. The marketing of such products was a major problem which had dealt a severe blow to many industries, driving them from the markets before they could achieve the objective of their expansion. He said that the preparation of studies and the conclusion of agreements between member countries were measures that could ensure that those industries were maintained. He called for efforts to be concentrated on medium and light industries.

27. Turning to food industries, the representative said that food was a vital subject and stressed the need to concentrate on industries that transformed agricultural produce into foodstuffs.

28. Another representative suggested linking the programme to the priorities defined by the development plans of member countries.

29. One representative stressed the need to concentrate on large enterprises as he thought that small enterprises would not be economically viable.

### International trade and development financing

30. With respect to commercial co-operation between member countries, one representative noted that European countries had agreed to remove trade restrictions among themselves. He said that the impact of this move on Arab countries should be discussed.

31. The Executive Secretary stated that the subject of international trade was important for member countries. He also spoke of its importance at the international level in view of the negative effects of protectionism and trade rates that were unfavourable to the developing countries, as well as the establishment of economic groupings, especially the setting up of a single European market in 1992, whose consequences, including the establishment of a trade monopoly, had not yet been properly assessed. For that reason ESCWA, in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and to a certain extent with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), had agreed to prepare a project document concerned with facilitating trade, to be submitted to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for financing because of the non-availability of funds from the ESCWA regular budget. The document would determine the impact of foreign economic blocs on the developing countries. He added that he believed that the unification of the European market was a major problem which should therefore be included in the ESCWA programme of work for the forthcoming biennium 1990-1991, and which should take into account the studies and resolutions that would be issued by the League of Arab States and other relevant Arab institutions.

### Natural resources

32. The Executive Secretary stated that efforts in that field were mainly devoted to water resources, in view of their scarcity in the region.

### Energy issues

33. One representative noted that the energy programme did not concentrate on the rationalization of energy consumption which was taking place in other countries of the world. He suggested that a study of the experience of countries of the region in this field should be made.

34. The Executive Secretary stated that there was a need to obtain extrabudgetary funds to support the energy programme. In this connection, one representative suggested that the question of financing activities connected with energy should be discussed with Arab funding agencies.

### Population

35. A number of representatives stressed the importance of the subject of the disabled, with which ESCWA was concerned in this programme, in view of the high proportion of disabled persons in the ESCWA region as a result of wars and natural causes. Their suggestions included the following: dealing with the causes of disability, such as traffic accidents, on the principle that prevention is better than cure; collecting statistics on the disabled and elaborating methodologies for them; rehabilitation projects for the disabled; and the subject of disabled veterans.

36. A representative of the secretariat mentioned that ESCWA was not only concerned with the rehabilitation of the disabled, but also with adapting their physical environment to their specific needs and requirements.

### Public administration and finance

37. One representative emphasized the need to prepare comparative studies in the financial and monetary fields.

38. Another representative expressed his reservations about the cancellation of the technical publication on the diversification of sources of national income in the ESCWA oil-exporting countries, since it was important to be informed of the success of oil-exporting countries in diversifying their national incomes.

### Science and technology

39. One representative suggested that a comparative study should be made of techniques and technology in all of the countries of the region, or in a number of them.

### Social development

40. The participants discussed the subject of rural working women. One of the delegations pointed to the need to co-ordinate the activities of the programme with the organizations concerned, for example by drawing up a programme to eradicate female illiteracy, as well as preparing studies on women in the rural sector and the work available to them, rather than being content with studies that assessed their conditions.

41. Some representatives expressed their preference for the phrase "increasing the contribution of women to" development rather than "the integration of women in" development. One of them stated that projects devoted to women in his country had not been very successful because the response to their problems should form an integral part of projects aimed equally at men and women.

#### Statistics

42. The Committee took note of the activities of the secretariat within the framework of that programme. The representatives commended the valuable statistical publications issued under the programme, which satisfied the real needs of the member countries. One representative expressed the hope that the programme would complete the social statistics.

#### Transport and communications

43. One representative observed that certain activities connected with air transport had been cancelled. He drew attention to the importance of continuing them in the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991, in order to avoid the problems faced by countries of the region in land and sea transport.

#### Transnational corporations

44. The Committee took note of the activities included under that programme.

#### Technical co-operation and technical assistance projects

45. The representatives were given a brief review of the various activities engaged in by the secretariat in that field.

### 2. Review of recurrent publications of the Commission (agenda item 6(b)) (E/ESCWA/C.1/15/5)

46. The Executive Secretary gave a review of the document referred to above, saying that the report had been submitted to the Committee in compliance with General Assembly resolution 38/32 of 25 November 1983, section E on control and limitation of documentation, which called for the rationalization of publications of United Nations bodies and of the Economic and Social Council; he said that they should be evaluated according to various criteria contained in that document. He added that the aim of that document was to inform the delegations about ESCWA publications and to familiarize them with trends in this respect.

47. One representative suggested that a recommendation should be made to reduce the number of publications to those contained in the programme of work and priorities. This proposal was passed on to the secretariat.

3. Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission  
(agenda item 6(c))  
(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/6 and (E/ESCWA/C.1/15/6/Add.1-4  
and (Arabic only) Corr.1)

48. The Executive Secretary indicated that follow-up to ESCWA resolution 156(XIV) on the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989, as contained in document E/ESCWA/C.1/15/6/Add.1, was referred to under items 6(a) and 9 of the agenda.

49. He also referred to ESCWA resolution 157(XIV) on the medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1990-1995, which was, to be dealt with under item 10 of the agenda.

