



UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR WESTERN ASIA  
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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

E/ECHA/XI/C.P./6/Add.1  
28 March 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Standing Committee for the Programme

Second session

16-19 April 1984

Baghdad

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

UPDATING THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD  
1984-1989

Programmes and subprogrammes

84-0163

208

## CONTENTS

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN WESTERN ASIA.....	1 - 17	1
2. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES IN WESTERN ASIA .....	18 - 31	7
3. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN WESTERN ASIA .....	32 - 49	12
4. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN ASIA .....	50 - 67	18
5. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE IN WESTERN ASIA .....	68 - 73	25
6. NATURAL RESOURCES IN WESTERN ASIA..	74 - 82	27
7. POPULATION IN WESTERN ASIA .....	83 - 106	30
8. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE IN WESTERN ASIA .....	107 - 112	36
9. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN WESTERN ASIA .....	113 - 126	39
10. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN ASIA .....	127 - 136	44
11. STATISTICS IN WESTERN ASIA .....	137 - 151	48
12. TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM IN WESTERN ASIA .....	152 - 165	53
13. TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. (UNITED NATIONS CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ITS JOINT UNITS WITH THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS).....	166 - 187	58
14. ENERGY ISSUES IN WESTERN ASIA .....	188 - 201	67
15. ENVIRONMENT IN WESTERN ASIA .....	202 - 206	71

PROGRAMME 1. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

(a) Legislative authority

1. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolution 35/56 (see A/35/464, paras. 81-95); UNEP Governing Council resolution 8/17, paragraph 5; General Assembly resolution 32/172, paragraphs 6 and 7; ECWA resolution 71 (VI), paragraph 5; Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/66, paragraphs 1-6; Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, chapter XII, sections A and B.

(b) Objectives

2. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective: to establish an efficient regional and interregional information exchange and management support systems conducive to a socially responsible and environmentally sound agricultural development;

(ii) General objective of the secretariat: to promote awareness about regional developments and issues of agricultural development and resource use and impart knowledge on methods and techniques for the efficient management of agricultural development and the rational exploitation of the resource potential. In this regard to stimulate economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the sub-regional, regional and interregional levels including identification of areas for practical co-operation and initiation of co-ordination and implementation of appropriate co-operative programmes and projects.

(c) Problem addressed

3. Of all the United Nations regions the ECWA region has the greatest proportion of land in the arid and semi-arid zones; thus the issues of resource management, conservation and the various processes of desertification are intimately linked. Agricultural problems have resulted, partly, from long-term, chronic and pervasive physical processes associated with environmental changes and partly from the shortfalls of the established institutions and management practices. In most cases the technology to combat the physical dimension of degradation exists, but all too often the application of this technology is weakened by inadequate knowledge of the social and economic context and the non-availability of management skills or because the process has been insufficiently well identified. The new emphasis on anti-desertification programmes reflects a growing resolve to incorporate environmental considerations in the planning and policy formulation process and to integrate well-designed anti-desertification measures in development plans.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

4. The annual publication of the bulletin Agriculture & Development will be continued. Coverage will be expanded to include a review of policy changes in agriculture, in addition to the review of current developments in agricultural production and agricultural trade (as from 1986). As from 1985 and on an ad hoc basis, concise publications will be issued reviewing the market situation and the short- and medium-term prospects for selected commodities. A maximum possible co-operation and co-ordination will be established with other regional commissions in the context of ECDC/TCDC with a view to facilitating regional and interregional exchange of experience and technology.

5. An information and development support service will be developed for systematic reporting on ongoing activities, including research, in the field of management and conservation of agricultural resources in the region. A programme of direct planning assistance with regard to project identification, preparation and evaluation will be undertaken. The programme will specifically deal with the integration of anti-desertification activities in national plans.

6. A regional training and technical assistance programme will be undertaken for comprehensive land-use planning and conservation economics.

## SUBPROGRAMME 2. FOOD PLANNING AND POLICY

### (a) Legislative authority

7. The legislative authority for this subprogramme in General Assembly resolutions 33/90, paragraphs 2-6, 34/110, paragraphs 4, 7, 8 and 14, 35/56 (see A/35/464, paras. 81-95); Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/58, paragraphs 3-5, the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council, paragraphs 2b, 3, 5, 10 and 16.

### (b) Objectives

8. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective: to eliminate hunger and malnutrition at an early stage through the development of adequate food production and consumption systems and an adequate food distribution infrastructure;

(ii) General objective of the secretariat: to promote the formulation and implementation of comprehensive food sector plans or strategies, taking into account nutrition policies, investment requirements, links between food production and food consumption systems and the instability of farm output.

### (c) Problem addressed

9. There is a growing recognition that increased food production and supplies do not necessarily improve the food security of the poor. The critical factors affecting the efficient functioning and the development of food production and consumption systems and of the food distribution infrastructure have to be appraised, such as distorted food distribution patterns, market imperfection and inefficiency, the instability of farm output, the serious underutilization of agricultural development potential, etc. Existing problems and issues can be resolved only through a comprehensive approach to planning, combining

mutually reinforcing policies and administrative action to achieve food objectives.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

10. The following activities are envisaged for this period:

(a) Direct planning assistance in the preparation and implementation of food plans, particularly with regard to the incorporation of nutrition objectives in general planning objectives, and the analysis of the implications of that assistance for programmes and policies. Activities will include the preparation of technical reports, advisory assistance and consultations;

(b) Preparation of country reports on the resources required to implement the desired policies to achieve food security. Missions will be dispatched to aid in the identification and preparation of priority food projects, and substantive support will be provided for related training activities;

(c) Research on programmees and policies to assess both their direct and their indirect effect. The operational and organizational efficiency of food distribution systems will be evaluated;

(d) Survey and evaluation of existing arrangements to reduce the instability of farm output; development (or improvement) and application of models for crop forecasting, early warning systems and crop/livestock insurance schemes in selected countries; exchange of experience and preparation of technical assistance.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. SUPPORT TO THE AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

(a) Legislative authority

11. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolution 35/56 (see A/35/464, paras. 81-95); Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/66, paragraphs 1-6; Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, chapter XII, of 20 July 1979.

(b) Objectives

12. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objective: to promote an integrated approach to agrarian reform and rural development based on growth, with full equity and participation; to stimulate exchange of experiences and methodological studies at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.
- (ii) Time-limited secretariat objectives: development and dissemination of guidelines and procedures for the formulation, integrated application and evaluation of strategies, policies and identified priority areas in agrarian reform and rural development programmes; indicators and procedures for monitoring and evaluation will be completed by the end of 1987; development and dissemination of techniques and methodologies by 1989 to resolve selected economic and technological problems (taking into account, where appropriate, environmental aspects) in agrarian reform and rural development programmes, relating inter alia to agrarian structure, farm mechanization, including rural energy, land-use problems and crop and livestock production systems.

(c) Problem addressed

13. To promote the equitable development of the rural economy, it is of paramount importance for Governments to have a clear understanding of the nature and structure of the rural society, the sectoral components of rural development, and the factors and variables influencing rural development. Moreover, it is important to review systematically and assess objectively government strategies in agrarian reform and rural development, the established priorities within the rural sector, the strengthening of local government and the promotion of people's organizations.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

14. Preparation of a framework, including the establishment of agriculturally related socio-economic development indicators to facilitate the systematic monitoring and evaluation of progress in agrarian reform and rural development in relation to national objectives and targets; review and in-depth analysis of national economic policies for rural development, with a view to their rationalization and the provision of advisory assistance on the subject. Base-line research on welfare issues affecting rural development, relating to income distribution, rural poverty and adverse trends towards income and dietary disparities between rural and urban workers.

15. Research and studies on economic and technological problems in agrarian reform and rural development programmes, to be followed by intercountry consultations and the exchange of knowledge and experience, leading, where appropriate, to technical assistance activities. Broad subject areas of priority concern the following: agrarian structure and farm rationalization; agricultural mechanization (environmental aspects will be considered, whenever appropriate); problems of land-use and land-use planning, and technological problems in crop and livestock production. The maximum possible co-operation and co-ordination will be established with other regional commissions in the context of ECDC/TCDC with a view to stimulating regional and interregional exchange of experiences and information on successful, cost-effective and innovative approaches to agrarian reform, rural development and people's participation.

B. Organization

16. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was held in May, 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1983-1989 Medium-Term Plan in May 1982. The plan was endorsed by the Commission at its ninth session in May 1982. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission, will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

17. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Joint ECWA/FAD Agriculture Division, in which there were 10 professional posts authorized as at 1 January 1984, four of which were supported from extrabudgetary sources.



PROGRAMME 2. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

(a) Legislative authority

18. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 34/210, paragraphs 1 and 9; 34/203, paragraph 8, S-11/4, paragraph 8; 35/205, section I, paragraph 10, section II, paragraphs 9 and 16, 36/194 and A/35/464, annex, paragraphs 136-146, 37/166, 37/50, 37/224, Commission resolutions 93 (VIII), 118 (X).

(b) Objectives

19. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to accelerate the development of the least developed member countries in order to make a decisive breakthrough in their development process by, inter alia, increasing their technological and productive capacity through substantial financial flows on highly concessional terms and preference in providing technical assistance;
- (ii) Time-limited subsidiary intergovernmental objectives: to conduct meetings between individual least developed member countries and bilateral and multilateral donors in order to follow-up and monitor periodically the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries;
- (iii) General objectives of the secretariat: to provide support for the implementation of the International Development strategy and the Substantial New Programme of Action and to participate in monitoring and assessing the progress achieved thereon as it affects the least developed member countries of the ECWA region.

