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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA TO THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE
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COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. At its second meeting, the Commission approved the following draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution"67 (VI). The Headquarters of the Economic
Commission for Western Asia^{1/}

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,
Recalling its resolution 6 (S-I),
Affirming its resolution 35 (S.II),
Taking note of the Executive Secretary's report E/ECWA/78 and E/ECWA/78/Add.1,
Welcoming the offer made by the Iraqi Government to provide temporary
offices for the secretariat with effect from 9 September 1979 until the
construction of the permanent headquarters' buildings is completed,

1. Decides:

(a) That the Commission should commence its move to its permanent headquarters in Baghdad on the elapse of the five-year transitional period in Beirut and with effect from 9 September 1979;

(b) That the Commission should occupy the temporary offices provided by the Government of Iraq until completion of the permanent headquarters' buildings in Baghdad.

All the above to take place in accordance with a time-table to be agreed upon between the Iraqi Government and the United Nations.

2. Further decides:

To recommend that the Economic and Social Council adopt this resolution."

^{1/} See Chapter III, Section C. para. 30.

Resolution"68 (VI). Reconsideration of resolution 37 (IV)
adopted on 28 April 1977^{1/}

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Taking into consideration the objectives for which it was established, especially the adoption of measures for facilitating co-ordinated action for economic development and construction, raising the level of economic activity and maintaining and strengthening economic relationships among the countries of the region on the basis of economic integration,

Taking note of the fact that the circumstances through which one of the member States of the Commission has passed/led that member State to redirect its course thereby opening a gap which will have a future impact on the cohesiveness of the States of the Commission and on their common effort to achieve the aforementioned objectives,

Responding to the desire of the member States as a whole to preserve cohesiveness in their policies, which is essential for achieving the objectives of the Commission,

Decides to reconsider its resolution 37 (IV) adopted on 28 April 1977 and recommends that the Economic and Social Council suspend the membership of the **Arab Republic of Egypt in the Commission."**

Second meeting

29 April 1979

1/ See Chapter III, Section C. para.31.

2. At its sixth meeting, the Commission decided to bring the following decision to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

The Economic Commission for Western Asia, at its sixth session, endorsed the draft Programme of Work and Priorities for 1980-1981 contained in document E/ECWA/74 after taking into consideration the observations made by certain member States.

3. At its sixth meeting, the Commission decided to recommend the following resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

1. Takes note of the report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on **its sixth session** and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in Chapter I and IV of the report.
2. Endorses the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 as contained in document E/ECWA/74.

II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

4. The Commission has not yet established any subsidiary bodies.

B. Other activities

5. For information on the activities of the Commission reference may be made to documents E/ECWA/75, E/ECWA/76 and E/ECWA/76/Add.1.

C. Relation with specialized agencies and other organizations

6. The Commission continued its co-operation with specialized agencies and other organizations within the framework of its work programme and the standing agreements.

III. SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

7. The sixth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was held in the Salam Palace, Baghdad, Iraq, from 28 April to 2 May 1979.

8. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States:^{1/} Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The Palestine Liberation Organization also attended the session in its capacity as a full member of the Commission.

9. Representatives from United Nations Headquarters and the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Centre on Human Settlements, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Information Centre (Baghdad), United Nations Secretariat, (New York), World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, International Organization for Standardization, International Telecommunication Union, and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

10. The following regional and governmental organizations attended the session as observers: Arab Monetary Fund, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, Foundation for Scientific Research, Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development and Iraqi Fund for External Development.

11. The Commission adopted the proposals contained in document E/ECWA/81, as amended, for the organization of its work.

^{1/} For further information concerning the names of participants at the session, reference is made to document E/ECWA/INF.22/Rev.1.

12. By virtue of article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, the following States Members of the United Nations participated in the work of the session in a consultative capacity: France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Hungary; Morocco; Netherlands; Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

13. The delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization expressed its reservation with regard to the invitation extended to the United States of America to attend the session in a consultative capacity in accordance with article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, referring to States which, in the view of the Commission, had a special interest in the topics under consideration; this definition did not apply to the United States of America, which, moreover, did not recognize the existence and rights of one of the members of the Commission. The delegations of Iraq and Democratic Yemen expressed the same reservation.

14. At its first meeting, the Commission unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Hassan Ali, Minister of Commerce and Head of the delegation of Iraq, as Chairman; His Excellency Mr. George Houranieh, Minister of the State Planning Commission, Syrian Arab Republic; and, His Excellency Mr. Najmaddin Dajani, Minister of Industry and Commerce, as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Mohamed Faraj Ajaj, member of the delegation of the Yemen Arab Republic, as Rapporteur for the session.

15. In accordance with Rule 11 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, officers of the Commission examined the credentials of representatives to the session and found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

16. At its second meeting, the Commission adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the session
 2. Election of officers
 3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ECWA/73 and E/ECWA/73/Rev.1)
 4. Organization of work (E/ECWA/81)
 5. Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the sixth session of the Commission (E/ECWA/83)
 6. Report on the headquarters of the Commission (E/ECWA/78 and E/ECWA/78/Add.1)
 7. Review of the Commission's resolution 37 (IV) (E/ECWA/84 and E/ECWA/85)
 8. Report on the activities of the Commission
 - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme (E/ECWA/75)
 - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission (E/ECWA/76 and E/ECWA/76/Add.1)
 9. The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account (E/ECWA/82)
 - (a) Report of the Executive Secretary on the financial status of the Commission's programmes since the fifth session
 - (b) Statement on the Financial Contributions Account
 10. Fourth and final review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/ECWA/80, E/ECWA/80/Add.1 and E/ECWA/80/Add.2)
 11. Programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981 (E/ECWA/74 and E/ECWA/74/Add.1)
 12. The role of the regional commissions in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, and resolution 1978/74 of the Economic and Social Council (E/ECWA/79)
 13. Plan of action to combat desertification in the ECWA region (E/ECWA/77)
 14. Other business
 15. Annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council (E/ECWA/L.95)

C. Account of proceedings

17. Mr. Taha Muhieddine Maarouf, Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, opened the session with an address in which he welcomed the convening of the sixth session of the Commission in Baghdad and emphasized the important role played by the regional commissions of the United Nations in the negotiations aimed at the establishment of the new international economic order and the importance of the unity of developing countries in the achievement of the desired changes. The Commission was in transition from the research and study stage to the implementation stage and he underlined the need for it to give priority to the strengthening of economic co-operation and integration among member States and to full co-operation with the activities of the League of Arab States in the field of socio-economic co-operation in the interest of economic integration. It was also necessary to co-ordinate the positions of members on the economic issues under consideration by the United Nations and its agencies, including current preparations for promoting the development strategy for the third development decade.