50. Concerning ESCWA resolution 160(XIV) on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people, the Executive Secretary stated that the Commission had undertaken a number of studies of this matter, and had also provided technical consultancy services to the Palestine Liberation Organization, Central Bureau of Statistics in Damascus. In this connection, the representative of Palestine thanked the Executive Secretary for his efforts and for the continued implementation of the resolution and requested that work should continue on the contents of previous resolutions on support for the Palestinian Arab people.

51. One representative said that the Commission had a role to play and responsibilities to assume with regard to the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories, as the Commission was not subject to the same pressures as the other bodies of the United Nations in this respect.

52. Concerning resolution 161(XIV) on human and financial resources: vacancies in the secretariat, the Executive Secretary said that vacancy rates had been high in the past and had then fallen to the current level of 10 per cent as a result of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, section I, on recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations. He also noted that certain member countries were under-represented in terms of the number of staff members at ESCWA, and that others were not represented at all.

53. The Executive Secretary spoke of the method of recruitment followed in the United Nations. He indicated that preference was given to candidates from within the United Nations system, then to external candidates. One representative expressed the hope that vacancy announcements would appear at the appropriate time in order that they could be sent to member countries.

54. Several members of delegations spoke of the need to observe a fair geographical distribution for posts at various levels, especially those in the high-level Professional categories, and of devoting special attention to the two least developed countries in the region and to Palestine.

55. They also suggested that those countries which had no staff members in the organization should encourage their civil servants to take up work in ESCWA, either through financial compensation for the low salaries paid by the United Nations as compared with the salaries they received in their own countries, or by sending them on loan.

56. Some representatives made a proposal concerning the necessity of recruiting a majority of ESCWA staff members in the Professional category from within the region.

57. The Executive Secretary said that the Commission needed extrabudgetary funds in order to provide the consultants needed to fill the gap resulting from vacancies.

B. Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings

(agenda item 7)

(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/7)

58. The Technical Committee took note of the activities of the secretariat in this field, which were briefly reviewed by the Executive Secretary.

59. With regard to the National Household Survey Capability Programme in the region, a number of representatives expressed their desire to see that programme continued in view of its importance for member States. A number of representatives raised the question of setting up a special household survey unit in ESCWA. The Executive Secretary indicated that the establishment of such a unit was an organizational operation that would entail financial commitments which would be difficult to fulfil in view of the current financial crisis.

60. Some representatives felt that the provision of services in this field to member countries was the most important thing, regardless of the organizational framework within which these services were currently provided.

61. The representatives agreed to issue a two-part resolution which would call for the continued provision of technical services to member countries in the field of household surveys, and which would authorize the Executive Secretary to endeavour to set up a unit for the provision of services in that field. They indicated that the resolution would constitute a legislative instrument in support of the efforts exerted by the Executive Secretary to achieve that objective.

62. With regard to the Intergovernmental Meeting on Trade in Services and Development in the ESCWA Region, one representative spoke of the extreme importance of that Meeting and requested the secretariat to follow up that subject; he suggested including it in the forthcoming medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and in the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991. He also suggested incorporating part of it in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade for the ESCWA region.

C. Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations

(agenda item 8)

(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/8)

63. The Executive Secretary stated that the document referred to above gave a detailed review of the various regional and international organizations the secretariat had contacted, the agreements it had concluded and the joint activities engaged in in continuation of the efforts exerted by the previous

Executive Secretary in that field. He also noted the co-operation between ESCWA and the other regional commissions such as ECE and ECA, together with UNDP.

64. One representative recommended that ESCWA should intensify its co-operation with non-United Nations regional funding agencies in order to finance some of its co-operation programmes in the ESCWA region, along the lines of its co-operation with the Islamic Development Bank.

D. Draft programme of work and priorities  
for the biennium 1990-1991  
(agenda item 9)  
(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/9)

65. The Executive Secretary stated that the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991 was based essentially on the medium-term plan which was approved by the Commission at its ninth session<sup>1/</sup> and extended by a General Assembly resolution to cover the period 1990-1991. He said that the activities and programmes of the previous biennium had been continued.

66. He added that the programme assumed that all vacancies in the secretariat would be filled; the vacancy rate had fallen and it was hoped to fill them completely by the end of 1989. However, the secretariat had taken the United Nations plan to reduce posts by 9.5 per cent into consideration and proposed that eight posts in the Professional category and 18 posts in the General Services category be reduced from the beginning of next year, despite the difficulties caused by this reduction, in view of the relatively recent establishment of ESCWA as a regional commission.

67. The Executive Secretary added that the draft programme of work and priorities concentrated on multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral activities, in other words both practical and technical activities at the same time, especially in the fields of human resources development, environment, industry, etc., by providing joint technical consultancy services rather than working in isolation in the ESCWA divisions.

68. He stated that what was new in the programme of work and priorities was the attention devoted to emerging issues in the region. It was no longer enough for ESCWA to implement its traditional activities and programmes; rather it must keep step with emerging issues. These were basic issues which had emerged and which ESCWA could not ignore in the forthcoming biennium, such as the reconstruction of war-damaged areas, conflicts, occupation, economic adjustment policies, problems facing the expansion of member countries' external trade, as well as European economic groupings and their impact on the region, etc. The programme of work and priorities had allocated extrabudgetary funds to these new activities.

69. In answer to a question from one representative concerning the criteria adopted in preparing the medium-term plan, of which the programme of work and priorities is a part, the Executive Secretary stated that the medium-term plan

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<sup>1/</sup> See ECWA resolution 114(IX) of 12 May 1982 on the ECWA medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.

was inspired by the International Development Strategy, the Development Strategy for the Region of Western Asia,<sup>1/</sup> by sessions held by the Commission, co-operation agreements with international specialized agencies, the proposals of regional consultants that reach the secretariat as feedback from field work and by direct requests from member countries.