(c) Problem addressed

20. Democratic Yemen and Yemen may be looked upon as essentially part of the "rural poor" in the developing region of Western Asia. While the problems currently confronting these two countries in their development process are somewhat similar to those experienced by the non-oil-producing economies of the region and, in some cases, even to those observed in the oil-producing economies, they differ in magnitude. In addition, these two countries face other problems related to their peculiar circumstances, such as endemic diseases, the isolation of population settlements scattered in mountainous areas and the absence of adequate spatial planning and provision of municipal services. Weak absorptive capacity, lack of adequate physical and institutional infrastructures, the insulation of the population from the rest of the world for centuries, and the lack of a minimum acceptable level of basic necessities are the major features of their economies, which are further characterized by manpower shortages caused by labour migration at a time when development programmes are generating a strong demand for labour, extremely low export earnings, an alarmingly deteriorating agricultural production, and increasing dependence on food imports. To resolve the dilemma between labour shortage and the effect of remittances from abroad, accompanied by inflation, is one of the main challenges facing development in these countries.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

21. The strategy during the period will continue to emphasize the review and assessment of the economic and social situation of the least developed countries and analyse trends, prospects and measures affecting their development. Provision of advisory services and other technical support measures aimed at assisting these countries in the identification of planning bottlenecks, surveys of their resources, identification of their immediate and long-term problems and needs, the improvement of their planning capabilities, and formulation and implementation of appropriate policies will continue. Assistance will also be rendered to individual least developed member countries in seeking and contacting possible donors as well as in organizing meetings with bilateral and multilateral donors to review periodically their aid modalities. Technical assistance in methodology and application of techniques in project formulation and evaluation within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action will be extended to these countries.

**SUBPROGRAMME 2. PERSPECTIVE PLANNING****(a) Legislative authority**

22. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 3508 (XXX), paragraph 1, 33/193, paragraphs 5 and 10; 34/57, paragraph 2 and 35/56, annex, paragraphs 40, 42, 116 and 162; Economic and Social Council decision 1980/190; and Commission resolutions 56 (V) and 76 (VI).

**(b) Objectives**

23. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

**(i) Intergovernmental objective:** the improvement of perspective planning capabilities in the region through co-operative work on macroeconomic modelling;

**(ii) General objective of the secretariat:** the development of an advanced capability for quantitative analysis through econometrics modeling which will be able to simulate and project economic development trends in the region for national, regional and international use.

**(c) Problem addressed**

24. The technical level of planning in the region needs to be improved for better economic efficiency, foresight and control. These capabilities are particularly important in creating the technical basis for greater regional and international economic co-operation.

**(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989**

25. Further perspective planning studies for selected member countries of the region, which will highlight and elucidate key policy choices available to Governments and to the region generally, will be prepared. On the basis of individual country studies and as a part of technical assistance support under this programme econometric models will be formulated as a contribution to development of the ECWA region.

### SUBPROGRAMME 3. REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC TRENDS

#### (a) Legislative authority

26. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Commission resolution 48 (IV), paragraphs 1 and 2; General Assembly resolution 37/202; and A/35/464, section IV paragraphs 173 and 174.

#### (b) Objectives

27. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to ensure the effective implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and to strengthen it as an instrument of policy;

(ii) General objective of the secretariat: to monitor, review and assess annually the economic and social situation in the ECWA region and to analyse development trends and issues; the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA region will serve as the review and appraisal report on the implementation of the International Development Strategy in 1984 whenever such a report is required.

#### (c) Problem addressed

28. A problem of paucity and sometimes the complete absence of systematic reporting on the economic situation and the development process exists in the region. By making available and disseminating factual, quantitative and analytical information on the economies of the region, the subprogramme should help to promote a better understanding of these economies and give an incentive for needed economic policy changes.

#### (d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

29. The Survey will continue to be produced during first quarter of each year. In 1984, and whenever required, the Survey will serve simultaneously as the review and appraisal report on the new International Development Strategy. In serving this

additional purpose, it will be expanded to cover the areas identified in the Strategy for review and appraisal and will become both issue and policy-oriented in nature.

#### B. Organization

30. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by ECWA's Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-term plan in May 1982 and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission, will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

31. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Development Planning Division. As at 1 January 1984, there were 7 authorized professional posts for the Development Issues and Policies Programme.

PROGRAMME 3. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. INTEGRATION OF PHYSICAL PLANNING WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING

(a) Legislative authority

32. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/2.

(b) Objectives

33. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: the strengthening of governmental machinery for the integration of physical planning with socio-economic planning in the region.

(ii) General objective of the secretariat: assistance to Governments in the formulation and promotion of strategies for planning integration.

(iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat: monitoring of the planning situation in the region (1984-1985), and the development of appropriate indicators for such monitoring (1984-1986); and stimulation of progress towards planning integration by the adoption of appropriate policies, and the enactment of innovative measures (1986-1989).

(c) Problem addressed

34. The integration of physical planning with socio-economic planning, which is essential for the development of effective policies and planning on human settlements, does not exist on a wide scale in the region. The influence of human settlements on the environment has increased, owing to population growth, urban concentration and the application of new techniques, and this requires the integration of ecological criteria in the planning and implementation of human settlements.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

35. During this period, the examination of physical and socio-economic planning in the region will take place and, in the light of the integration achieved, recommendations will be made on a country-by-country basis to implement or enhance that integration, as well as the integration, of environmental implications in the process of urban settlement.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. BUILDING MATERIALS

(a) Legislative authority

36. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/2.

(b) Objectives

37. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to promote the efficient production, transportation and use of building materials in the region.
- (ii) General objective of the secretariat: to identify and promote national and regional policies, strategies, and procedures to enhance efficiency in the use and development of construction materials.
- (iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat: to survey and evaluate the existing situation, with a view to identifying constraints on the efficiency of the construction materials sector (1984-1986); and to devise programmes to enhance the development of construction materials in particular as regards their production, transportation and use (1987-1989).

(c) Problem addressed

38. The region's rapid economic expansion and the heightened aspirations of its people will generate a need for more and improved building materials. Much of this need is being met by

sometimes expensive imports, and these, as well as local materials, are often put to inappropriate use.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

39. The necessary steps will be taken to strengthen existing national and regional statistical services, in their work related to building materials, to enable them to plan, design and execute regional and national surveys of the industry. Proposals will then be formulated to stimulate the production of building materials in the region through, inter alia, fiscal and legislative measures, financing, standardization in design and construction and the rationalization of costs.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. SURVEY, ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PREFABRICATION

(a) Legislative authority

40. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/2.

(b) Objectives

41. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objective: the development of appropriate government policies to promote the more effective use of prefabrication techniques in the region.
- (ii) General objective of the secretariat: the formulation and promotion of a more effective approach to the use of prefabrication techniques.
- (iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat: to survey and evaluate the existing situation regarding prefabrication in the countries of the region (1984-1985); to disseminate information on training programmes, workshops and expert group meetings in the region on matters related to prefabrication and on suitable systems of prefabrication for the region (1986-1987); to provide



technical assistance jointly with other United Nations agencies (1988-1989).

(c) Problem addressed

42. Prefabrication as a construction technique has been spreading in the region; in some countries (e.g., Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen), this is due to the scarcity of fresh water. The adoption of this technique has not always been smooth or efficient and there is a need to assess the present situation and promote more effective use of the technique.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

43. Work during this period will commence with a survey of prefabrication in the area, focusing on but not limited to the countries mentioned above, followed by an analysis of future needs in the light of trends in building technology, as well as of socio-economic factors. Finally, an evaluation of present prefabrication techniques will be made, using the results of the analysis.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. CITY MANAGEMENT

(a) Legislative authority

44. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/2.

(b) Objectives

45. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to ensure the introduction of the concept of city management into the region.

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to promote and assist in the preparation of new policies, legislation and programmes adapted to each country's experience, conditions and priorities in order to

facilitate the introduction of the concept of city management.

(iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat: to monitor changes in city management in the region (1984-1985); to assist in the inclusion of the city management component in national development plans (1986-1987); to evaluate progress in the introduction of the concept of city management, and to identify obstacles thereto with a view to recommending appropriate measures to deal with them (1988-1989); and to identify rational approaches to environmental preservation in planning and managing of urban settlements.

#### (c) Problem addressed

46. The growth of the cities in the regional and ecological aspects of human settlements, requires the application of up-to-date concepts of management to urban affairs.

47. Three technical publications entitled "Municipal organization and State authority," "Bureaucratic decentralization and centralization of State authority," and "Variations of community participation in different municipal organizations" will be prepared. There will be a review of the needs of the universities, municipalities, etc., undertaking research on city management in collaboration with ECWA, with a view to the provision of expert advice and development of training. Major components of environmental dimensions and environmental indicators will be adequately defined as an integral part of city planning and management.

#### B. Organization

48. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Commission at its annual session. The last session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 medium-term plan in May 1982 and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

49. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Human Settlements Division, in which there were 7 Professional posts authorized as at 1 January 1984, two of which are from UNCHS.

PROGRAMME 4. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTED INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES AND IDENTIFICATION OF REGIONAL PROJECTS

(a) Legislative authority

50. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), section IV, paragraph 1.

(b) Objectives

51. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: the establishment of production facilities covering selected branches of industry aiming at meeting the needs of both internal and external markets and in particular, the establishment of basic industries, of integral industries and other priority industries such as agro-industries and construction industries, the creation of the necessary institutional machinery to enable consultation and co-ordination, in order to obtain better terms for the acquisition of technology, expertise, licenses, equipment, etc., for the developing countries.

(ii) General objective of the secretariat: to assist Governments in identifying industrial production training, and research facilities that lend themselves to regional co-operation, and to assist in identifying techno-economic problems faced by selected branches of industry.

(c) Problem addressed

52. The development of existing and new branch industries in the countries of the region requires rationalization and technological adaptation and innovation as well as the establishment or expansion of the necessary support services and infrastructure. Lack of these and of qualified personnel at all levels

impedes such development. This is especially true with regard to the establishment of basic industries (e.g., petrochemicals and basic metals) and to the development of integrated industries (e.g., engineering, agro-industries and construction). Furthermore, the limitations of national markets and the lack of adequate infrastructure in many of the countries of the region call for close regional co-operation.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

53. Efforts in this period will concentrate on increasing the level of integration in the engineering industry especially for the group of products already identified. Simultaneously, the development of manufacturing capacities for new product groups which require regional co-operation will be identified through techno-economic studies. These studies, apart from providing techno-economic data and information for the decision-makers in intergovernmental and governmental organizations, will also propose solutions to specific problems relating to technology transfer, standardization, generation of skills, marketing and finance.