18. The Chairman of the Commission at its fifth session, Mr. Najmuddin Dajani, Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan made a statement in which he thanked the Iraqi Government for acting as host to the sixth session. He called upon the Commission to review its work procedures so as to increase its effectiveness and its contribution to finding solutions to the problems of the region commensurate with the importance of the circumstances and challenges facing it, especially those which had emerged since the last session and which had had a sizeable impact on the progress of joint regional activity. He stressed the importance of increased co-ordination among member States pointing to the current co-operation between the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan, and Iraq and Jordan. He urged member States to formulate priorities for their social and economic development consistent with their aspirations and with the new goals laid down in the international development strategy for the coming decade.

19. The Executive Secretary of the Commission welcomed His Excellency Mr. Taha Muhieddin Maarouf, Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, to the session and expressed his gratitude and appreciation to him and to the Government of Iraq for the support extended to the Commission in order to facilitate its activities for the benefit of the region and also for Iraq's hospitality during the sixth session. Referring to the development efforts in the region, the Executive Secretary in his statement pointed out that, although the countries of the region had achieved annual average growth rates in their gross domestic product ranging from 7 to 12 per cent, which was well above the rate specified in the International Development Strategy for the 1970s, wide differences in income levels still existed both within and between the countries of the region.

20. The increasing outflow of a greater part of the financial surpluses of the oil-producing countries had closely linked the region to the world economy and thus made it sensitive to fluctuations. He emphasized that although joint Arab endeavours were under way in various economic fields, co-operation in two aspects of integration, namely, food production and human resources development, called for urgent practical measures. The region was among the world's largest importers of foodstuffs, though it possessed all the assets needed to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. With respect to human resources development, he pointed out that serious attention should be accorded to the planning and organization of manpower migration, with a view to achieving the desired benefits and at the same time safeguarding the interests of both the exporting and host countries and avoiding adverse economic repercussions.

21. Despite the significant role of oil in the economies of member countries, the region was facing numerous problems in its efforts to find new forms and patterns of development which were not based on the depletion of resources. However, the interest shown by the countries of the region in developing alternative sources of energy, diversifying productive capacities and intensifying efforts to deal with social aspects of development gave greater cause for optimism with regard to the region's ability and determination to meet these challenges during the next decade.

22. Referring to the role of the Commission in the development of the region since its inception five years previously, the Executive Secretary stated that, despite that relatively short period of time, the Commission had been able to play a beneficial role in support of development efforts at the national and regional levels. In this connexion, he briefly referred to some of the major research and related activities carried out by the Commission in various economic and social fields and aimed at laying the foundation for the future work of the Commission to be undertaken with the active participation of member countries. To this effect, he suggested that the Commission's work programmes be submitted to a group of experts from member States for examination and evaluation prior to their adoption by the Commission.

23. With regard to the increasing role of the regional commissions in the execution of technical assistance projects and other activities, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 32/197, the Executive Secretary indicated that following the Executive Secretaries meeting at Rabat in March 1979, ECWA, together with other regional commissions, was actively pursuing the matter with the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters with a view to accelerating implementation of the provisions of that resolution for the benefit of the region.

24. The Secretary of the Commission then read out a message from Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Commission at its sixth session, in which he stated that many of the topics with which the Commission would be concerned at its sixth session were also the preoccupation of the international community as a whole. He pointed out that the world at present was confronted with persistent economic disequilibrium, since little progress had been made towards the establishment of a new international order. It was hoped that the north-south dialogue now under way within the United Nations would enable the international community to make a meaningful contribution to the subject. The forthcoming fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Manila would be a test of the realism and determination of both developing and developed countries in finding negotiated agreements on fundamental trade and development issues.

25. The Secretary-General stated that the deliberations of the Commission were taking place at a time when the Second United Nations Development Decade **was** coming to a close and when the strategy for the third decade was being formulated and he thus attached importance to the regional experience which the Commission could contribute in the preparation of the strategy within the framework of the new international economic order.

26. The Secretary-General specifically stressed the need for the strengthening of the Commission, in view of the increased responsibilities which had been entrusted to the regional commissions as part of the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to enable them to ensure co-ordination at the regional level and to promote more effective interregional co-operation.

27. The Chairman of the sixth session then delivered an address dealing with the crises facing the world economy and their adverse repercussions on the developing countries. He indicated that the failure of these countries to contribute to the adoption of resolutions in connexion with changes in the existing economic order had led to an escalation of these crises and highlighted the need for the introduction of radical changes in the structure of that order. International meetings which had so far taken place in this regard had shown that the industrialized countries lacked the political will to bring about the requisite changes. He referred to the co-operation existing among the developing countries aimed at defining their position with regard to issues of concern to them, the most recent expression of which was the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 at Arusha and the important document which had been produced at that meeting. He spoke of the role played by Iraq in furthering the process of integration in the region and also in consolidating co-operation among the developing countries.

28. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme emphasized in his statement the close relationship existing between UNDP and the Commission and gave an assurance of continuity of its support to the activities of the Commission. In his statement, the representative of France conveyed a message to the Commission from the European Economic Community emphasizing the importance of co-operation between the Community and countries of Western Asia and the need for the continuation of Euro-Arab dialogue.

Report on the headquarters of the Commission

29. The Executive Secretary introduced item 6 of the agenda and drew the Commission's attention to the report (E/ECWA/78), prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the Commission's resolution 52(V), on development since the fifth session regarding the question of the Commission's headquarters. He also drew attention to the annex to the report (E/ECWA/78/Add.1) dealing with the financial implications of the move to the Commission's permanent headquarters in Baghdad. He reminded the Commission that the General Assembly of the United Nations would have to approve those financial implications before they could be considered valid.

30. The Commission unanimously adopted a draft resolution concerning the move of the secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Baghdad (for the full text of the resolution, see chapter I above, draft resolution 67 (VI)).