70. The Executive Secretary reviewed document E/ESCWA/C.1/15/9 according to the order of programmes contained therein. He then stressed the need to improve the performance of ESCWA in spite of the low number of staff members and the increasing number of tasks entrusted to it.

71. A number of representatives asked that their countries be given sufficient time to study the draft programme of work and priorities and the draft medium-term plan in order to inform the Commission of their views and comments on them. In reply, the Executive Secretary said that their views and comments should be submitted before the session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in early July, when the medium-term plan would be considered.

72. The chiefs of substantive divisions reviewed the main areas of emphasis of the programmes of their divisions, as contained in the document referred to above. The comments of the delegations were concentrated on the following areas:

#### Food and agriculture

73. One delegation suggested that consideration should be given to supporting farmers by various means in order to ensure the continuity of agriculture, in view of their reliance on scarce water resources. The delegation also called for the establishment of a system to insure agricultural produce and asked whether such a system existed in any ESCWA country.

74. The representative of Palestine suggested that the Joint ESCWA/FAO Agriculture Division should undertake a study of the occupied Palestinian territories in order to investigate the problems of processing and marketing olives and citrus fruits and also to develop the cultivation and processing of medicinal plants in the West Bank of the occupied Palestinian territories, where the Israeli occupation authorities prevent the export of medicinal plants such as wild thyme and sage. He also called for a study to be undertaken on the potential for developing animal production in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

#### Environment

75. The representative of Palestine suggested that ESCWA should undertake a study of the environment in the occupied Palestinian territories and the negative impact of the practices of the occupation authorities, which included devastating and confiscating land, stealing water, especially ground water, and razing buildings.

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<sup>1/</sup> See Economic Commission for Western Asia, Development Strategy for the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in the Third United Nations Development Decade (Beirut, 1979) (E/ECWA/DPD/WG.14/1/Rev.1).

76. A representative of the secretariat replied to the observation of the representative of Palestine saying that the secretariat should pay attention to the fact that Israel was totally changing the environment in the occupied Palestinian territories. In order to do that, he said that there should be an official request when the Regional Adviser for the Environment joined ESCWA at the beginning of 1990.

#### Human settlements

77. One delegation called upon ESCWA to contribute to integrated rural development, which required co-ordination with all the competent organizations of the United Nations. The delegation suggested that a study should be undertaken to determine what was meant by "villages" and "the countryside", since there were no agreed designations for them in ESCWA countries.

#### Industrial development

78. A number of representatives requested that the priorities of the work programme of the Commission should include a greater number of programmes devoted to the two least developed countries of the region. One representative requested the Commission to make a recommendation to reconvene the Ministerial Meeting for Co-operation on Industrial Development in Democratic Yemen, which had been postponed and then cancelled.

79. One representative suggested that priority should be given to industries which complemented each other, in order to overcome the problems they faced such as the availability of hard currency, the transfer of technology and the availability of spare parts.

80. Some representatives called upon the Commission to make a recommendation to regulate co-operation and co-ordination between ESCWA and the other specialized technical organizations in order to prevent duplication of programmes and activities and to reduce costs.

81. Another representative suggested that more attention should be paid to traditional handicrafts such as those sold to tourists, in order to protect them from being lost.

#### International trade and development finance

82. One representative called for efforts to be concentrated on expanding Arab exports and on processing and marketing foodstuffs.

#### Transnational corporations

83. Some representatives stressed the importance of trade in services, noting the increasing volume of that trade and that the subject was connected with the details of everyday life. Therefore it was desirable that ESCWA, in spite of its limited human and financial resources, should study that subject urgently, especially with respect to a code of conduct for trade in services.

84. In replying to a question about the bases on which the programme was to be drawn up, the Executive Secretary said that ESCWA would bear in mind the diverse considerations and variables present in the region, the various priorities, recommendations of experts and requests from countries, within the framework of what was called for by the development strategies adopted.



E. Draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997  
(agenda item 10)  
(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/10(Part I) and Suppl.1-3 and (Part II))

85. The Chief of the Programme Planning and Co-ordination Unit presented a summary of the draft medium-term plan and an explanation of the main orientations of its objectives.

86. Commenting on this presentation, one representative said that efforts should be concentrated on certain basic programmes according to the priorities of each member country. He also asked that the trend towards joint activities should be encouraged in order to unify concepts, ideas, work and objectives. He said that a directory on the sources of financing for projects, whether from the regular budget or from extrabudgetary sources, should be assured. A system of annual or semi-annual follow-up to evaluate the programmes and to inform member countries of the progress of work and the obstacles to the implementation of the programmes was called for.

87. Some representatives said that they would like to see increased attention being paid to the two least developed countries of the member States, and said that that should be a general objective of the various plans.

88. They also said that attention should be paid to solar energy in addition to other forms of energy, which was in the interests of the member countries.

89. Some representatives asked for more attention to be devoted to studying the impact on member countries of the developments in the European Economic Community concerning the establishment of a single market.

90. A representative of one of the delegations spoke on the subject of women in development, saying that the alternatives available to Arab women concerning development should have a democratic basis which took the needs of women into consideration, rather than being imposed by development plans.

91. In this connection, he indicated that the trend towards privatization would lead to competition for jobs because of the reduction in the number of jobs in the public sector, and that that would hurt certain categories such as women, the young and the elderly. With this in mind, he stressed the necessity of devoting sufficient attention to that aspect in the studies undertaken by ESCWA.