54. The identification of priority areas for the provision of training, the promotion of training activities and the strengthening of the requisite institutional machinery for the co-ordination of industrial training on a regional basis will be pursued. Consultations will be carried out with the Governments concerned on a plan of action for the promotion of a co-ordinated approach to selected training needs and placement of trainees within the region, including the establishment of appropriate intergovernmental machinery for this purpose. The output during the bienniums will consist of studies and reports on selected aspects of manpower and skills development in the industrial sector (for technical departments, training institutions, regional organizations). Seminars and in-plant training in the region in such subjects as project formulation and evaluation and industrial administration and management will be organized and the promotion of measures and institutional arrangements for the transfer of industrial technology will be undertaken.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. NATIONAL PLANNING AND REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION OF  
THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

(a) Legislative authority

55. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), section IV, paragraph 1.

(b) Objectives

56. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective: the harmonization and co-ordination of economic industrial policies, the utilization of industrial complementarity, taking into account economies of scale and specialization, through the establishment and strengthening of consultation machinery at the regional, subregional and interregional levels;

(ii) General objective of the secretariat: to monitor, review and appraise industrial development and potential, and industrial planning and implementation in the region, with a view to identifying shortfalls and recommending adequate measures to remedy them, to promote the development and adaptation of suitable planning and implementation methods and techniques, and to assist in developing concrete proposals for the regional co-ordination of industrialization efforts, policies, strategies and plans.

(c) Problem addressed

57. Because of the depletable nature of oil resources, a rapid change in the economic structure of most countries of the region is required to broaden their economic base. In view of the fact that resources, other than oil, are limited or insignificant, the burden on the manufacturing sector in the process of development will be particularly heavy. At present, the manufacturing sector comprises a large variety of scattered enterprises predominantly oriented to the production of consumer goods and, to a lesser extent, intermediate goods, with no linkages between them and very little complementarity in the products available for marketing within the region.

58. The countries of the region have not yet drawn up clear outlines for an integrated industrial strategy, to be based on an overall development strategy for the region. The importance of co-ordinating investment decisions at the regional level has become more relevant, given the growing share of the public sector in the region's economies. Thus, the strengthening of the planning machinery and the improvement of the effectiveness of the public sector enterprises are essential steps in meeting the industrial development requirements of the countries in the region.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

59. Periodic analysis of the industrial development process in the ECWA region, including monitoring of structural changes in response to the targets of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade will be undertaken. The collection and analysis of information on industrialization trends and the in-depth examination of policies, measures and strategies for industrial development, in co-operation with the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO), ECWA and UNIDO, will lead to the building up by 1985 of a consolidated picture of the structure of the industrial sector in the region within the context of the Arab world as a basis for an inter-industry regional matrix.

60. Emphasis will be placed on the formulation and promotion of planning techniques suited to the special characteristics of member countries. A standing committee on industrial development and planning shall meet biannually as a forum for exchanging experiences on the actual performance of the industrial sector and on planning techniques and implementation. Efforts to introduce co-ordination measures in planning industrial development and harmonization of industrial policies in the region, within a framework of a regional strategy for industrial development, shall continue. The long-term strategy guidelines for industrial development in the region will require constant monitoring. Efforts will be made to find solutions to the special problems of the least developed countries of the region.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. TRADE IN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS AND FINANCING OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Legislative authority

61. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), section IV, paragraph 1.

(b) Objectives

62. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to promote direct trade between developing countries in order to substantially improve their share of international trade in finished products, to eliminate any adverse effects resulting from "triangular" trade and to establish appropriate mechanisms to that end; to promote financial flows for industrial development from oil-producing to non-oil-producing countries; and to develop and strengthen public, financial and other institutions in order to promote and stimulate the industrial development of the member countries;

(ii) General objective of the secretariat: to assist Governments in promoting intraregional trade in manufactured products and trade with developing countries, and in harmonizing available financial resources for the restructuring and strengthening of industrial development.

(c) Problem addressed

63. The planned requirements for long-term industrial finance, as outlined in the plans of the various countries, represent significant increases over the level of investment actually achieved in the recent past. With the exception of the oil-producing countries where investments are financed totally or partially from the State budget, and where the constraints are not of a financial nature, in all the other countries special efforts will have to be made to raise additional resources, including regional and international resources and to channel them into industrial investment. Self-financing remains the predominant source of funds for industrial invest-



ments, whereas the relative share of institutions in financing industry has been very limited.

64. Products manufactured in the region have been facing marketing obstacles within and outside the region, which is presenting serious limitations to rapid industrial growth. The inability to break through into internationally-controlled markets defeats the purpose of setting up a number of industries in which the region should enjoy, in principle, a relative advantage owing to the availability of raw materials. Consequently, a strategy for widening the region's market from within as well as for opening up outside market is more than warranted. This will require, inter alia, in-depth research, new legislation, revision of existing agreements and formulation of new ones.

#### (d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

65. A first analysis of the direction in trade of member countries in industrial raw materials, semi-manufactured and manufactured products will be completed by 1985 in order to facilitate the search for solutions to the problem of marketing referred to above. The building up of matrices indicating interregional and extraregional trade and its direction for strategic industrial commodities will be completed by 1986. The review of trade agreements ratified by member countries relating to manufactured products will be completed by 1988. On the basis of this review, areas in which reconsideration of the agreements is necessary in the light of achievements accomplished in the harmonization of industries, strategies in the region will be identified by 1989. Studies aimed at building up financial intermediaries especially designed to meet the requirements of industrial development in the region, will be undertaken throughout the plan period.

#### B. Organization

66. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last each year session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan in May 1982 and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

67. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division, in which there were 10 Professional posts authorized as at 1 January 1984, two of which are from UNIDO.

PROGRAMME 5. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE IN  
WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME. TRADE EXPANSION AND DIVERSIFICATION

(a) Legislative authority

68. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 3442 (XXX), paragraph 4, 34/202, paragraphs 3, 4, 8 and 11, 35/56, annex, paragraphs 19, 20, 22, 29, 40, 52, 67, 72 and 134-135, and Commission resolutions 72 (VI), paragraph 1, 90 (VIII), paragraph 2.

(b) Objectives

69. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objective: to expand and diversify the trade of the ECWA region, especially export trade in manufactures and semi-manufactures;
- (ii) General objective of the secretariat: to contribute to a better understanding of the issues involved in expanding and diversifying member States' trade, and to the formulation of policies and measures at the national, regional and global levels to bring about faster export growth and a more balanced trade structure;
- (iii) Time-limited objectives of the secretariat: identification by 1985 of opportunities to expand intraregional trade and regional economic co-operation and integration; and formulation, starting with 1985, of proposals for strengthening the institutional framework, including the simplification and harmonization of trade procedures, and the possibility of establishing a fund to compensate for losses associated with expanding intraregional trade and integration, a regional export credit guarantee facility and a regional import-export bank.

(c) Problem addressed

70. ECWA member States need information on and analyses of the problems they face as a result of unfavourable trade conditions (e.g., high commodity and geographical concentration of exports, deterioration in the terms of trade) to deal with these problems, at the regional level, formulation of appropriate policy measures need to be formulated and the institutional framework strengthened, so that surplus funds existing in the region can be utilized.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

71. There will continue to be periodic reviews of developments in the external trade and payments situation of member countries and of particular problems arising therefrom. In addition, initiatives will be taken aimed at the improvement of the institutional framework involving the preparation of studies on the possibility of establishing a fund to compensate for losses resulting from expanding intraregional trade and of supporting integration efforts, a regional export credit guarantee facility, and a regional import-export bank. These initiatives will require the organization of meetings and support for negotiations, as well as the provision of advisory services. These studies will be completed successively by 1985, 1987 and 1989, and followed by expert group meetings to consider the findings which will be presented to the Commission.

B. Organization

72. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad-Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan in May 1982 and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

73. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Development Planning Division. The Division is responsible for four substantive programmes. As at 1 January 1984 there were two authorized Professional posts for the international trade and development finance programme.

## PROGRAMME 6. NATURAL RESOURCES IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogramme

## SUBPROGRAMME. WATER RESOURCES

(a) Legislative authority

74. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), paragraph 4, and 3202 (S-VI), paragraphs 7 and 8, Economic and Social Council resolutions 2121 (LXIII), paragraph 10, 1979/31, paragraph 6, 1979/67, paragraphs 2-4, 1979/68, paragraph 4, 1979/70; Commission resolutions 39(IV) and 83(VII); and the recommendations and resolutions of the ECWA regional water meetings.

(b) Objectives

75. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to facilitate the establishment of an appropriate intergovernmental mechanism to enhance water resources development and management in the region; and to promote and increase regional co-operation in the conservation, development, management and augmentation of the water resources of the region in the most efficient and economic manner;
- (ii) Overall objective of the secretariat: to prepare studies on significant issues pertaining to water resources development and management in the region;
- (iii) Time-limited objectives of the secretariat: to assist in the development of a comprehensive information base pertaining to water-related activities in the region, and disseminate biennially information pertaining to the latest major water project being implemented in the region; and to support member countries in their plans and programmes to achieve the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade goals of access to a safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities by the year 1990.

(c) Problem addressed

76. The scarcity or limited availability of water is a major constraint on development for many of the member States of ECWA. The inefficient use and underdevelopment of this vital commodity also affect the social and economic growth of the region. A majority of the population still lacks adequate water supplies and decent sanitary services. Water also remains a limiting factor in food production. Intercountry and regional efforts to develop and manage common water resources have to date been limited; no effective regional machinery has been created for this purpose. The lack of reliable hydrological hydrogeological and hydrometeorological data and outdated and complex water legislation have hindered planning and development in this sector.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

77. ECWA will continue to identify major subregional and regional water-related projects and propose appropriate recommendations for co-operative action to be taken by the member countries concerned.

78. The establishment and strengthening of central national institutions responsible for water-related activities will be prompted. Plans to improve the capacity of member States to explore, develop and utilize their water resources efficiently will be formulated and reviewed on a biennial basis with a view to keeping pace with prevailing socio-economic development.

79. Technical support will be provided to member States to enable them to formulate comprehensive national plans aimed at attaining the objectives of the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade by 1990.