Reconsideration of the Commission's resolution 37 (IV)

31. At its second meeting, the Commission adopted a draft resolution (for the complete text, see chapter I above, draft resolution 68 (VI)), in which it requested the reconsideration of resolution 37 (IV) which it had adopted on 28 April 1977 and recommended that the Economic and Social Council suspend the membership of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Commission. The Sultanate of Oman expressed reservations on the resolution.

32. The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt protested against the above recommendation and requested that its note in this connexion (E/ECWA/84) be considered as an official document and its text transmitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations. The Executive Secretary informed the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt (E/ECWA/85) that he had received the note and confirmed that it had been distributed as a session document to the members of the Commission and transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York.

Report on the activities of the Commission

33. The Executive Secretary introduced item 8 of the agenda with a brief review of document E/ECWA/75 comprising the progress report on the implementation of the work programme for the period 1978-1979, which included information on spheres of activity in which the Commission had engaged outside the scope of the work programme. Document E/ECWA/76 dealt with the measures taken in pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifth and preceding sessions. He drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that the progress report covered the Commission's activities during a full year instead of the interval between the fifth and sixth sessions, as had been the case with previous reports, in order to facilitate comparisons with the work programme covering a full biennium. He explained that this report concentrated on subprogramme elements, in order, once again, to facilitate follow-up and comparisons with the work programme. In connexion with the follow-up action on the Commission's resolutions, the Executive Secretary referred to document E/ECWA/76/Add.1, comprising a special report on the practices of transnational corporations in the oil industry in the ECWA region, which had been prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 42 (IV). He also indicated that the Economic Survey of the ECWA Countries (E/ECWA/80), to which the Commission had assigned priority in its work programme in accordance with its resolution 48 (IV), would be submitted to the Commission under item 10 of the agenda.

34. When discussion of this item commenced, a number of representatives emphasized the need for co-ordination and co-operation between the Commission and Arab regional institutions, organizations and funds, since many of the projects and programmes undertaken by the Commission fell within the sphere of activities and terms of reference of numerous institutions in the region. One representative stated that co-ordination in one form or another was, in fact, taking place but that fuller co-ordination was needed. He stressed the importance of social development, especially the participation of youth and the integration of women in the development process. He expressed the hope that ECWA would expand its activities in this field and commended the proposal to postpone study of the establishment of subsidiary bodies at ECWA until the next session, since it was preferable to postpone the adoption of a resolution in this regard

until the Commission had moved and resumed its activities at its new headquarters in Baghdad.

35. Another representative stated that the progress report on the implementation of the work programme was confined to surveys, studies and projects carried out by the Commission, together with seminars and conferences in which ECWA had participated, no attempt being made to evaluate these activities and their results, for example advisory services and the extent of their effect on the member States. He also pointed out that there was a certain amount of duplication in regional studies on agricultural development plans between the activities of the secretariat and the studies undertaken by Arab regional organizations and local institutions engaged in this field and noted that the report made no reference to the existence of any co-ordination between the Commission and these bodies. With regard to agricultural planning, he stressed the need for the Commission's studies to concentrate on the development of manpower in this sector. He went on to say that agricultural activity would remain below the desired level, since the labour force engaged in this sector was constantly shrinking and the expansion of mechanized agriculture had not compensated for this loss. In connexion with natural resources, he said that the endeavours of the secretariat in the preparation of work programmes and the undertaking of studies on the optimum utilization of these resources were taking place in a context of limited collaboration with member States. He also stated that the report contained no reference to the obstacles encountered during the implementation of the Commission's programmes in this field. With regard to labour, management and employment, he referred to the main substantive comments made during the fifth session in connexion with the study on the brain drain from the ECWA region and requested the Commission to review the structure and methodology of the study so that it could produce clear and practical results. He added that the report merely referred to the completion of the study and its submission to the Commission at its fifth session. He also pointed out the insufficient level of co-operation between the secretariat and the member States in evaluating the situation of women in the context of the development strategy and the studies and endeavours in connexion with the expansion of the role played by women in the process of socio-economic development. With regard to human settlements,

he noted a lack of concern for demographic studies relating to movements of the labour force both at country level and between the member States, particularly the relationship between the mobility and the structure of the population on the one hand and manpower planning on the other.

36. In commenting on this item, another representative referred to the proposal made by the Executive Secretary and certain delegations that changes be made in the Commission's work methods. He explained that the Commission could request the secretariat to submit at the next session a comprehensive study on its work methods, with a view to increasing its effectiveness, in addition to the study in connexion with the establishment of subsidiary bodies. He also hoped that the Commission would concentrate on a specific topic at each session.

37. One of the representatives expressed his Government's appreciation for the Commission's collaboration with it in certain activities, particularly those of a statistical nature.

38. In the sphere of science and technology, a number of representatives indicated that there were several proposals regarding the establishment of a regional Arab centre for the transfer and development of technology in the region (an ECWA project and a similar project prepared by the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, in addition to the conception prevailing within the context of the Euro-Arab dialogue). They indicated it would be possible, however, to establish a number of specialized centres if these could be well co-ordinated.

39. One of the representatives expressed appreciation for the secretariat's assistance in the preparation of a national paper to be submitted to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. He also commended the secretariat's positive contribution to the task force set up by UNDP in response to the United Nations resolution calling for the funding and implementation of projects for the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people. The same representative expressed his

approval of the 1979-1980 allocations for the statistical survey of the Palestinian people but objected that the sums allocated for 1981 were not commensurate with the importance of the study.

40. Another representative referred to the secretariat's technical and advisory services to his Government. He also referred to the Commission's participation in the preparation and servicing of the international conference at which his country's five-year plan had been presented and in the subsequent follow-up and execution of the plan. He noted that ECWA had been selected to supervise the implementation of a UNDP-financed statistical support project in his country. He drew attention to the fact that the responsibilities of the secretariat were growing and mentioned a number of projects whose implementation the secretariat was supervising in various countries of the region. He hoped that the secretariat would keep in touch with future meetings on development projects held by the countries of the region such as, for example, the project for co-ordinating development programmes and plans in the Arabian Peninsula.

41. One of the representatives requested the secretariat to elaborate the achievements of the Commission's participation in international conferences and seminars and the resolutions adopted by them and to clarify the extent of their impact on the progress of development in the region. He also indicated that research and studies in different fields were being completed more speedily than others and referred to the obstacles to the implementation of some projects, such as inadequate travel allocations and the reluctance of some countries to provide data. He hoped that the member States would contribute to the solution of these problems. He further requested the secretariat to clarify the follow-up to Commission resolution 59 (V) by identifying the stages completed, the measures taken and the details of the progress achieved.