92. A representative of one of the delegations praised the role of Iraqi women and said that they were a productive economic element. That role had become apparent especially during the Iraq-Iran war and was a source of pride for Iraqi and Arab women equally.

93. The Executive Secretary stressed the necessity of benefiting from the remarks of members of delegations and taking them into consideration. He decided to grant member countries until the end of June 1989 to present their views and comments on the draft medium-term plan before submitting it to the Economic and Social Council for consideration and adoption, provided that it was adopted in principle at present.

94. In the field of transport and communications, the representative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) stressed the need to achieve

congruency in linking of countries of the region among themselves or with neighbouring countries and the expansion of those countries' international telephone exchanges, as those two matters were interdependent. He added that ITU and ESCWA were co-operating and co-ordinating efforts in those fields.

95. With respect to improving the technical level of planning, one representative noted that the draft medium-term plan made no reference to that objective, that it did not refer to the development of project selection or the development of financial markets, in spite of their importance for the economies of the region, nor was there any mention of the International Development Strategy. The Executive Secretary said that the draft medium-term plan would be amended in the light of observations submitted by member countries, and that the draft international development strategy would be discussed under agenda item 12.

96. The Executive Secretary said that all the remarks made by representatives would be taken into consideration.

F. Discussion of the items on the provisional agenda of the ministerial meeting of the fifteenth session of the Commission  
(agenda item 11)  
(E/ESCWA/15/L.1)

97. The Secretary of the Commission reviewed the items of the provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Commission; the agenda was approved for submission.

G. Other matters  
(agenda item 12)

1. Report on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit  
(agenda item 12(a))  
(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/11)

98. The Executive Secretary reviewed the contents of this document and indicated that they concerned the origins of ESCWA, the difficulties it had encountered concerning the frequent changes of headquarters, as well as the political problems suffered by the countries of the ESCWA region, especially Palestine and Lebanon, as well as Iraq, owing to the Iraq-Iran war. He said that these problems had contributed and would continue to contribute to the depletion of the region's resources.

99. He also referred to that part of the document concerning the need to change the organizational structure of ESCWA. He noted the call to member States to support ESCWA not only financially, but also in various international bodies such as the Economic and Social Council and specialized organizations and by providing personnel to serve in ESCWA. He made specific reference to the recommendations at the end of the report.

100. A number of representatives emphasized that the document was the most important one of the session. It showed the competence of ESCWA and commended its activities, in spite of the critical circumstances under which it had had to operate. The report also dealt with the problems and difficulties suffered

by ESCWA, either in its dealings with the Governments of member States or with respect to its own internal structure. Those obstacles prevented it from performing its tasks as fully as possible.

101. After discussing the recommendations contained in the report, the representatives agreed on the wording of a resolution to be submitted to the fifteenth session of the Commission. This resolution contained numerous elements in support of the work of the Commission on its fifteenth anniversary. The representatives pointed to the importance of the Commission in promoting economic and social development in its member countries.

2. Summary of the preliminary conclusions and estimates of the damage resulting from the rains and floods that struck Democratic Yemen between 19 March and 7 April 1989

(agenda item.12(b))

(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/12)

102. A representative of the secretariat reviewed the preliminary conclusions and estimates of the damage resulting from the rains and floods that had struck Democratic Yemen between 19 March and 7 April 1989. He referred to the damage incurred by the economic structures and by institutions.

103. The representative of Democratic Yemen commended the immediate response of Arab countries and certain friendly countries and international organizations and their contribution to the financing of relief work.

104. He invited ESCWA to draw up a comprehensive and integrated programme to reconstruct and rehabilitate the flood-stricken areas; to establish a fund to finance that programme; to appeal to Arab and foreign countries and funding organizations to contribute to it; to draw up development programmes in which all ESCWA substantive divisions would participate and to procure financing for them. Another representative said that the proposal of the representative of Democratic Yemen was necessary in order to combat the long-range effects of natural disasters.

3. Request for membership of Western Asia countries in the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council

(agenda item 12(c))

(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/13)

105. The Chief of the Statistics Division of the secretariat stated that the origin of the resolution was a recommendation of the Third Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region, held in 1989, that ESCWA approach the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to request that membership of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations be allocated specifically to countries of the Western Asia region, as seats on the Commission currently were allocated to Asian countries as a whole.

106. One representative requested the secretariat to clarify its position concerning that request. He asked whether that implied giving ESCWA countries one of the seats allocated to Asian countries or adding a new seat to those already allocated. He said that this would be difficult since it would necessitate consultation with members of the Asian group. The matter was in their hands, not in the hands of the Economic and Social Commission in that case. The consensus was that there was no point in approaching the Economic and Social Commission on this matter.

4. Preparation of the international development strategy  
for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000)  
(agenda item 12(d))  
(E/ESCWA/C.1/15/14)

107. The Chief of the Development Planning Division reviewed the background of the United Nations Development Decades and the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

108. He gave details of some of the indicators of the progress made in achieving those objectives and also pointed out some of the more prominent issues that he said should be dealt with when discussing the current Strategy, as well as the bases on which the countries of the region should prepare the forthcoming strategy.

109. He asked that a meeting be held at the government level between member countries to discuss the development strategy for the region and to formulate it within the framework of the current preparations for the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

110. The Chairman of the session replied to this proposal, saying that the purpose of the document was to draw the attention of member countries to the importance and aims of the strategy. He hoped that they would convey their ideas on that subject to the secretariat in order to enable it to prepare for that strategy.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SIXTH SESSION

### A. Place and date of the session

111. The sixth session of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia was held at the Commission's headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq from 13 to 15 May 1989 to discuss the items on the agenda set forth in section E below and to make recommendations in that regard to the Commission at its fifteenth session. Its work covered five meetings.

