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TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the Executive Secretary

The terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia were established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973. The text of that resolution reads as follows:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the special role of the regional economic commissions in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind that the countries of Western Asia at present covered by the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut do not enjoy membership in any regional economic commission,

Believing that such membership would be an important factor in accelerating their economic and social development,

Establishes an Economic Commission for Western Asia, to start its operations on 1 January 1974, with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic Commission for Western Asia, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Western Asia, for raising the level of economic activity in Western Asia and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the countries of that area both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Western Asia as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies of the United Nations Development Programme;

(e) Assist the Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connexion with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The members of the Commission shall consist of the States Members of the United Nations situated in Western Asia which at present call on the services of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. Future applications for membership by Member States shall be decided on by the Council upon the recommendation of the Commission.

3. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

4. The Commission may invite any State Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

5. The Commission may make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in its resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

6. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

7. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to those agencies or organizations, following the practice of the Council.

8. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the directives contained in the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

9. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

10. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

12. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.