42. One of the representatives made a number of observations on the study on the practices of transnational corporations in the ECWA region and indicated that it placed more emphasis on the historical than on the economic and technical aspects. He objected to the modest figures given for the rate of return on

investment in the oil industry, explaining that the nationalization of oil resources was among the legitimate rights inherent in national sovereignty and that international oil monopolies could thus not be equated with the national petroleum sector. He asked the secretariat to delete the relative paragraph from the report. The report had approached the problem of the national oil companies' lack of technology without proposing solutions to facilitate the process of transferring this technology from the industrialized countries and their transnational corporations. He also stated that the study had not adequately analyzed the secret commercial practices of transnational corporations which had adverse repercussions on the economies of the countries of the region. He affirmed that the oil policy of his country was against the exploitation of unforeseen and exceptional circumstances, as implied in the study. He concluded by calling upon the Commission to review the content of the study in the light of these observations and to incorporate them in the report to be prepared by the secretariat in 1981.

43. At the end of the discussion of this item, the Executive Secretary replied to questions and comments that had been raised during the discussion. He explained that co-ordination depended upon more than one party and that the obstacles came not only from the regional organizations but also from the member States. He promised that the secretariat would prepare a detailed study of this subject. The Executive Secretary noted the material difficulties confronting the travel of experts and explained that the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, on which ECWA was represented, was the authority of responsible for determining the travel allocations necessary for implementing work programmes. He stressed the secretariat's need for the co-operation of the member States in providing the data and the information necessary for it to implement its adopted work programmes. He further stated that the need for such co-operation had increased with the enlargement of the secretariat's mandate to include the implementation of regional projects. He indicated that he agreed with the principle of dispatching task forces as a more effective way of serving the countries of the region, but he also hoped that the countries of the region would assist the secretariat in finding suitable and practical methods of implementing this principle.

Comments of the Executive Secretary on the observations on Item 8

44. In response to the observations made on the study on the practices of transnational corporations in the oil industry, the Executive Secretary explained that the secretariat had engaged the services of an outside consultant to undertake the study and that the study did not necessarily express the opinions and ideas of the secretariat on that subject. He added that the distribution of the study had been limited and that the observations of the representatives of member States would be incorporated in it before it was adopted in its final form.

45. The Executive Secretary then gave a few examples of the effectiveness of the Commission's activities, drawing special attention to the study submitted to the secretariat of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula on the development of animal resources. ECWA and FAO had, as a result, been entrusted with the task of formulating a framework for the exploitation, production, processing and marketing of grain and animal feed. The Executive Secretary welcomed concern regarding the problem of food security and promised that the Commission would intensify its efforts in that regard.

46. The Executive Secretary commented on the importance of social development and planning and referred to the new elements contained in the 1980-1981 work programme. Among those elements were the monitoring and evaluation of social conditions in the countries of the region, the study of the indicators of social development, and the evaluation of the plans and policies of the member States in that regard. The Executive Secretary also referred to the question of the integration of women in the development process, describing the work programme in progress and the major achievements already accomplished.

47. The Commission accepted the proposal suggested by the Executive Secretary during the early part of the discussion regarding the submission by the secretariat of progress reports on the activities of the Commission to ECWA at future sessions on a yearly basis ending in December of each year.

The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the
strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account

48. The Executive Secretary introduced item 9 of the agenda, along with document E/ECWA/82, in compliance with the provision of Commission resolution 45(IV) which requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission a report on the financial status of the Commission's programmes and a statement on the Financial Contributions Account covering the period between sessions.

49. With respect to regular budgetary resources, the Executive Secretary recalled that ECWA began its activities with a very meagre budget. This had not served as an acceptable base for the minimum annual increases which were effected to be meaningful in terms of programme developments and in terms of serving the interests of member countries. He pointed out that the problem became more acute under the 1980-1981 programme budget if the general policy of zero growth was to be observed. Despite modest increases, the present budget of the Commission was not enough to allow a minimum level of services and assistance to member States in growing priority areas. It was necessary for the budget of the Commission to reach a level comparable to that of the other regional commissions.

50. In view of such mounting difficulties, the Executive Secretary had taken the unprecedented initiative of arranging to attend the meetings of the Fifth Committee next July to explain the unique situation of ECWA and hoped to receive the support of Governments of member States.

51. As for extra-budgetary resources, the Executive Secretary pointed out that certain amounts of financial resources were made available to the Commission from national, regional and international sources, totalling 888,000 dollars, to complement the meagre resources under the regular budget. This had enabled the secretariat to begin implementing certain specific projects for the benefit of the countries of the region.

52. In the discussions that ensued, one representative suggested the consideration of joint arrangements and projects with the Arab Funds. Such a move would enhance co-operation between ECWA and the Funds and provide further resources enabling the Commission to carry out additional activities.

53. The Executive Secretary pointed out that such a co-operation was already under way in some specific areas and no doubt a great deal more could be achieved. There were, however, certain institutional and operational difficulties with respect to certain activities extending beyond the ECWA region.

Fourth and final review and appraisal of progress in the
implementation of the International Development Strategy
for the Second United Nations Development Decade

54. The Executive Secretary introduced this item of the agenda, together with the documents prepared by the secretariat on this subject. He stated that documents E/ECWA/80 and E/ECWA/80/Add.1 concentrated on the review and appraisal of the achievements made in a number of socio-economic development fields during the 1970s in relation to the targets specified in the Strategy, in addition to the identification of problem areas and the study of their development potential during the coming decade. He then reviewed document E/ECWA/80/Add.2, dealing with the efforts put into the preparation of the international development strategy for the 1980s and detailing the contribution and the views of the secretariat in this regard. He invited the ECWA member States to provide guidelines for the secretariat's future work in this field.

55. Before the discussion of this item, the Assistant Secretary-General, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, made a statement in which he reviewed briefly the main problems facing developing countries and the international community at the present stage. He went on to mention the endeavours made within the United Nations system and the progress achieved in the preparation of the international development strategy for the coming decade. He stressed that the effectiveness of the strategy for development purposes was largely dependent on the extent of

its compatibility with the current situation and with the aspirations of the developing countries and, consequently, on the extent of these countries' contribution towards its formulation. He added that the formulation of the strategy should not be an isolated measure but rather an incentive for the preparation and implementation of regional and subregional development strategies.