### B. Attendance<sup>1/</sup>

112. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Commission: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

113. By virtue of rule 63 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the following States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission participated in a consultative capacity in the work of the sixth session of the Technical Committee: Algeria, China, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

114. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session as observers: FAO, International Labour Organisation (ILO), ITU, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC), UNDP, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Bahrain), World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

115. Representatives of the following governmental and non-governmental regional organizations also attended the session as observers: Arab Co-operative Federation (ACF); Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI); Arab Federation of Shipping (AFOS); Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO); Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS); Arab Labour Organization (ALO); Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO); Arab Literacy and Adult Education Organization (ARLO); Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD); Arab Planning Institute (API); Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC); General Federation of Arab Women (GFAW); Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC); and the Union of Arab Historians (UAH).

116. Representatives of the Iraqi Fund for External Development and the Saudi Fund for Development also attended the session as observers.

117. Representatives of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance also attended the session as observers.

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<sup>1/</sup> For the names of participants in the session, see document E/ESCWA/C.1/15/INF.2/Rev.1.

C. Credentials

118. The credentials of the representatives of member States and of other States and organizations participating in the sixth session of the Technical Committee were examined and found to be in order.<sup>1/</sup>

D. Election of officers  
(agenda item 2)

119. The Committee elected Mr. Abdul Malik Farrash (Saudi Arabia), as Chairman of the session, Mr. Jamal Salem Ghaith (Palestine), as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Mokhtar Hashim Osman (Egypt), as Rapporteur.

E. Adoption of the agenda  
(agenda item 3)

120. At its 1st meeting, held on 13 May 1989, the Technical Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/ESCWA/C.1/15/L.2, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Invitation to States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the sixth session of the Technical Committee.
6. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission:
  - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989;
  - (b) Review of recurrent publications of the Commission;
  - (c) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission:
    - (i) Resolution 156(XIV) on the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989;
    - (ii) Resolution 157(XIV) on the medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1990-1995;
    - (iii) Resolution 160(XIV) on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people;
    - (iv) Resolution 161(XIV) on human and financial resources: vacancies in the secretariat.

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<sup>1/</sup> First meeting held on 13 May 1989.

7. Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings.
8. Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations.
9. Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991.
10. Draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.
11. Discussion of the items on the provisional agenda of the ministerial meeting of the fifteenth session of the Commission.
12. Other matters:
  - (a) Report on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit;
  - (b) Summary of the preliminary conclusions and estimates of the damage resulting from the rains and floods that struck Democratic Yemen between 19 March and 7 April 1989;
  - (c) Request for membership of Western Asia countries in the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council;
  - (d) Preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000).
13. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

F. Organization of work  
(agenda item 4)

121. At its 1st meeting the Committee approved the proposed organization of work contained in document E/ESCWA/C.1/15/2.

G. Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee  
on the work of its sixth session  
(agenda item 13)

122. At its fifth meeting, held on 15 May 1989, the Committee adopted its report to the fifteenth session of the Commission and authorized the Rapporteur to incorporate therein any editorial changes that might be required.

Annex I

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR SUBMISSION  
TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

Draft resolution 1

Progress made in the implementation of the programme of  
work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking note of the modifications to the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989 as proposed in the report of the Executive Secretary,<sup>1/</sup>

Taking into consideration Commission resolution 156(XIV) of 5 April 1987 on the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989,

Noting the impact of the relatively high rate of vacancies in the technical programmes and the financial crisis in the United Nations system on the performance of these programmes,

1. Notes with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989;

2. Adopts, on the basis of the recommendations of the Technical Committee, the proposed modifications to the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989 as contained in the report of the Executive Secretary.

5th plenary meeting

Draft resolution 2

15 May 1989

Environment and development in the ESCWA region

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which took into consideration the concepts, ideas and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the above-mentioned report, by which the General Assembly decided to transmit to all Governments and to the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, whose main goal is to ensure that economic and social development be environmentally sound and sustainable, and that it meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,

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<sup>1/</sup> E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4(Part I)/Rev.1.



Noting with appreciation the emphasis given by both the report of the World Commission and the Environmental Perspective to the convergence of interests between developed and developing countries on environmental concerns and to the necessity of multilateral co-operation,

Expressing its satisfaction at the results achieved at the First Arab Ministerial Conference on Environmental Considerations in Development, held at Tunis from 13 to 15 October 1986,

Recognizing the need for increased regional and international co-operation in addressing environmental problems which are of a global or regional character or which have a joint impact on neighbouring member countries,

Noting also with appreciation the Joint Summary of the Oslo Conference on Sustainable Development issued on 10 July 1988, particularly in view of the role assigned to the regional commissions in the context of follow-up actions on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

1. Calls upon member States to devote more attention to environmental considerations in both their overall and sectoral policies, plans and programmes with a view to contributing to environmentally sound and sustainable development;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all environmental considerations into account in the implementation of the Commission's work programme, especially in the areas of agriculture, industry, transport, natural resources, energy, social development and human settlements;

3. Also requests the Executive Secretary to undertake preparations at the regional level with a view to drawing up a report on the position of the Commission to be submitted to the United Nations conference on environment and development to be held not later than 1992;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to explore with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme the possibility of a renewal by the Programme of its institutional support to the Commission in order to strengthen the Commission's efforts to address the priority environmental concerns in the region;

5. Recommends that the member countries should become parties to regional and global conventions dealing with environmental issues, such as the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer;