80. Biennial regional reviews on the latest developments in major water-related projects carried out at the national, sub-regional and regional levels will be issued, and workshops and studies on key issues pertaining to water resources development, administration and management are also envisaged during this period.

## B. Organization

81. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad\_Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission, will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

82. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division, in which there were two Professional posts authorized for the natural resources programme as at 1 January 1984.

PROGRAMME 7. POPULATION IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

(a) Legislative authority

83. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is: General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex paragraphs 20, 21, 23, 41, 48, 46-51 and 163-167; World Population Plan of Action, paragraphs 2-10, 13-67, 71, 78, 79, 80, 94, 95 and 106.

(b) Objectives

84. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to assess the relationships between various aspects of development and current and prospective population trends in the region.

(iii) General objectives of the secretariat: to publish results of research concerning the determinants and consequences of population trends, advise Governments and training institutions on the relationships between the demographic, economic and social aspects of development; and aid Governments in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies and in the integration of the population factor in development plans and programmes.

(c) Problem addressed

85. In most countries of the region, local experience in assessing the relationships between population trends and development aspects has been limited. A comprehensive development policy cannot be effectively undertaken without full consideration of the population factor.

Strategy for the period 1984-1989

86. Work will continue to emphasize the major areas: the inter-relationship between development and population factors, and the



determinants and consequences of fertility, mortality and migration.

87. A series of studies is planned on the impact of population growth upon the provision of housing, education, medical care and governmental services, with an emphasis on social, economic, environmental and service delivery implications of alternative demographic policies.

## SUBPROGRAMME 2. EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

### (a) Legislative authority

88. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is: General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, paragraphs 42-44, 47, 162, 163 and 168; Economic Commission for Western Asia resolutions 55(V) and 59(V).

### (b) Objectives

89. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to identify measures and promote policies leading to the full utilization and better balancing of human resources in conformity with the development needs of the region.

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to enhance participation in economic activity, improve the development of manpower and strengthen regional co-operation in both the development and utilization of available manpower.

### (c) Problem addressed

90. Only a small part of the population in the region participate in economic activity and a certain proportion among those working is under-employed. Moreover, structural imbalances between the flows from the educational system and the occupational requirements of employers have resulted in acute shortages of high and medium-level technical and management staff, a dearth of manual skills and a surplus of less qualified clerical and office personnel. This overall regional imbalance is exacerbated at the national level by the ability of some countries in the region to attract the relatively small number of highly qualified and skilled personnel by paying high wages. This man-

power situation now constitutes the major impediment to the implementation of the development plans and programmes of the ECWA countries.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

91. Surveys and studies will be undertaken to determine the causes of the low participation rates in economic activities and the measures needed to improve the situation, and to assess the manpower supply and demand on the national and regional levels.

92. National and regional strategies for reform of the educational and vocational training systems will be proposed in co-operation with national, regional and international institutions.

93. Ways and means of improving communication between the employers and training centres will be identified and the feasibility of an adequate organizational mechanism for national and regional labour market exchanges will be examined.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ANALYSIS

(a) Legislative authority

94. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, paragraphs 21, 43, 46, 50 and 173, World Population Plan of Action, paragraphs 72 to 77.

(b) Objectives

95. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to promote the self-reliance of member States of ECWA in the collection and analysis of demographic and related socio-economic data and to fill the gaps in population data through estimates and projections utilizing sound demographic techniques.

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to produce and disseminate reliable data on a large number of demographic and related socio-economic variables nec-

essary for development planning and policy-making and to update this information on a periodic basis, to undertake in-depth demographic studies describing the population conditions in the region n50 particularly problems related to them, and to bring the population information on ECWA countries up to the level available in most other regions.

(c) Problem addressed

96. Development planners in the ECWA region are handicapped by the fact that population, manpower and related data are not always of reliable quality or available in a form appropriate for utilization in development plans and programmes. Although in the recent past ECWA has produced an increasing volume of such data in usable form, not all the gaps have been filled or filled or continuous updating ensured.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

97. During the period, ECWA will publish several data sheets and abstracts containing additional population information obtained through the compilation and adjustment of existing data and through estimates and projections. It will also produce benchmark data which will be utilized by United Nations Headquarters and the various agencies for undertaking population, manpower and education projections. Population data contained in the data sheets will be continuously updated and time series will be established.

98. The secretariat will also conduct research describing and analysing in-depth the population situation in each country of the region to provide adequate starting points for national development plans and human resources development programmes.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. POPULATION EDUCATION AND INFORMATION  
(PUBLICATIONS AND CLEARING-HOUSE)

(a) Legislative authority

99. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is: General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, paragraphs 45 and 47, World Population Plan of Action, paragraphs 81-93 and 103.

(b) Objectives

100. The objectives of this subprogramme are: to disseminate the results of population research, to assist researchers interested in Arab population problems, and to promote the training of potential scholars from the region in the population field.

(c) Problem addressed

101. The major handicap facing researchers on Middle Eastern population questions is that the relevant research is in large part unpublished, not easily accessible and not properly disseminated. Students and scholars lack information about training and research facilities and of grant opportunities.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

102. The Population Bulletin of ECWA will continue to appear biannually in Arabic and English. Publications on research and training sources will be updated. ECWA will also publish the results of research undertaken in conjunction with ECWA-sponsored meetings and seminars, and on other topics of high priority.

103. Assistance will be extended to researchers from the region in obtaining research grants, and to students in locating relevant training programmes and fellowships.

104. Dissemination of information and of research results to government officials, the mass media, scholars and training institutions will continue. The specialized population library and reference centre, as a focal point of information on country programmes and on research material, will be expanded.

## B. Organization

105. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan in May 1982. The plan was endorsed by the Commission at its ninth session in May 1982. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

106. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Social Development and Population Division. There were eight Professional posts including one from UNFPA authorized as at 1 January 1984.

PROGRAMME 8. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME. FINANCIAL RESOURCES MOBILIZATION AND  
MANAGEMENT

(a) Legislative authority

107. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Economic and Social Council resolution 2018 (LXI) of 3 August 1976, paragraph 2; 1978/6 of 4 May 1978, paragraph 3; 1978/60 of 3 August 1978, paragraph 3; 1979/48 of 31 July 1979, paragraph 5; General Assembly resolution 33/144 of 20 December 1978, paragraph 5; 34/137 of 14 December 1979, paragraph 4; and 35/56, annex, paragraphs 20, 23, 31 and 96; Commission resolution 74(VI) of 1 May 1979, paragraph 2.

(b) Objectives

108. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to achieve the full mobilization of domestic financial resources and ensure their effective allocation to national development objectives.
- (ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to contribute to the assessment and evaluation of national financial systems with regard to the mobilization and allocation of resources for development and to the formulation of appropriate policy measures.
- (iii) Limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat: evaluation of the role of financial institutions (national and regional) in the mobilization and allocation of resources for development (1985); assessment of the expanding role of the public sector in mobilizing internal resources for development, with special reference to the financial and performance aspects of public enterprises (1986); identification of critical areas in the structure and performance of national tax systems and the guidelines and measures needed for their improvement (1987).

(c) Problem addressed

109. Governments are confronted with problems relating to the efficient allocation and management of resources, particularly in the operation of public enterprises, which is marked by mounting technical and managerial difficulties, namely, a faulty organizational structure, poor performance and control criteria with regard to investment, costing, pricing and surplus disposal, and an acute shortage of qualified technical managerial personnel. Despite unprecedented high rates of growth in countries of the ECWA region, the contribution of the financial system in terms of resource mobilization and allocation has been considerably limited by conceptual and operational deficiencies. Development finance institutions, both national and regional, lack a reliable source base. The structures and administration of the tax system are not adequate.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

110. The strategy will consist of the following activities:

(a) Monitoring of trends and problems in development finance and the preparation of analytical reports, to assist policy makers in the formulation and implementation of measures pertaining to the day-to-day management of the financial system;

(b) Studies and reports will be prepared on various aspects of tax systems, public enterprises and national and regional financial institutions as policy instruments in the mobilization and allocation of resources. These will serve as a basis for guidelines for action at the national, regional and international levels aimed at improving national development finance systems and policies, including their harmonization within the framework of regional economic co-operation and integration schemes;

(c) Organization of meetings, workshops, etc., aimed at improving the operation of the financial systems and upgrading the technical and institutional capabilities of the development finance structures in the region;

(d) Provision of advisory services on various conceptual and operational aspects of the national and regional development finance structures.

## B. Organization

111. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia, at its annual session. The last session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee of the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan in May 1982 and it was endorsed by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning, as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

112. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Development Planning Division. The Division is responsible for the following four substantive programmes: Development issues and policies; international trade and development; public administration and finance and transnational corporations. As at 1 January 1984, there were two authorized Professional posts for the public administration and finance programme.



PROGRAMME 9. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

(a) Legislative authority

113. The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 2318 (XXII), paragraphs 1 and 4; 3201 (S-VI), paragraph 4(b); 3362 (S-VII), section III, paragraph 8; 32/192, paragraph 5; 34/218, section I, paragraphs 2 and 4; Economic and Social Council resolution 1155(XLI), paragraphs 2(a) and (b) and 3; the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development endorsed by General Assembly resolution 34/218.

(b) Objectives

114. The objective of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective: the strengthening of national scientific and technological capacities within the framework of coherent national and regional policies in science and technology;

(ii) Overall objectives of the secretariat: the development of policy guidelines to facilitate the development of manpower capabilities in infrastructure in science and technology.