56. The discussion highlighted the importance of the careful preparation of the international development strategy for the third development decade, together with the need to profit from a study of the factors which led to the present Strategy's failure to achieve its targets and the importance of adopting new methods based on giving the developing countries equal opportunities under the new international economic order. In the case of the ECWA region, a number of guidelines could be derived from the experiences of the 1970s for use in the formulation of the strategy for the coming decade, such as the need to pay greater attention to the agricultural sector and to social development and, in particular, to meet the basic needs of the people and to determine indicative figures for the transfer of technology and for the commitments of the developed countries in this regard. The Commission agreed to the proposal to establish a committee of experts from member States to work with the United Nations Preparatory Committee on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

Programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981

57. The Executive Secretary introduced this item of the agenda on the work programme of the Commission for the 1980-1981 biennium, as contained in documents E/ECWA/74 and Add.1. He stated that the work programme was prepared on the basis of the 1980-1983 Medium-Term Plan of the Commission, as well as pertinent resolutions adopted subsequently by the Commission, and other policy-making bodies within the United Nations system. The recent recommendations of the Administration and Management Services of United Nations Headquarters on the organization of the ECWA secretariat were also taken into consideration.

58. The various instructions and policy directives received from United Nations Headquarters early in 1979 provided guidelines for the format and presentation of the programme, as well as for the budget on a zero-growth basis. It should be noted, however, that in view of the recent establishment of the Commission, it was difficult to adhere to the zero-growth policy. Moreover, having considered the nature and status of the Commission's various programmes, only marginal redeployment could be effected.

59. In the discussion that followed, several representatives commented on the work programme. One representative stated that the work programme was too ambitious, taking into consideration the meagre resources available to the Commission. Certain important areas, namely those of manpower, population, development finance and administration, were not accorded their due importance. Regarding science and technology, he stated that the work programme did not define the principles underlying the co-operation of the secretariat with the member States of the Commission in this field. He further requested some additional clarification regarding the responsibilities and future activities of ECWA with respect to the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of technology. In this connexion, he referred to the co-ordination between ECWA and the Council for Arab Economic Unity in establishing a single centre and enquired about the extent to which such co-ordination would continue in the future.

60. Another representative stated that, while he had no reservations regarding the work programme, the following specific remarks could be taken into consideration by the secretariat in the elaboration of the work programme:

- (a) It was necessary to accord priority to economic and social development planning without disregarding the role of other organizations in such important fields as those of agriculture, industry, labour and desertification;
- (b) follow-up on the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations made at various sessions of the Commission, conferences and studies should be ensured;
- (c) regional studies and their role in facilitating co-ordination among member countries should be emphasized; however, these should be accompanied by direct advisory services to member countries, especially in development planning; and,

(d) it was necessary to ensure a clear-cut distinction between national and regional activities and to establish criteria for this purpose.

61. Another representative emphasized the need to increase the resources for the new programmes of the Commission and supported the position of the ECWA secretariat regarding the zero rate of growth. He stated that the previous decisions of the Commission on the Economic Survey of ECWA Countries reflected the importance attached to the Survey and, therefore, every effort should be made to implement them. He stated that the meagre resources of the statistics programme needed to be increased in order to enable it to carry out its activities. He noted that resources allocated to travel had not increased, despite rapid rises in travel costs. He indicated that it was important for the countries of the region to establish close contacts with the secretariat and proposed that teams of experts in various fields be sent to member countries.

The role of the regional commissions in the implementation of
General Assembly resolution 32/197 and Economic and Social Council
resolution 1978/74

62. The Executive Secretary introduced this item with a short review of document E/ECWA/79, in which he recalled General Assembly resolution 32/197, which considered the regional commissions as the major vehicles for socio-economic development in their respective regions. He also stressed General Assembly resolution 33/202, which delegated to the Commissions the responsibility for implementing inter-sectoral projects at their regional, subregional and interregional levels. He recalled the role of the Commission in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 and pointed out to the bonds of co-operation and co-ordination forged with Arab regional and international organizations and institutions and to the plans for formulating an intensive programme for strengthening such co-operation.

63. One of the representatives expressed his country's support for the principal objective of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and referred to the paper submitted by the secretariat to the meeting of Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions held at Rabat between 16 and 21 March 1979. He then requested that the subjects of food security and the combat against desertification be included

among the subjects proposed by the secretariat in the context of strengthening the capabilities of the regional commissions. The representative asked why energy was included among these subjects despite the repeated insistence of the OPEC States that it was not possible to discuss the subject of energy in isolation from other economic issues.

64. He stated further that his country would not object to the inclusion of this subject if it referred to new and renewable sources of energy, especially since there were wide opportunities for the exploitation of solar energy in the region. Another representative said that his country attached great importance to decentralizing the activities of the regional commissions, in view of its many attendant advantages, including, in particular, the utilization of local capabilities. One of the delegations referred to the need for passing from the stage of general conceptualization to a more specific identification of the role the Commission would be called upon to play if decentralization were applied.

Plan of action to combat desertification in the ECWA region

65. The Executive Secretary introduced this item of the agenda by indicating the importance of the subject for most of the countries of the region. He noted that the plan of action before the Commission (E/ECWA/77) complied with the comprehensive plan adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) held at Nairobi in 1977 and constituted a basis for developing the Commission's activities in the area of combating desertification. He then proposed a number of ideas and measures for the Commission's consideration in this regard.

66. The representatives agreed upon the importance of the subject of combating desertification in the region. One of them pointed out that the phenomenon of desertification was progressing at a highly accelerated rate and that this was leading to negative and serious consequences. The most obvious of those consequences was the increasing dependence of the States of the region on imports for meeting their essential requirements of foodstuffs. He supported the proposal for organizing a regional meeting in 1980 to follow up UNCOD and proposed that the secretariat prepare a detailed document embodying the following: A survey

of the institutions and organizations in the ECWA region involved in the scientific and the operational aspects of desertification; a survey of the studies and projects related to desertification conducted in the region by national, regional and international institutions; the proposal of formulae for the co-ordination of the variety of national, regional and international organizations and institutions so as to promote integration and equilibrium among them; the identification of the gaps calling for the adoption of new measures for ensuring integration and for dealing with the phenomenon of desertification from all angles against a clear view of priorities; the proposal of suitable indicators for predicting desertification and appropriate locations for experimenting with, investigating and evaluating those indicators; the proposal of suitable programmes within the scope of an operational plan with clear objectives; the assignment of priority to regional projects.