6. Calls upon the member countries to participate actively in the above-mentioned United Nations conference on environment and development;

7. Appeals to funding institutions and regional and international agencies and programmes concerned with the environment, and to those countries in a position to do so, to provide financial support in order to enable the secretariat to implement regional and subregional environmental projects and to render assistance to member countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and overcoming environmental problems.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 3

Financial assistance to existing industries

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Having noted from the many studies undertaken in past years and from national and regional meetings that a large proportion of existing industries, including small industries, are suffering from numerous problems that can be ascribed to various causes,

Noting that the adoption and implementation of sound solutions to the various problems faced by industrial enterprises in many sectors require expertise that cannot be fully provided by the staff of these enterprises,

Recalling an informal working paper prepared by the secretariat which sets forth the objectives, methodology and elements of a detailed plan of assistance to the industries in question,

1. Recommends the continuation of work on a support programme for existing industries in the member countries and of efforts to arrange for the necessary financing of the programme by member countries and by Arab funds and financial institutions in the region;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to contact the institutions in question and to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and submit a report on this issue to the Commission at its sixteenth session.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 4

Promotion of regional co-operation in the  
peaceful uses of nuclear energy

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the progress made in the promotion of regional co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the ESCWA region,<sup>1/</sup>

Recalling its resolution 147(XIII) of 24 April 1986 on the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, which calls for regional co-operation in this field and stresses the need for additional extrabudgetary resources and for the formulation and implementation of nuclear projects to contribute to economic and social development in the member countries,

Being convinced that the most important effective steps in promoting regional co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would be to begin the implementation of projects at the regional level with the financial participation of the regional funds and the institutions in question, including Arab and international institutions,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Secretary for the steps which he has taken to implement resolution 147(XIII);

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue his contacts with the relevant regional and international organizations with a view to promoting co-operation in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its sixteenth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 5

Suitable projects for regional and subregional co-operation  
in the ESCWA region on new and renewable sources of energy

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,<sup>2/</sup>

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1/ E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.7.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/192 of 20 December 1988, which took note of the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its fourth session,<sup>1/</sup>

Noting the conclusions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Technical Meeting on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and its approval of the projects proposed by the secretariat with a view to strengthening regional co-operation in the dissemination of technologies for new and renewable sources of energy in the member countries of the Commission,<sup>2/</sup>

1. Commends the efforts of the secretariat in formulating projects in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and promoting their dissemination in the region,<sup>3/</sup> and in establishing the Regional Centre for the New and Renewable Sources of Energy Information Network;

2. Invites regional and international funding agencies and Governments of countries able to do so, to support the efforts of the Executive Secretary to procure the funds needed to implement the co-operation projects prepared by the secretariat in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

3. Also invites member countries which have not yet participated<sup>4/</sup> in the New and Renewable Sources of Energy Information Network to contact the Regional Centre in order to exchange information on the current state of new and renewable sources of energy;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the steps taken to implement the present resolution for consideration by the Commission at its sixteenth session.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/43/36).

2/ Final Report of the Intergovernmental Technical Meeting on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 4 December 1986, Amman, Jordan (E/ESCWA/NR/86/IG.1/5).

3/ See E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.4.

4/ The following countries have participated in the projects so far: Iraq, Jordan and Egypt.

Draft resolution 6

Support for the Regional Household Survey Project  
in the ESCWA countries

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the progress made in the field of technical co-operation<sup>1/</sup> and in particular in the field of strengthening national household survey capabilities,

Recalling the reports of the Second Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region, held from 25 to 26 March 1987, and of the Tripartite Review Meeting on the Regional Household Survey Project<sup>2/</sup> and the recommendations of both meetings concerning the importance of consultancy services in the field of household surveys,

Recalling also the report of the Third Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA Region, held from 28 February to 2 March 1989, and its expression of appreciation of the consultancy services provided by the secretariat in the field of household surveys, its reaffirmation of the continued need of most member countries for more technical services in order to implement household surveys and to strengthen national capabilities in this field, and also the recommendation of the Meeting concerning the need to continue the activities of the Regional Household Survey Project and to strive to transform it into a permanent work programme of the Statistics Division,

Recalling also the financial support provided by the United Nations Development Programme from 1981 to 1987 in order to strengthen national household survey capabilities,

Noting that member States are preparing national household survey programmes and projects to be implemented on a continuous basis and that the execution of such national programmes and projects relies to a large extent on technical services provided by the secretariat in this field,

1. Stresses the continuing importance of the technical services of the Commission in the field of household surveys and the need to develop these services in order to meet the needs of member States and to keep abreast of world developments in the field of information technology;

2. Invites the Executive Secretary to exert efforts to ensure the necessary funds to guarantee the continuation of the Regional Household Survey Project and to strive to transform it into a regular work programme of the Statistics Division;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary to request the International Labour Organisation to contribute the services of an adviser in the field of labour statistics;

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<sup>1/</sup> E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4(Part II).

<sup>2/</sup> RAB/80/009.

4. Requests the secretariat to recontact the United Nations Development Programme for support of the Regional Household Survey Project, provided that member States support this request through their permanent representatives;

5. Conveys its thanks to the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations for its support of the Regional Household Survey Project and calls upon the secretariat to pursue its contacts for the purpose of signing the necessary agreement with that body;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixteenth session.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 7

Activities of the Transport and Communications Decade  
in Western Asia (1985-1994)

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 138(XII) of 24 April 1985 on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on activities of the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (1985-1994),<sup>1/</sup>

Further noting the note by the Executive Secretary on the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting on the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia, held from 13 to 15 December 1988,<sup>2/</sup> particularly as it relates to the follow-up of the implementation of the action programme and projects for the Decade in the ESCWA region,

Reaffirming the importance of developing activities of the transport and communications sector at the national, regional and interregional levels,

1. Invites the Executive Secretary to give the requisite priority to the activities of the Decade, in implementation of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting on the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia;

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1/ E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.6.