(c) Problem addressed

115. The majority of the member States of ECWA suffer from a relative shortage of trained scientific and technical personnel. The problem is compounded by the scarcity of managerial talents in this field, and in some cases by the inappropriateness of imported educational systems. In addition, the infrastructure for science and technology has not yet been adequately developed and institutional linkages remain weak. Research and development programmes and activities continue to be fragmented and to have little impact on the productive system. On the other hand, the prevailing turnkey mode of technology transfer tends to per-

petuate the state of technological dependence in the region and to isolate national scientific and technological capabilities from the development process. These factors have been responsible for the weakness of the scientific and technological base in the ECWA countries. As a result, this base has not been effective in accelerating the economic and social development of the region.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

116. Studies will be issued on the following subjects: (1) Identification and promotion of suitable measures and mechanisms to strengthen the education and training of national scientific and technological personnel and to cope effectively with the "brain drain" phenomenon; and publication of related studies and reports to be completed by 1987, (2) Review of the status of development of specialized scientific and technological institutions and promotion of measures of building an effective infrastructure in this field; publication of related studies and reports will be completed in 1987, (3) Review and appraisal of science and technology programmes, including research and development in agriculture, natural resources and industry, and identification of measures for integrating them within the productive system and publication of a related set of studies and reports to be completed in 1987. An intergovernmental meeting to be held in 1987 on strengthening the research and development capacities of the Arab countries; (4) Identification of areas, approaches and mechanisms for promoting regional and interregional co-operation for the strengthening of national scientific and technological capabilities and publication of a related set of studies and reports to be completed by 1988; (5) Carrying out activities jointly with the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the countries of the ECWA region.

117. In addition, the strategy will include intergovernmental meetings on the strengthening of the research and development capabilities of the Arab countries as needed. Studies will focus on the identification of areas, measures and mechanisms for promoting such co-operation.

118. In regard to co-operation with CSTD in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action in the ECWA region, the activities under this subprogramme include: a regional review and global mid-decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in 1984 and 1985, respectively; developing a system for the early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments in the region; developing indicators of scientific and technological achievements suitable for the region; contributing to the establishment of a global information network and support for the existing regional networks.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

(a) Legislative authority

119. The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 2318 (XXII), paragraphs 1 and 4; 3201 (S-VI), paragraph 4(p), 3202 (S-VI), section IV; 3362 (S-VII), section III, paragraph 8; 34/218, section I, paragraphs 2 and 4; Economic and Social Council resolution 1155(XLI), paragraphs 2(b) and 3; the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development endorsed by General Assembly resolution 34/218.

(b) Objectives

120. The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: the development of policies and mechanisms for the transfer and acquisition of technology as an integral part of policies governing scientific and technological development;

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: the formulation of policy guidelines for the transfer and acquisition of technology.

(c) Problem addressed

121. Policies for the transfer and acquisition of technology in the region are either lacking or ineffective. As a result, the turnkey mode of technology transfer continues to be predominant. The pattern has only marginally contributed to the absorption and diffusion of technology or to its institutionalization in the development process, and it has led to the implantation in the region of foreign technologies which are not suited to the local characteristics of the ECWA countries. This has produced social and economic ill-effects. On the other hand, the lack of a comprehensive policy in this area has placed limitations on the contribution of the technology transfer process to the development of local technological capabilities. It has also had an adverse effect on the utilization of indigenous research and technology.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

122. Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat: review and assessment of the economic and social effects of prevailing modes of technology transfer and identification of measures to increase the contribution of imported technology to the technological base of member States. The publication of related studies and reports is to be completed by 1987.

123. Development of measures and institutional mechanisms for enhancing the capacity of member States and harmonizing their policies in the transfer, acquisition, assessment and adaptation of foreign technology in selected priority sectors. The publication of the related studies and reports is to be completed by 1987. An expert group meeting on policies for the transfer and acquisition of technology is to be held in 1988. In this connection, exchange of information among member States on science and technology, training and education programmes, conditions for the transfer of technology, terms of foreign investment and activities of national and transnational corporations will be promoted through interlinked information networks and data banks. Furthermore, the establishment of effective institutional arrangements for the registration of contracts will be encouraged and training programmes will be organized in the form of seminars and workshops for the development of skills in the choice, acquisition and transfer of technology. Expert group meetings and workshops for middle-level professionals on policies for the transfer and acquisition of technology will be organized as needed.

124. Studies will be issued on measures and procedures for stimulating the demand for indigenous research and technology, instruments for regulating the import of technology and other technical services and on the overall co-ordination of policies required within the national scientific and technological system to ensure optimal utilization of all required technological inputs. The publication of the related studies and reports will be completed by 1989.

B. Organization

125. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat on this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia, at its annual session. The last session was in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee of the 1984-1989 Medium-term Plan in May 1982 and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commis-

sion, will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

126. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division. There were five Professional posts associated with the science and technology programme authorized as at 1 January 1984.

PROGRAMME 10. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND CHANGE

(a) Legislative authority

127. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 34/59, 34/152, 35/56, paragraph 174, 34/153, 31/82, 33/7, 32/131 and 38/6; Economic and Social Council resolution 1929 (LVIII), 83/66, paragraph 3; ECWA resolution 3(I).

(b) Objectives

128. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to strengthen governmental machinery and intergovernmental and interregional co-operation aimed at achieving social integration and popular participation in the national development process of the ECWA member States.
- (ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to assist in the formulation and promotion of strategies for social monitoring, social integration and popular participation at the regional and national levels.
- (iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat: the identification, by 1984, of constraints limiting active popular involvement in decision making; and the formulation, by 1986, of programmes of action to make opportunities available for popular participation and to render such participation more accessible and effective.

(c) Problem addressed

129. ECWA member States need qualitative and quantitative social data in order to formulate policies and plans on social development. More extensive use of popular participation will lead to the full integration of all social groups into the development process.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

130. Appropriate indicators on social integration in the ECWA region will be developed, and studies will be undertaken. Progress towards social integration, in particular towards popular participation in national planning, will be furthered through the formulation of appropriate policies and innovative measures, the exchange of information and the provision of advisory services. Technical assistance will be provided to improve social monitoring and to extend the use of popular participation concepts and techniques.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

(a) Legislative authority

131. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is the programme of action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, held at Rome in July 1979; General Assembly resolutions 34/14, 37/57, 37/58, 37/59, 37/48, 37/53, 37/166, 37/134, 37/150, 38/6, 38/22; Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/66; ECWA resolution 82 (VII) on agrarian reform and rural development for the ECWA region; ECWA resolution 66 (V) on the integration of women in development; ECWA resolutions 111(IX) on the World Assembly on Aging; 112 (IX) on regional activities for International Youth Year; ECWA Standing Committee resolution 3(1); special measures of assistance to Palestinian women; ECWA Regional Plan of Action for Disabled Persons; ECWA Regional Plan of Action for the Elderly, ECWA Regional Plan of Action for Youth; ECWA Regional Plan of Action (1975-1985) and ECWA Regional Programme of Action (1980-1985); World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, July 1980, resolutions 21, 39 and 42.

(b) Objectives

132. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objective: to achieve fuller utilization of human resources, especially by facilitating exchange of relevant experiences and concepts and by formulating appropriate policies and developing government machineries and structures for more effective planning, execution and co-ordination of integrated rural development programmes; and to achieve a more effective integration of women and disadvantaged groups into the development process in the ECWA member States, to promote exchange of human resources at subregional, regional and interregional levels.

(ii) General objective of the secretariat: to assist in the formulation and promotion of an integrated-approach for the development of human resources, especially through identification, formulation and implementation of integrated rural development projects; to promote national and local policies and legislation, and programmes aimed at increased participation of women in development and at the exchange of relevant ideas and experiences in the ECWA region and between ECWA and other regional commissions.

(iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat: the monitoring and evaluation of the existing rural development programmes in all the countries of the ECWA region by 1989 by evaluating the programmes of at least two countries each year during 1984-1989; the review, in 1985, of progress achieved during the United Nations Decade for Women and continued assessment and formulation of programmes for women in the ECWA region; and monitoring and evaluating programmes for youth for the period after the International Youth Year. Also, technical support will be extended to women's projects.

(c) Problem addressed

133. States members of ECWA need studies on comprehensive integrated rural development approaches and on the situation of women with a retrospective and prospective outlook in order to assist them in formulating appropriate policies and action-oriented programmes. They will also need a flow of data on experiences and information relevant to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women and the International Youth Year and beyond.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

134. Human resources development will be advanced by the provision of technical assistance and training programmes in integrated rural development and in the integration of women into the development process. Research and studies will lead to the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes for rural areas and for the fuller participation of both urban and rural women and youth. Information materials will be produced to assist in policy and programme formulation.



B. Organization

135. Intergovernmental review. The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECHA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee of the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan in May 1982 and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

136. Secretariat. The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Social Development and Population Division, in which there were three Professional posts authorized as at 1 January 1984 for the social development programme.

PROGRAMME 11. STATISTICS IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME 1. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Legislative authority

137. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 2563(XXIV), paragraph 1, 37/134, 37/166, paragraph 5, 38/66, 38/204, 38/206 Economic and Social Council resolutions 1564(L), 1566(L), paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, 1818(LV), paragraph 1(c), 1947(L-VIII), 2055(LXII), 1979/5, 1983/66; Economic Commission for Western Asia resolutions 8(II), 41(VI), paragraphs 1 and 2, 109(IX); recommendations by the Statistical Commission in its reports on its eighteenth session, paragraphs 30, 42, 56 and 57, nineteenth session, paragraphs 143-174; and twentieth session, paragraphs 1 and 152-209; twenty-second session, paragraphs 88-93; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution 122(V).

(b) Objectives

138. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to improve the statistical capabilities of countries of the ECWA region in support of their development planning efforts; to enhance co-operation with other regional commissions in the area of statistics.

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to develop statistical methods, disseminate international standards and assist national organizations in the development of their statistical services.

(c) Problem addressed

139. Most countries of the ECWA region lack timely and reliable statistics on various aspects of their socio-economic development activity. The very rapid development of the region has been accompanied by a modest change in related statistical activities. The statistical bases for a reliable and meaningful

evaluation of economic and social progress and planning, decision-making and related research are still largely lacking. Co-operation at the interregional level is necessitated by the fact that the ECWA region is only one part of the Arab world, other part being in the ECA region, and also because of the similarities of the problems faced by developing countries in other regional commissions.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

140. The objectives of this subprogramme will be pursued in several areas: Statistical training activity will continue to increase the statistical cadre of the region; Technical assistance in the field of statistics will be intensified towards the least developed countries of the region (Democratic Yemen and Yemen) as well as towards Palestinian people; ECWA statistical publications will be improved and expanded, mostly with the help of computer facilities; Dissemination of international standards and guidelines and promotion of intergovernmental co-operation will be enhanced through technical meetings; Statistical co-operation will be enhanced at regional and inter-regional levels.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS

(a) Legislative authority

141. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is the recommendations by the Statistical Commission in its reports on its seventeenth session, paragraphs 80-85, 195, 197 and 198, eighteenth session, paragraphs 66, 132-143 and 149, nineteenth session, paragraphs 11-21 and 68-74, and twentieth session, paragraphs 4-36; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, resolution 122 and the Economic and Social Council resolutions 1954(LIX) and 2014(LXI).