67. One representative noted that his country had adopted a plan for combating desertification a long time ago and that it possessed a Desert Institute from which the member States could benefit. He proposed the appointment of a committee of experts from the member States to determine the methods of implementing a plan for combating desertification.

68. Another representative asserted that the proposed plan of action should focus upon specific subjects that should be developed into projects for submission to the regional meeting planned for 1980.

Other business

Date and place of meeting of the next session

69. The Commission unanimously agreed to hold its seventh session in Baghdad at a date to be agreed upon in due time.

Adoption of the report

70. At its sixth meeting, on 2 May 1979, the Economic Commission for Western Asia adopted the draft report on its sixth session, as amended during its discussion, for submission to the Economic and Social Council.

D. Programme of work and priorities

71. The basic responsibilities of ECWA in 1978-1979 will continue to be carried out during 1980-1981. Thus, thirteen substantive programmes plus the programme of Transnational Corporations are to be undertaken by the Commission during the 1980-1981 budget period.

Strengthening of substantive programmes

72. During the programme budget 1980-1981 particular emphasis will be given to areas where strengthening has been recommended by the AMS or to areas which were particularly emphasized by resolutions of the Commission. In other areas, such emphasis corresponds to the priorities set by the General Assembly in connexion with its budget policy for the 1980-1981 period. On this basis, the following substantive areas have been proposed for strengthening: (a) The Statistics programme; (b) the Development Planning, Projections and Policies programme; and, (c) the Natural Resources programme.

Establishment of new activities

73. Five years of ECWA's functioning have indicated that a few basic tasks should be attended to so as to enhance the development and efficient implementation of the Commission's programmes. Therefore, provision has been made under the 1980-1981 programme budget to start programme evaluation, and continue the environmental co-ordination activities during 1980.

Redeployment of resources

74. A careful analysis has been made of all programmes so as to establish whether the need for strengthening existing activities and the undertaking of new ones could be met by redeployment from activities which could be terminated or which could be considered of marginal usefulness. In this connexion, it is to be observed that nearly all programmes have reached only a take-off stage during the 1978-1979 programme budget (after the return in 1977 of the secretariat to Beirut from Amman following the Lebanese civil war). It is only during the

1980-1981 period that the majority of the programmes will possibly reach their cruising level under which a full range of activities involving practical arrangements for regional co-operative action are contemplated. Hence, redeployment of resources under such circumstances would jeopardize the critical path of the developing programmes. However, in two areas redeployment is considered feasible; namely, a redeployment from the Social Development programme to the Transport, Communications and Tourism programme and a redeployment of resources from the Natural Resources to the Science and Technology programme. In connexion with redeployment, it should be noted that in the 1980-1981 programme budget proposals, provision has been made for regularizing redeployments in a number of programmes which were already effected during the 1976-1977 period. Such redeployments remain to be confirmed and are for that purpose presented in the 1980-1981 programme budget proposals.

Resource requirements

75. The 1980-1981 programme budget proposals, which constitute a modest real growth, have been formulated after a careful analysis of resource requirements, while bearing in mind the overall budget policy for the period in question. The main underlying factor for proposing an increased budget for 1980-1981 relates to the fact that it is considered that ECWA has not reached its cruising level yet. This fact has on several occasions been recognized. In this connexion, reference is made to the decision of the Fifth Committee with regard to the 1978-1979 programme budget of ECWA, recommending that "the Secretary-General would review the ECWA situation and, if necessary, request additional appropriations in 1978. Thus, while it is considered that the zero growth approach would be applicable to an organization which has been functioning for many years and which disposed already of the appropriate "tools" and resources, it would be difficult to apply the established criteria and principles to a very young organization like ECWA, which had in many programmes hardly any base at all. It is in this context that the proposed programme budget 1980-1981 has been formulated and requests for new established posts incorporated.

76. The 1980-1981 budget proposals do not fully reflect the additional requirements resulting from the decentralization of activities to the regional commissions within the overall restructuring process.

Travel

77. A considerable increase in staff travel has been proposed. The need for staff travel has to be appreciated against the following factors: The Commission was established only in 1974 and it is therefore obvious that close contacts with member States are particularly needed at the take-off stage of the organization. In this connexion it should be borne in mind that the Commission has as yet no subsidiary bodies. Thus, staff travel will be for the time being the only contact point at the substantive level with member States. Because of resource constraints, the other contact point, namely meetings in the form of ad hoc expert groups, could also not be utilized to a greater extent. This situation is however expected to change gradually during the programme budget period 1980-1981. It should further be borne in mind that the resources available for official travel during 1978-1979 were in relation to cost of travel in the ECWA region very minimal. In this connexion it is to be pointed out that the DSA's in most countries of the ECWA region are among the highest in the world. The available resource levels for travel did consequently not constitute a meaningful base to allow a satisfactory level of implementation in most programmes.

Consultants

78. The total amount requested for consultants is \$ 119,500 constituting a modest increase over the 1978-1979 allocation of \$ 103,100. All requests for consultants under the various programmes pertain to the provision of some specialized components in respective programme elements.

IV. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

- 69 (VI). Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system^{1/}

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and in particular section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197 relating to structures for regional and international co-operation,

Further recalling Commission resolution 63(V) on the establishment of subsidiary bodies,

Affirming the important role played by the Commission within the United Nations system in facilitating, promoting and expediting the process of development and socio-economic co-operation among the developing countries in the region,

Noting that, in its resolution 32/197, the General Assembly confirmed the need to enable the regional commissions to play their role, inter alia, as the main economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the Commission, particularly through expeditious implementation of the clauses of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development, with a view to the effective and efficient achievement of the objectives specified in these resolutions,

Considering the slow progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and, particular, of section IV of its annex,

^{1/} For the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution, reference may be made to paragraphs 63 and 64.