2/ See E/ESCWA/C.1/15/7, sect. (b).

2. Invites member States to promote the activities of the Decade and to contribute to the implementation of the action programme and projects for achieving the objectives of the Decade in Western Asia, as recommended by the Intergovernmental/Inter-Agency Meeting;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to seek from international, regional and national funding institutions, as well as from international and regional organizations, financial and technical support for the implementation of the projects for the Decade, particularly in the field of training in the transport sector, and for the improvement of regional and interregional transport and communications links;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixteenth session.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 8

Review of recurrent publications

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 38/32 of 25 November 1983 on the pattern of conferences, with particular reference to section E, entitled "Control and limitation of documentation",

Noting with appreciation the report of the Executive Secretary containing a review of recurrent publications of the secretariat of the Commission,<sup>1/</sup>

Emphasizing that the recurrent publications of the secretariat of the Commission are a fundamental part of its programme of work,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Technical Committee on this subject,

Endorses the issuance of the recurrent publications by the secretariat in accordance with the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

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<sup>1/</sup> E/ESCWA/C.1/15/5.

Draft resolution 9

Economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 160(XIV) of 5 April 1987 on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

Deeply concerned at the harsh measures, increasing restrictions, persecution, arbitrariness, expulsions, deportations, arrests and destruction perpetrated in the occupied Palestinian territories by the Israeli occupation authorities and at their attempt to repress the fearless Palestinian intifadah, all of which has led and continues to lead to the breakdown of economic life and tremendous loss of lives and damage to property with its consequent adverse impact on all aspects of development in those territories, especially in agriculture, industry and the environment,

1. Resolves to continue to follow up the action taken on all resolutions adopted by the Commission at its previous sessions and to help to find solutions for existing problems by completing the studies that have been started, bearing in mind the urgent requirements of the Palestinian Arab people with regard to reconstruction;

2. Calls upon Arab funding agencies and the Governments of countries in a position to do so to support the efforts of the Executive Secretary to provide extrabudgetary funds to enable the Commission to assist the Palestinian Arab people;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 10

Draft medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission  
for Western Asia for the period 1992-1997

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and particularly the provisions thereof that relate to the role of the regional commissions in developing co-ordination at the regional level and to the functions and responsibilities of the commissions in the programme planning and review process,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 36/228 of 18 December 1981 on programme planning, particularly section A thereof,



Recalling further General Assembly resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982, particularly section II thereof, resolution 42/215 of 21 December 1987 and resolution 43/219 of 21 December 1988, on programme planning, in which the Assembly stressed the role of an integrated programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation system in improving the efficiency of the United Nations,

Having considered the draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: regional co-operation for development in Western Asia,<sup>1/</sup> as well as the introductory note by the Executive Secretary<sup>2/</sup> and paragraph 87 of the report of the Technical Committee<sup>3/</sup> on the need to pay more attention to the two least developed countries,

Taking account of its resolution 157(XIV) of 5 April 1987 on the medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1990-1995, particularly paragraph 3 thereof,

Recognizing that the draft medium-term plan will be revised in the light of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade and in the light of other regional and international developments,

1. Stresses the need to ensure that the plan fully and harmoniously reflects the development priorities and requirements of the States members of the Commission in the light of recent developments in the region and in the world;

2. Approves in principle the draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: regional co-operation for development in Western Asia, bearing in mind the observations made in the meetings of the Technical Committee at its sixth session, especially those concerning the adoption of a method of follow-up based on annual reports, as well as those received from the member States by the end of June 1989 at the latest;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Technical Committee at its seventh session a progress report on the revision of the plan.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

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1/ E/ESCWA/C.1/15/10(Part II).

2/ E/ESCWA/C.1/15/10(Part I) and Suppl.1-3.

3/ E/ESCWA/C.1/15/5.

Draft resolution 11

Draft programme of work and priorities  
for the biennium 1990-1991

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolutions 114(IX) of 12 May 1982 on the ECWA medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and 125(XI) of 26 April 1984 on the general policy-making structure of the Commission, which established the terms of reference of the Technical Committee,

Noting with appreciation the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991 proposed by the secretariat,

Taking into consideration the financial crisis of the United Nations and its impact on the programme through post reductions,

1. Adopts the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991, bearing in mind the observations of the Technical Committee at its sixth session;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Technical Committee at its seventh session on any modifications to the programme which may need to be made.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 12

Report on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking advantage of the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission, and being convinced of the importance of the mission it performs in the service of economic and social development in the region of Western Asia,

Taking note of the report issued in February 1989 on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit<sup>1/</sup> and of the views put forward in the report as to the benefits that could be derived from further development of the Commission as an effective tool for regional co-operation and economic development in the member States,

Having examined the recommendations contained in paragraphs 67 and 68 of the report,

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<sup>1/</sup> E/ESCWA/C.1/15/11, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session under the symbol JIU/REP/89/1.