(b) Objectives

142. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to improve the national accounts, prices, international trade, industry, energy, transport and tourism statistics with a view to monitoring and orienting policy decision-making.

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to collect, process, analyse and disseminate information on national accounts, prices, and related statistics for the ECWA region; to improve the international comparability of the national accounts and related economic statistics of the ECWA region; to develop further and to implement the United Nations System of National Accounts and international classifications and to provide a framework for the integration of economic and social data.

(c) Problem addressed

143. Available statistics on prices, international trade, industry, energy and related economic statistics in the ECWA region are still insufficient in respect of quality, details and timeliness. Income and cost-of-living comparisons between countries need to be improved. Statistics on financial transactions according to sector, institutions and types of financial instrument are not comparable and at present cannot be fitted together in a coherent system of financial accounting.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

144. Basic statistics on international trade, energy, industry and national accounting series will be expanded. Finance statistics will include monetary statistics, balance-of-payments and government statistics which may serve as a basis for the formulation of financial policies. Price indexes will be developed for various goods and services and for imports and exports, for the purposes of deflating the gross domestic product and for inflating accounting and indexing.

145. Work will continue under the International Price Statistics Programme and the International Comparison Project for the monitoring and appraisal of data collected from member countries of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and for the compilation of standard regional aggregates.

**SUBPROGRAMME 3. SOCIAL, DEMOGRAPHIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
STATISTICS**

**(a) Legislative authority**

146. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 2542(XXIV), 2543(XXIV), 2997(XXVII) and 34/203; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1307(XLIV), 1564(L), 1947(LVIII), 2061(LXII) and 2074(LXII) 2055(LXII) and 1979/5; recommendations adopted by the Statistical Commission in its report on its twentieth session, paragraphs 91-143; recommendation C.3 (a) in the report of the World Population Conference, 1974, paragraph 71; decisions 48(IV) and 7/3 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution 122(V); and Economic Commission for Western Asia resolution 71(VI).

**(b) Objectives**

147. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

**(i) Intergovernmental objectives:** to improve social, demographic and environmental statistics needed for planning and decision-making at the national, regional and international levels.

**(ii) General objectives of the secretariat:** to develop, collect, compile, analyse, standardize and disseminate social, demographic and environmental statistics; to advise participating countries on the improvement of their data collection capability and the establishment of a national survey organization for carrying out continuous, integrated surveys.

**(c) Problem addressed**

148. The requirements of economic and social planning as well as the mounting concern over the problem of desertification and aridity in the ECWA region are factors which compel the initiation of collecting and compiling demographic, social and environmental statistics in the region. The existing machinery for data collection and the household survey capability need to be strengthened.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

149. Data collection for demographic, social and environmental statistics will be improved. An annual compendium on social and demographic statistics will be published on a continuous basis. Classification, integration and linkages between demographic, social and economic statistics will be promoted by the establishment of permanent survey organizations in the ECWA member countries for the collection of information regarding the status of women, needs of children and youth, population, vital statistics and labour statistics.

B. Organization

150. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan in May 1982. The plan was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session in May 1982. A Standing Committee for the programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission, will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

151. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Statistics Unit in which there were five Professional posts authorized as at 1 January 1984.

PROGRAMME 12. TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED TRANSPORT

(a) Legislative authority

152. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/66, 1983/69, ECWA resolution 73(VI), paragraph 2, and 92(VIII).

(b) Objectives

153. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to increase the ECWA countries' share in the carriage of sea-borne trade, in accordance with the 1974 Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences, through the expansion of national and multinational shipping fleets in the region; to develop adequate transport infrastructure and to maximize its efficiency; to harmonize transport rules and regulations, and to co-ordinate transport development policies with a view to facilitating regional and interregional transport and to communications; to promote the Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 in order to implement the action plan for the Decade in Western Asia.
- (ii) General objective of the secretariat: to assist countries of the region in planning the development and integration of their transport systems, and in training transport personnel.
- (iii) Time-limited objectives of the secretariat: initiation of the publication of a transport bulletin by 1985, preparation of a uniform data collection system for port statistics by 1986; elaboration of draft procedures and/or a draft convention for border crossings of passengers and merchandise by 1985; and establishment of one regional training institution and expansion or improvement of two existing training centres during the plan period.

(c) Problem addressed

154. The economic development of the region requires the improvement and efficient integration of maritime and land transport with due regard to the disparities in economic conditions among the member countries. Shortcomings in the regional data base create serious difficulties for the planning and evaluation process in the transport sector. The region suffers from a shortage of skilled persons at all levels for developing this sector.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

155. Shipping development: Correspondence and field missions will be carried out to follow-up the recommendations that might be adopted by the Commission at its 1984 session regarding the development of national merchant marines and multinational shipping enterprises and the development of transport on inland waterways and coastal shipping. In-depth study will be carried out by 1985 to determine the possibilities of expanding the bulk and break-bulk fleets of member countries of ECWA. The study will be presented to an intergovernmental expert group meeting and to the Commission in its 1986 session for recommendations and follow-up. Policy-oriented technical publications, including guidelines on various technological aspects of shipping development, will be issued during the plan period to assist countries to derive the maximum benefit from new technologies. Technical assistance will be provided to member countries throughout the plan period for the application of the Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences and the International Convention on Multimodal Transport. A series of expert group meetings and workshops may be organized on the above-mentioned issues.

156. Land transport development: Correspondence and field missions will be conducted to follow-up the recommendations of the Commission in its 1984 session regarding the existing practices in road maintenance and the strategy for the standardization and completion of missing railway links. Policy-oriented studies containing proposals for the construction or improvement of certain road segments and/or railway lines will be prepared by 1985. Interregional and intraregional links will be emphasized. Studies on the development of the rural road network will be carried out by 1986 in the context of agricultural and rural development projects. These studies will be incorporated into the work of the divisions or departments concerned and also submitted to interested governmental authorities. Meetings and workshops will be organized on the standardization of land transport equipment.



157. Harmonization: As a follow-up to the report on measures to facilitate border crossings, draft procedures and/or a draft convention will be prepared by the end of 1985. Efforts will be made to promote the adoption of these instruments by the end of the plan period. The application of regional and international conventions will continue to be promoted through advisory services and technical assistance as well as through meetings and workshops on transport harmonization and standardization. Co-operation with ECE, ECA and ESCAP will be established during the second half of the plan period.

158. Training: A report on training needs in the field of transport will be submitted to an intergovernmental meeting in 1985. It is expected that one regional training institution will be established and two existing training centres will be upgraded during the second half of the plan period as a result of the decisions adopted at that meeting. The training activities envisaged will serve both maritime and land transport. Co-operation with UNDP and UNCTAD will be sustained within the TRAINMAR project. Co-operation with UNDP, UNCTAD, IMCO, ILO AND IBRD and other international and regional organizations in the various fields of transport training will be explored and utilized.

159. Information: Publication of a transport bulletin may be started by 1985. The regional data base will be further improved through the regular compilation of information. This will include the preparation of a uniform data collection system for port statistics by 1986. Maximum possible co-operation and co-ordination will be established with the ESCAP secretariat in order to achieve the objectives of the Transport and Communications Decade, 1985-1994.

## SUBPROGRAMME 2. COMMUNICATIONS

### (a) Legislative authority

160. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 3202 (S-VI), section VII, paragraph 1(h) and 3362 (S-VII), section VI, paragraph 2(a); Economic and Social Council resolutions 183/66, 1983/69; Buenos Aires Plan of Action, recommendation 30; United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, resolution 3, paragraph 3; A/35/464, paragraphs 30, 132 and 143.

(b) Objectives

161. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to expand and improve the quality and efficiency of communication services (telecommunications and postal services) particularly among developing countries in the ECWA region; and to implement the UNDP International Telecommunication Union (ITU) master plan for the Middle East and Mediterranean telecommunication network; to promote the Transportation and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 in order to implement the action plan for the Decade in Western Asia.
- (ii) General objective of the secretariat: to assist member countries in the expansion and improvement of communication services and to promote training facilities in the communications field. Maximum possible co-operation and co-ordination will be established with the ESCAP secretariat in order to achieve the objectives of the Transport and Communications Decade, especially in the field of telecommunications and to promote interregional co-operation.

(c) Problem addressed

162. The countries of the ECWA region are undergoing a massive restructuring of their physical infrastructure of which telecommunications form a vital part. ITU, in co-operation with UNDP, has prepared the Master Plan for the Middle East and Mediterranean Telecommunications Network to cover all the ECWA countries, which the latter have agreed to take as a basis for any further related studies undertaken by administrations and regional organizations. The successful implementation of the Master Plan requires the strengthening of regional co-operation efforts in the telecommunication field and the training of an increasing number of qualified personnel.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

163. A study providing an assessment of the work of the existing institutional telecommunication framework, and recommendations on how that work could best be organized with a view to the efficient implementation of the Master Plan, will be carried out by 1986. Advisory services and assistance will be provided to Governments in implementing the recommendations of the Co-ordination Committee for the Follow-up Action in the Implementation of the Master Plan. Moreover, it is expected that workshops on the standardization of equipment and systems will be held. In addition, proposals for the establishment of train-

ing facilities in the planning and operation of communications services (including postal services) for the region will be formulated by 1985. These proposals could be integrated with the activities related to the establishment of a regional transport institution such that the institution might cover transport and communications aspects. Reports on the formulation of standard tariffs and charges for regional users will be prepared.

#### B. Organization

164. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last meeting was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Experts Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan in May 1982. The plan was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

165. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division, in which there were seven Professional posts authorized as at 1 January 1984.