Noting the proposals and measures contained particularly in paragraph 93 of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly (A/33/410 and Rev.1) on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to expedite the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, particularly where it relates to the commissions, and to make available adequate budgetary and financial resources, especially through redeployment, in order to strengthen the capability of the Commission;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Identify the tasks which could be assumed by the Commission as a result of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and to indicate the financial and manpower implications of those tasks;

(b) Intensify his efforts, in consultation with Arab and international organizations, regional bodies and member States, for the preparation of a detailed study on the modalities and possibilities for the establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission, as called for in Commission resolution 63(V);

(c) Continue his efforts to obtain the required resources for the secretariat and to make the necessary arrangements to strengthen its capability to meet the new challenges posed by the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197;

(d) Streamline the existing administrative structure of the secretariat so as to reduce the extent of the additional resources required as a result of added responsibilities arising out of decentralization;

(e) Submit a report to the Commission at its seventh session on the progress made and measures to be adopted.

Fifth meeting

1 May 1979

70 (VI). Co-operation among developing countries

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and Commission resolution 46 (IV) of 29 April 1977 on co-operation among developing countries, as well as resolutions 47 (IV) of 29 April 1978 and 54 (V) of 5 October 1978 on regional co-operation and co-ordination,

Further recalling General Assembly resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system, in particular its provisions relating to the definition of priorities, and 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on new dimensions in technical co-operation, especially the aspects of this resolution relating to technical co-operation among developing countries, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development,

Further recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, endorsed in General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978 on the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Affirming the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as an instrument for collective self-reliance and for the attainment of the new international economic order,

Recognizing both the primary responsibility of developing countries for such co-operation and the need for supplementary external assistance in addition to present aid flows, especially with respect to the least-developed countries, as well as the scope for the Commission and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify efforts to assist such co-operation systematically at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels,

Stressing the importance of the efforts being made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to develop and implement the Commission's role as a regional focal point and catalyst for the promotion, monitoring and strengthened in implementation of such co-operation, in accordance with the role assigned to it in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

1. Urges its member countries to participate actively in all forms of co-operation among themselves consistent with their national development objectives, laying due emphasis on:

(a) The intensification of technical co-operation among themselves in order, inter alia, to facilitate economic co-operation;

(b) The development and utilization of networks and other links to facilitate co-operative research among national institutions;

(c) Co-operation in training, the use of expert and consultancy services and the procurement of equipment;

(d) The special needs of the least-developed countries of the region;

2. Invites developed countries to play their role in support of technical co-operation among developing countries in the ECWA region, as provided for in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

3. Further invites developed countries, as well as intergovernmental organizations, bodies and institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations within the United Nations system, in the context of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, to support economic and technical co-operation among developing countries by providing increased assistance to supplement, where necessary, the resources contributed for implementing such co-operation activities by the countries participating in them, especially the least-developed countries;

4. Invites its member States and their institutions to collaborate in the development and operation of a regional information system to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the regional and interregional levels and to serve as the regional arm of the information referral system for technical co-operation among developing countries operated by the United Nations Development Programme, part of the resources of which would be allocated to the regional information system;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system, including UNDP and UNCTAD as appropriate, to promote and support the implementation of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries by intensifying his efforts to:

(a) Develop, co-ordinate and service the regional information system;

(b) Monitor and review, on a continuing basis at the regional level, progress in such co-operation with which the United Nations system is associated;

(c) Place increasing emphasis on such co-operation in the research and analytical work of the Commission in various sectors, especially in the context of the formulation and review of international development strategies for the 1980s;

(d) Assist developing countries of the region, together with subregional economic and other functional groupings, upon their request, in identifying and exploiting increased opportunities for effective co-operation through inter alia, the preparation of intensified programmes of co-operation as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1978/74, including the formulation of inter-country projects;

(e) Collaborate with the other regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of joint projects to promote co-operation between countries in two or more regions through interregional action programmes;

(f) Attract and channel additional financial and other forms of contributions to assist economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, including the supply of financial resources to facilitate the participation of the least developed countries and the expansion of fellowships and trainee programmes;

6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary, in co-operation, where feasible, with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions, to consult the Administrator of UNDP, with a view to reviewing present practices for determining the utilization of regional indicative planning figures, in order to involve developing countries, through their respective regional commissions, in the collective setting of priorities for this purpose;
7. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take urgent steps to provide adequate resources and other support to enable the ECWA secretariat to undertake these activities effectively and to help to achieve the objectives referred to in the present resolution;
8. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventh session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth meeting

1 May 1979

71 (VI). Combating desertification in the ECWA region^{1/}

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling that in resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977 the General Assembly requested the regional commissions to undertake intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to combat desertification, and to assist Governments in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Further recalling that operative paragraph 5 of the same resolution recommends that subregional co-operation be initiated or intensified with a view to formulating specific joint programmes,

Aware that the regional commissions have been assigned important responsibilities for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Conscious that problems of desertification seriously affect the socio-economic development process and that desert development is of great importance to the ECWA countries,

Having considered the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/77);

1. Approves the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region;
2. Calls on UNEP and the regional and international organizations concerned to support fully the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region, together with the implementation of model projects to combat desertification and to disseminate their results in the countries of the region;

^{1/} For the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution, reference may be made to paragraphs 65-68.

3. Recommends that Governments of member States assess desertification problems at various levels, establish national priorities for action, and select from among these priorities those which could be implemented with the support of regional or international organizations or other foreign sources;

4. Calls on all Governments to make available all necessary financial and other resources and technical support for convening in 1980 a regional meeting which, inter alia, is to consider the implementation of the regional plan of action and to identify and to define intra-regional programmes in greater detail;

5. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Commission to initiate and promote intercountry and regional co-operation to combat desertification, particularly in the socio-economic fields;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to transmit to the Governments of member States, and to the regional and international organizations concerned, the recommendations adopted by the International Expert Consultation on Irrigation and Agriculture Development, convened in February 1979 in Baghdad, which urged the Governments and the organizations concerned to give high priority to these recommendations;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress achieved in the campaign against desertification to the Commission at its eighth session.

Fifth meeting
1 May 1979

72 (VI). Assistance to member countries in the field
of external trade policies and planning

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling Commission resolution 57 (V) which, in paragraph 1, recommended the establishment of the necessary project at the regional level to assist member countries to increase their capabilities in the field of external trade planning and policies to meet their economic and social development requirements,

Considering the urgent need of member countries for such assistance, especially in the light of the experience gained through the multilateral trade negotiations and the forthcoming deliberations of the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Aware of the positive results of consultations which have taken place between representatives of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, on the one hand, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre, on the other hand, for the purpose of implementing resolution 57 (V),

1. Recommends the establishment, on an urgent basis, of a regional project to help member countries to increase their capabilities in the field of external trade policy and planning services;

2. Urges Governments of member States to give all possible and necessary support to this project;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to follow up the consultations referred to above, with a view to ensuring the early implementation of this project;

4. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to provide the financial support needed to enable the Executive Secretary to implement the action referred to in paragraph 1 above.