1. Decides:

(a) To invite member States to set up an advisory body comprising the heads of their diplomatic missions in Iraq to assist the Executive Secretary in the study of problems connected with the work of the Commission;

(b) To invite member States and institutions of the region to make optimum use of the Commission as a medium for co-operation, co-ordination, operational research and project execution in the economic and social fields;

(c) To invite member States and regional funds and institutions to make the necessary financial contributions and to sponsor some of the projects which the secretariat is carrying out, so as to enable it to follow up present and future issues in member States;

(d) To invite member States to encourage competent nationals of their countries to serve in the secretariat and to second some of their civil servants for service in the secretariat, in accordance with arrangements to be agreed upon and pursuant to its resolution 161(XIV) of 5 April 1987 on human and financial resources: vacancies in the secretariat;

2. Requests the United Nations Secretariat to give effect to General Assembly resolution 39/243 of 18 December 1984 on the staff and administrative questions of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and to take into account the circumstances of the secretariat relating to staff reductions.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 13

International assistance to the flood-stricken  
areas of Democratic Yemen

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting with deep regret the extensive loss of life and property and the destruction of much of the economic and social infrastructure caused by the rains and floods in Democratic Yemen in March and April 1989,

Having taken note of the statement by the representative of Democratic Yemen concerning the magnitude of this disaster and the efforts that are being made by that Government to cope with it, and having taken note of the report of the secretariat on the subject,<sup>1/</sup>

Deeply concerned that, despite the immediate relief assistance offered so far, the magnitude of the damage caused by the rains and floods and the enormity of the reconstruction and rehabilitation requirements have confronted the Government with severe difficulties in meeting the needs of a large number of victims, in spite of the adoption of rehabilitation and reconstruction measures for the stricken areas,

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<sup>1/</sup> E/ESCWA/C.1/15/12.

Recalling its resolution 107(IX) of 11 May 1982 on international assistance to the flood-stricken areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, which provided a framework for the offer of aid and assistance to those areas at that time,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the donor States and agencies and requests them, especially the States members of the Commission, to offer more aid and voluntary contributions with a view to alleviating the destruction occasioned by the disaster;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to formulate a programme, in accordance with available resources, with a view to assisting in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas in Democratic Yemen, and to seek financing for this programme from the agencies concerned;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to devise a system in the secretariat to deal with natural disasters with a view to expediting the offer of immediate assistance when such disasters occur;

4. Also requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixteenth session.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Draft resolution 14

International development strategy for the  
fourth United Nations development decade

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Being aware of the crucial importance of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, and of the contribution of the member countries thereto, in setting forth the trends and conditions for development during the 1990s,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat in the preparation of the forthcoming strategy,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/182 of 20 December 1988 on preparations for an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

1. Decides to set up a committee of government development experts from member countries and to invite it to collaborate with the secretariat in the preparation of a report reflecting the priorities and objectives which the member countries aspire to achieve within the framework of the fourth United Nations development decade;

2. Invites the Executive Secretary to make the necessary arrangements to convene meetings of the committee of government experts at an appropriate time during 1989.

5th plenary meeting  
15 May 1989

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/L.2	3	Provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/L.1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/2	4	Proposed organization of work
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/3/Rev.1	5	Invitation of States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the sixth session of the Technical Committee <u>Note by the Executive Secretary</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4(Part I)/Rev.1 and Corr.1 and (Arabic only) Suppl.1	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Status of programme performance and proposed modifications
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4(Part II) and Corr.1	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Technical co-operation activities and technical assistance projects
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.1	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on assistance to existing industries in countries of the ESCWA region

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.2	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on support to technical assistance projects for the development of women
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.3	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on the results of the Training Workshop in the Use of Personal Computers for Gathering, Storing, Processing and Retrieving Farm Data
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.4	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on the identification and promotion of suitable projects for regional and subregional co-operation in the ESCWA region on new and renewable sources of energy
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.5	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on the United Nations Convention on International Multimodal Transport of Goods
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.6	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on activities of the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (1985-1994)

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.7	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on the progress made in the promotion of regional co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.8	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on the ongoing negotiations on the United Nations draft code of conduct on transnational corporations
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.9	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on the promotion of co-operation in the field of science and technology
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/4/Add.10	6(a)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission: Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989. Report on assessment of alternative energy-efficient building materials and housing designs in selected countries of the ESCWA region
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/5	6(b)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: Review of recurrent publications of the Commission

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/6	6(c)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on resolutions of the Commission
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/6/Add.1	6(c)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on resolutions of the Commission: (i) Resolution 156(XIV) on the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/6/Add.2	6(c)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on resolutions of the Commission: (ii) Resolution 157(XIV) on the medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1990-1995
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/6/Add.3	6(c)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on resolutions of the Commission: (iii) Resolution 160(XIV) on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/6/Add.4 and (Arabic only) Corr.1	6(c)	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on resolutions of the Commission: (iv) Resolution 161(XIV) on human and financial resources: vacancies in the secretariat
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/7	7	Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings <u>Note by the Executive Secretary</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/8	8	Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations <u>Note by the Executive Secretary</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/9	9	Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991



<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/10(Part I) and Suppl.1, 2 and 3	10	Draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: Regional co-operation for development in Western Asia <u>Note by the Executive Secretary</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/10(Part II)	10	Draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: Regional co-operation for development in Western Asia
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/11	12(a)	Report on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/12	12(b)	Summary of the preliminary conclusions and estimates of the damage resulting from the rains and floods that struck Democratic Yemen between 19 March and 7 April 1989 <u>Note by the Executive Secretary</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/13	12(c)	Request for membership of Western Asia countries in the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council <u>Note by the Executive Secretary</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/14	12(d)	Preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000) <u>Note by the Executive Secretary</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/15	13	Report of the Technical Committee on the work of its sixth session
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/INF.1/Rev.1		List of documents
E/ESCWA/C.1/15/INF.2/Rev.1		List of participants