PROGRAMME 13. TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (UNITED NATIONS CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ITS JOINT UNITS WITH THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS)

A. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME 1. SECURING AN EFFECTIVE CODE OF CONDUCT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS RELATING TO TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

(a) Legislative authority

166. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Economic and Social Council resolutions 1913 (LVII), paragraph 6(c); 1961 (LIX); 1980/60, paragraphs 5 and 7; and General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, paragraph 70.

(b) Objectives

167. The objectives of this programme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: To prevent, with a view to eliminating, the negative effects of the activities of transnational corporations and to promote the positive contribution of transnational corporations to the development efforts of the developing countries, consistent with the national development plans and priorities of those countries by: (a) implementing, monitoring and reviewing the code of conduct relating to transnational corporations; (b) harmonization of international standards of accounting and reporting; (c) formulating and adopting an international agreement on illicit payments; (d) formulating and adopting other international arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations.

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to provide the substantive support for the implementation, monitoring and review of the code of conduct; to assist Governments in disseminating and publicizing the code of conduct; to service and provide substantive support to intergovernmental bodies working for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of other international arrangements and agreements; to conduct

work aimed at identifying areas for other international arrangements and agreements.

(c) Problem addressed

168. Given the fact that the activities and implications of transnational corporations transcend national boundaries and jurisdiction, the international community has recognized the important need to secure an effective code of conduct related to transnational corporations aimed at minimizing or eliminating the negative effects of their activities and maximizing their contribution to development, and thereby strengthening the capability of host and, in particular, developing countries in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations. The code of conduct, although comprehensive in scope, does not provide detailed provisions for all areas related to transnational corporations. Some aspects of their operations are of such a specific and technical nature that the general norms contained in the code of conduct might prove to be inadequate, therefore requiring the formulation of additional international arrangements or agreements. The periodical reviews of the effectiveness of the code of conduct will allow for the identification of such areas not covered by the code.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

169. The code of conduct related to transnational corporations, including its implementation procedures, is expected to have been adopted by 1984. However, developments in respect of the timing or of the contents of the objectives and strategies of the Secretariat cannot be safely predicted since this will depend on decisions by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. Furthermore, it is not yet clear which procedure will be followed for its adoption; nor has it been decided which specific tasks will be entrusted to the secretariat. It is, however, likely that decisions of the intergovernmental body in this regard will entail the active involvement of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations in the implementation review procedure of the code of conduct.

170. The Commission on Transnational Corporations, assisted by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the code of conduct related to transnational corporations. The function of the Centre will be to disseminate information on, and increase awareness of, the code of conduct and to undertake such other activities as relate to follow-up and revisions of the code.

171. Some arrangements on international standards of accounting and reporting, and possibly also on illicit payments, may be close to finalization by 1984. Other areas on which international arrangements and agreements could usefully be prepared may have been identified by the appropriate intergovernmental body by that time.

172. During the plan period, follow-up activities related to international standards of accounting and reporting, and possibly to the agreement on illicit payments, may be mandated and undertaken. These activities will enhance awareness of the arrangements, monitor their observance, facilitate consultations related to their implementation and provide support and service for their revision. The Centre will provide substantive support to intergovernmental bodies concerned through the preparation of background documents and conference papers, and other support services with respect to any other related international arrangements and agreements under preparation. The Centre will also undertake studies aimed at identifying other areas in which international arrangements or agreements might usefully be prepared.

173. The Joint Units would assist the Centre in the dissemination of information on the code of conduct and other international arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations in their respective regions, by means of organizing round-tables, seminars, lectures and briefings.

**SUBPROGRAMME 2. MINIMIZING THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF  
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ENHANCING  
THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT**

**(a) Legislative authority**

174. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Economic and Social Council resolutions 1913 (LVII), paragraph 4; 1961 (LIX), 1980/60, paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 9; and General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, paragraph 70.

**(b) Objectives**

175. The objectives of the subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives:** to minimize the negative effects of activities of transnational corporations and enhance the contribution to development; to further the understanding of the role and impact

of transnational corporations in world development, including matters related to industrialization, financial resources, commodities, trade, science and technology and food and agriculture.

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: (a) to support the efforts of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Transnational Corporations and other intergovernmental bodies and conferences in minimizing the negative effects of activities of transnational corporations and enhancing their contribution to development; (b) to assist Governments, particularly those of developing countries by analysing: the trends in the activities of transnational corporations and their impact on world development with particular reference to the New International Economic Order and the International Development Strategy; the impact and implications of the activities of transnational corporations on host countries, in particular developing countries, including as concerns economic, political, social and cultural issues; capital inflows and outflows and transfer of technology through transnational corporations; the effectiveness of existing national policies, laws and regulations on matters related to transnational corporations; the role and impact of transnational corporations in major sectors, and describing transnational corporations in these sectors; the effectiveness of contracts and agreements between host country entities and transnational corporations; structures and strategies of transnational corporations; linkages between host countries and activities of transnational corporations; (c) to organize seminars and other meetings in different regions aimed at disseminating the findings of its research and analysis and at examining ways of translating these findings into intergovernmental and governmental policies and measures.

(c) Problem addressed

176. There is a growing awareness in developing countries of the implications of the activities of transnational corporations, both in terms of their contribution by way of direct investment and the supply of technology and other services, and the negative effects of their activities, including the outflow of real resources, from developing countries. As a result, a growing and more selective relationship is evolving. Increasingly, host developing countries are seeking to harness the capabilities of transnational corporations in a manner consist-

ent with their development objectives and with a view to strengthening their indigenous capabilities and self-reliance. Given the fact that the interests and objectives of transnational corporations do not necessarily or automatically coincide with those of host countries, Governments have recognized the need to adopt a combination of measures and means aimed at minimizing the costs related to the activities of transnational corporations and maximizing the benefits. Developing countries are enacting national policies and legislation covering the whole range of issues related to transnational corporations, formulating more clearly-defined objectives, developing or strengthening their institutional arrangements and procedures for screening and monitoring projects, and seeking a variety of equity and non-equity forms of arrangements. The international community has stressed the need for the United Nations to support international and national efforts in these areas by undertaking research and analysis and proposing recommendations aimed at assisting Governments in devising more effective policies and measures with a view to enhancing the contribution and minimizing the negative effects of activities of transnational corporations on development.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

177. The Centre will undertake research and analysis, including country, field and case studies, on issues assigned to it by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission, as well as in the following areas: the role of transnational corporations in industrialization, raw material production and processing through linkages with the domestic economy; the role of transnational corporations in production, processing and exporting in selected countries and major sectors; a comprehensive, integrated study of transnational corporations in world development; aspects of the economic, political, social and cultural impact of transnational corporations; the role of transnational corporations in international financial transfers and balance of payments; and in trade, including intra-firm transactions and transfer pricing; and implementation of policies and measures to strengthen the negotiating capacity of developing, particularly least developed countries; the role of transnational corporations in the transfer of technology and services, including management and marketing; and impact of transnational corporations in various sectors, and information on individual transnational corporations in these sectors; the effectiveness of laws and regulations in selected countries; and the changing patterns of various types of contracts and agreements in various sectors.

178. The Joint Units will undertake case studies, including the development, in collaboration with the Centre, of specific methodologies for the following projects: transnational corporations



and linkages in host countries; integrated study of transnational corporations in world development; transnational corporations in selected regions and industry sectors; international financial transfers; balance of payments; intra-firm trade and transfer pricing; implementation of policies and measures to strengthen the negotiating capacity of developing countries. The Joint Units will also undertake studies on request of their respective regional commissions. The Joint Units will also assist the Centre in organizing seminars and other meetings referred to above.

**SUBPROGRAMME 3. STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITY OF HOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN DEALING WITH MATTERS RELATED TO TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS**

**(a) Legislative authority**

179. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Economic and Social Council resolutions 1913 (LVII), paragraph 4; 1961 (LIX), and 1980/60, paragraphs 3 and 9; and decision 180 (LXI); subparagraph (b). See also the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its second session.

**(b) Objectives**

180. The objectives of the subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objective:** to strengthen the capability of host countries, particularly developing countries, in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations.
- (ii) General objectives of the secretariat:** (a) to assist Governments in the examination of policy options related to transnational corporations either at the overall level, in specific sectors or in connection with specific issues such as ownership and control, acquisition of technology, fiscal and financial questions and transfer pricing; (b) to assist Governments in the formulation or revision of laws and regulations related to the activities of transnational corporations either in general or in specific sectors (e.g., natural resources), or on specific issues (e.g., transfer pricing); (c) to assist Governments in elaborating or strengthening evaluation, screening and monitoring guidelines for projects

involving equity or non-equity participation of transnational corporations, as well as in developing or strengthening relevant governmental infrastructure, procedures and information systems in this regard; (d) to assist Governments in evaluating, within the context of specific projects, the alternative merits of various types of contractual arrangements such as joint ventures, licensing, management contracts and production-sharing agreements; (e) to assist Governments on legal, financial, economic and operational issues related to specific contractual arrangements with transnational corporations, in the natural resources, manufacturing or service sectors; (f) to assist Governments by providing staff support in preparation for negotiations; (g) to organize and conduct training workshops, seminars, round-tables and study tours on matters related to regulating and negotiating with transnational corporations; (h) to assist Governments in developing or strengthening national information systems related to transnational corporations; (i) to collect and disseminate information on laws and regulations, individual transnational corporations, contracts and agreements and other data sources; (j) to respond to requests from Governments for information on matters related to transnational corporations; (k) to assist existing institutions of higher learning of developing countries in developing interdisciplinary programmes of training on matters related to transnational corporations.

(c) Problem addressed

181. In order to maximize the contribution of transnational corporations and minimize the negative effects of their activities, Governments have recognized the need to regulate and control the participation of transnational corporations in national development efforts through a variety of interrelated measures. Increasingly, host developing countries are seeking a more selective relationship with transnational corporations by channelling their participation in such sectors and forms as will strengthen their domestic capabilities. To this end, a growing number of developing countries are enacting national policies and regulations on the whole range of issues related to transnational corporations, formulating more clearly-defined objectives, evolving screening and monitoring procedures and guidelines, developing information systems, establishing institutional arrangements for dealing with matters related to transnational corporations and endeavouring to strengthen their negotiations with them.