Sixth meeting
28 April 1979

73 (VI). Regional Co-operation in the Field of
Transport

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the important role of transport in the over-all socio-economic development of the region,

Realizing the urgent need for closer co-ordination and collaboration, at the regional, sub-regional and global levels, in order to cope with the rapid progress in the development of transport infrastructure and to provide an integrated approach for the establishment of efficient systems,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the ECWA secretariat in the preparation of a study on the "Development of an Integrated Transport System in Western Asia", part I, and the on-going work of preparing a complete study for the whole region;

1. Invites Governments of member States to participate actively in the meeting envisaged for early 1980 to review the study prepared by the secretariat on this subject;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit at the seventh session his recommendations and proposals for follow-up action on this subject.

Fifth meeting

1 May 1979

74 (VI). Assistance to Member Countries in the Field of
Development Finance and Administration

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 64 (V), which requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to pursue his efforts with the countries benefiting from the activities of the Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration (PROPFAD), as well as with other countries both inside and outside the ECWA region which have the financial capability, urging them to participate in financing that project within the limits of its budgetary estimates,

Noting with appreciation the follow-up measures taken by the Executive Secretary to ensure that minimum essential training and advisory services will continue to be provided to the beneficiary countries throughout 1979,

Taking note of the effort that is being made by the Executive Secretary to assess and evaluate the state of development finance and administration in all member countries of the Commission in order to ascertain their technical capabilities and needs in this field and the extent to which assistance can appropriately be provided at the regional level,

Recognizing the growing importance of the role of the public sector in promoting economic and social development in the countries of the region;

1. Commends the action taken by the Iraqi Fund for External Development and the positive response of the Netherlands Government with regard to financing PROPFAD for 1979;

2. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Commission to complete the assessment and evaluation of the state of development finance and administration in the countries of the region as soon as possible and to present his findings and proposals to the member States of the Commission for their consideration and action, as deemed appropriate;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to convey to the United Nations Development Programme the Commission's desire to participate actively in the sponsoring and financing of a programme designed to improve the state of development finance and administration in the ECWA region;
4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit a detailed report on this subject to the Commission at its seventh regular session.

Fifth meeting
1 May 1979

75 (VI). Cartographic Development and Co-operation
in the ECWA region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 62(V) requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit a report on the need to establish a cartographic unit within the framework of the ECWA secretariat,

Noting with appreciation the Executive Secretary's report on the subject, as contained in document E/ECWA/76,

Recognizing the need for increased cartographic activities in the ECWA region for the efficient planning of development projects,

Further recognizing the Commission's role in establishing and strengthening national surveying and mapping programmes and promoting co-operation in this field at the regional, subregional and interregional levels;

1. Recommends the establishment of a cartographic unit within the structure of the ECWA secretariat;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to secure resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and other sources so as to render this unit operational by the inclusion of cartographic activities in the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981.

Fifth meeting

1 May 1979

76(VI). The Third United Nations Development Decade^{1/}

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Conscious of the supreme importance of the diligent preparation of the development strategy for the third United Nations development decade,

Realizing the significance of the contribution of ECWA member States in expressing the terms and trends of development during the 1980s,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/193;

1. Decides to set up an intergovernmental committee of development experts from the member States of ECWA for the purpose of preparing in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, a report on the views of the ECWA region on the international development strategy for the third decade;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission to make the necessary arrangements for convening the meetings of this committee so that it may conclude its work at a suitable date not later than the end of August 1979 and thereby enable the Executive Secretary to make available the contribution of the Commission.

Fifth meeting

1 May 1979

^{1/} For the discussion leadint to the adoption of this resolution reference is may be made to paragraph 56.

Annex I

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF
ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION
AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

Symbol	Title
E/ECWA/73	Provisional Agenda
E/ECWA/73/Rev.1	Agenda
E/ECWA/73/Add.1	Annotated Provisional Agenda
E/ECWA/74	Work Programme and Priorities 1980-1981
E/ECWA/74/Add.1	Work Programme and Priorities 1980-1981 (Note of the Executive Secretary)
E/ECWA/75	Progress Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme
E/ECWA/76 + Corr.1	Follow-up Action on the Resolutions Adopted by the Commission at its Fifth Session, in October 1978
E/ECWA/76/Add.1	The Practices of Transnational Corporations in the Oil Industry in the ECWA Region
E/ECWA/77	Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region (Note by the Executive Secretary)
E/ECWA/78	Report on the Headquarters of the Commission (Note from the Executive Secretary)
E/ECWA/78/Add.1	Report on the Headquarters of the Commission in Baghdad, Iraq
E/ECWA/79	The Role of the Regional Commissions in the Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 32/197 and Resolution 1978/74 of the Economic and Social Council
E/ECWA/80	Survey of Economic and Social Development in the ECWA Region 1970-1978
E/ECWA/80/Add.1	Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region 1970-1978 A summary of the Fourth Biennial Review and Appraisal of Progress in the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade in the ECWA Region

Symbol	Title
E/ECWA/80/Add.2	Note of the Executive Secretary on Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda (The Fourth Biennial Review and Appraisal of Progress)
E/ECWA/81	Organization of Work (Note from the Executive Secretary)
E/ECWA/82	A. The Financial Status of the Commission's Programmes B. Statement on the Financial Contributions Account (Report of the Executive Secretary)
E/ECWA/83	Invitation of States Members of the United Nations to Participate in a Consultative Capacity in the Commission's Work (Note from the Executive Secretary)
E/ECWA/84) Review of the Commission's Resolution 37 (IV)
E/ECWA/85	
E/ECWA/86	Consideration of Applications of States Members of the United Nations not Members of the Commission to Participate in a Consultative Capacity in the Sixth Session of the Commission
E/ECWA/L.85 - L.94	Draft Resolutions
E/ECWA/L.95	Draft Report of the Commission for Western Asia to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
E/ECWA/INF.21	Notes for the Information of Participants
E/ECWA/INF.22	Provisional List of Participants
E/ECWA/INF.22/Rev.1	List of Participants
E/ECWA/INF.23	List of Documents