182. The international community has, on numerous occasions, called for urgent support for such national efforts through direct assistance in the form of advisory, training and information services. Judging from the rapidly increasing number of requests being received, it is clear that such assistance responds to a felt need of Governments.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

183. During the period up to the end of 1983 under this subprogramme approximately 450 advisory projects have been implemented; 100 workshops have been conducted; 15 existing institutions of higher learning in developing countries have received assistance in developing and conducting interdisciplinary programmes of training on matters related to transnational corporations; 15 Governments have received assistance in developing or strengthening their national information systems; 30 fellowships have been awarded; and 400 requests for information by Governments have been answered. Requesting Governments are provided with a roster of experts, established on a wide geographical basis, with practical experience in various sectors and issues relating to transnational corporations and developing countries.

184. The Joint Units between the Centre and the regional commissions participate actively in the development and execution of projects under this subprogramme. The Joint Units are intimately involved in meetings with senior government officials, organized at the regional or subregional levels, aimed at identifying government priority needs for technical co-operation on matters related to transnational corporations. Through their own contacts with Governments of their respective regions, the Joint Units also are an important channel through which government requests are identified. The Joint Units also co-operate in the execution of projects, and in particular workshops, in a manner which varies depending on the specific requirements of individual projects. The Joint Units also co-operate with the Centre in collecting and disseminating information on matters related to transnational corporations.

185. The subprogramme will continue to provide the services described in the objectives above, and it is expected that the number of requesting Governments and of projects will continue to increase in all areas. Since the requests for assistance which will be received are indirectly geared to specific developments in individual countries at any given point in time, it is not possible to anticipate the precise issues on which advisory, training or information services will be sought. While the number of requests for advisory services related to national laws, regulations and institutional arrangements and procedures for screening and monitoring are expected to remain significant,

most of the requests for advisory services are likely to deal with arrangements with transnational corporations in specific projects in the natural resources, manufacturing and service sectors. An increasing number of training workshops are expected to focus on regulating and negotiating with transnational corporations in specific natural resources, manufacturing and service sectors as well as on specific issues such as acquisition of technology, transfer pricing and various forms of contractual arrangements. During this period, it is also expected that assistance to institutions of higher learning will be intensified and broadened to cover a larger number in all developing regions. Requests for information, particularly relating to individual transnational corporations and contractual arrangements, are expected to increase significantly. The Joint Units will continue to be closely associated in the implementation of this subprogramme.

#### B. Organization

186. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Commission on Transnational Corporations, which meets every year. The last meeting was the seventh session, held from 31 August to 14 September 1981, at which a draft of this plan was reviewed.

187. Secretariat: the secretariat units responsible for this programme are the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and its Joint Units with the regional commissions, in which there were 50 professional posts as at 1 January 1982, 4 of which were supported from extrabudgetary sources.

## PROGRAMME 14. ENERGY ISSUES IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogrammes

## SUBPROGRAMME 1. ENERGY PLANNING

(a) Legislative authority

188. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is the Nairobi Programme of Action, paragraphs 71 and 72; and Commission resolution 94(VIII).

(b) Objectives

189. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective: To assess and plan energy needs at all national, regional and international levels;

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: To develop and encourage the implementation of the techniques of energy planning, and to encourage the integration of energy planning with other national and regional plans such as economic development planning and environmental planning.

(c) Problem addressed

190. Energy plays a major role in economic development plans and is a prerequisite for agricultural and industrial expansion. The demand for energy in the ECWA region is forecast to increase significantly over the next few decades. It is therefore essential that comprehensive energy plans on both the demand and the supply side should be drawn up to ensure that energy requirements are met in the most efficient way.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

191. During the period, the report on energy planning methodologies will be discussed at a meeting of national energy policy-makers from within the region. It is expected that reports on national experiences related to energy planning will be completed for each ECWA member country. At the same time, secretariat studies will be prepared on the implementation of energy plans and their integration with other economic plans. It is also hoped that, through the meetings and workshops, ECWA member countries will be able to formulate and implement national ener-

gy plans. Attempts will also be made to foster co-operation among member countries for the formulation of subregional and regional energy plans.

**SUBPROGRAMME 2. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION ON RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION OF NEW  
AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY**

**(a) Legislative authority**

192. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is the Nairobi Programme of Action, paragraph 71: and Commission resolution 94 (VIII).

**(b) Objectives**

193. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

**(i) Intergovernmental objective:** To assist countries in finding practical methods for developing the full potential of their energy resources, from exploration to processing and final consumption, through widening of the energy resource base, with special reference to the energy needs of rural and remote areas;

**(ii) General objectives of the Secretariat:** To promote regional co-operation on the research, development and demonstration of new and renewable sources of energy.

**(c) Problem addressed**

194. There is world-wide concern that energy resources and supply will not be sufficient to allow for the level of economic development that is desired during the 1980s. Secondly, the world is heavily dependent for its energy on depletable sources of hydrocarbons. It is therefore essential that early and significant action be taken to develop as far as possible alternative and renewable sources, such as solar energy and wind.

**(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989**

195. During the period, it will be necessary to draw up concrete measures for the promotion and application of new and renewable sources of energy. Such measures will undoubtedly require regional co-operation and joint financing. The scien-

tific and technical aspects of energy development will also have to be examined critically, as these represent a major problem for the ECWA region. Seminars, symposiums, workshops and training programmes will be devised to provide the region with scientific knowledge relating to the development of energy resources.

### SUBPROGRAMME 3. ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY

#### (a) Legislative authority

196. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is the Nairobi Programme of Action, paragraphs 27(a), 29(d), 36(a) (i), (b) (i), (c) (ii) and (iii), 38(a), 39(a) (iii), 40(a), (c) (i) and (ii), 42(a), 52(a) and (c), 72 and 73; Commission resolution 94(VIII).

#### (b) Objectives

197. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective: To reduce the wastage of depletable energy resources and to promote the maximum utilization possible and improvement in the state of the environment;

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: To find ways and means to improve the pattern of energy resource development, and to improve the efficiency in energy production, transmission and utilization.

#### (c) Problem addressed

198. Because of the concern about the high cost of energy supplies, the whole question of energy consumption must be analysed and ways must be found to raise the level of efficiency in energy consumption.

#### (d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

199. During the period, meetings of experts on energy consumption sectors will be held in order to prepare a plan for economizing energy consumption in the ECWA region. This plan will take into account the economic development and consequent energy demands in the region and provide targets for each energy sector. The economic savings from energy conservation will also be estimated since this is a major incentive in conservation schemes, and targets will be reviewed on a regular basis by a group of experts from ECWA member countries.

(b) Organization

200. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was held in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan, and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee for the Programme, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

201. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division in which there were six Professional posts for this programme under the regular budget authorized as at 1 January 1984.



PROGRAMME 15. ENVIRONMENT IN WESTERN ASIA

A. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME 1. ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS IN THE  
ECWA REGION

(a) Legislative authority

202. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is A/35/464, paragraphs 32, 36, 41, 42 and 156; Commission resolution 81 (VII); and Recommendations 22, 26, 45 and 53 of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

(b) Objectives

203. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to identify and control environmental problems and to prevent the environmental deterioration often associated with development;

(ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to promote an awareness of major environmental problems in the region, with a view to assisting member States in identifying and controlling them; to study and keep under constant review the state of the environment in the ECWA region, with special emphasis on the interrelation between development and environment; to encourage as many member States as possible to build the necessary institutional structures to safeguard the environment; and to promote the development and application of environmentally-sound and appropriate technology.

(c) Problem addressed

204. The environmental implications of poverty and underdevelopment and the interrelationships between development, environment, population and resources must be taken into account in the process of development.

205. Most of the ECWA countries have adopted the pattern of development and the lifestyle of developed countries, and this has had adverse consequences on their rural and urban struc-

tures. Problems associated with the development process, including industrialization and the management of natural resources, are of special concern. The activities in these sectors will have their effects upon the depletion of non-renewable natural resources and the deterioration of renewable ones.

206. Many ECWA countries suffer from a number of environmental problems, such as desertification and pollution related to the processing of oil and rapid urbanization. They do not have adequate and co-ordinated institutional arrangements for dealing with these environmental problems. The impact of development activities on the environment depends to a great extent on the type of technology used. Usually developing countries tend to use the most advanced technologies which in fact may not be the most environmentally appropriate ones.

#### (d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

207. Surveys will be carried out in member States, in order to identify the major sources of pollution and to increase the awareness of them. In-depth studies will be carried out on ways and means of monitoring and controlling those sources. Research on methodologies and guidelines for improving decision-making on development as it relates to the environment, including the utilization of natural resources, adaptive environmental assessment, alternative patterns of development and lifestyles, including patterns of production and consumption, will be undertaken.

208. Advisory services will be provided to assist the member States in strengthening the creation and management of the necessary national institutional arrangements to deal with national environmental problems. It is hoped that, at the end of the period of the plan, the majority of the member States will have viable environmental planning structures and that their development plans will have explicit environmental considerations built into them.

209. In collaboration with ECWAs substantive divisions and units, the environmental programme of ECWA will promote and participate in developing joint activities on selected priority areas with a view to incorporating environmental dimensions into development projects at the planning and implementation stages; it will undertake studies on traditional technologies with a view to promoting their use, and it will participate in the preparation of manuals on methodologies for the selection, application and assessment of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies.

## B. Organization

210. Intergovernmental review: The work of the secretariat in this programme has been reviewed each year by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its annual session. The last session was in May 1983. The draft medium-term plan was reviewed by the ECWA Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-Term Plan and it was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. A Standing Committee, functioning as a main subsidiary organ of the Commission, will undertake future reviews of the plan. The Committee will meet once a year.

211. Secretariat: The secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Environment Co-ordination Unit attached to the Programme Planning and Co-ordination Unit. There were three Professional posts for this programme authorized as at 1 January 1984, two of which were contributed by UNEP.