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FOR WESTERN ASIA

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UNITED NATIONS REGION

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

**PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME
FOR THE PERIOD 1986-1987**

Programme performance and proposed modifications

The year 1986 recorded a high percentage of implementation in the work programme for the period 1986-1987. The ESCWA secretariat completed 37 out of 43 outputs originally planned to be completed in 1986. This includes the completion of 8 out of 10 outputs carried over from the last biennium and 29 out of 33 planned outputs for 1986. The implementation rate for 1986 was 86 per cent. Furthermore, an additional 61 outputs were at various stages of progress in 1986. When combined, the progress made in the implementation of the total outputs planned for the biennium is estimated at 40 per cent.^{1/}

The performance of ESCWA in 1986 should be regarded as significant in the light of the high vacancy rate under the substantive programmes which reached about 36 per cent by the end of 1986. Table 3 indicates the vacancy situation in 1986 by programme.

The improved programme performance in 1986 was realized through increased efforts of ESCWA staff on board, in management and the resort to consultancies financed by extrabudgetary funds, particularly under programmes with high vacancy rates. However, this is a temporary arrangement which cannot continue because of the near exhaustion of available extrabudgetary funds.

A number of changes were undertaken in the biennial programme in response to ESCWA resolution 142(XIII), entitled "Programme of work and priorities for the period 1986-1987 and adopted on 24 April 1986. These changes are reported at this session in document E/ESCWA/C.1/14/4(Part I). Other changes are proposed for your consideration. They include outputs postponed to 1988/1989 and terminations of outputs of marginal usefulness. Such outputs were identified in the context of preparations of the proposed 1988/1989 programme budget. Furthermore, owing to the high vacancy rate and the persistence of the United Nations financial crisis, which is expected to result in budgetary cuts and the continuation of the freeze on recruitment, it was necessary to introduce a few additional modifications in the programmed outputs. Upon careful study of resource availability and programme priorities, 12 outputs were identified for termination and 7 for postponement until the next biennium. Other modifications consisted mainly of reduction in scope and coverage of 4 outputs and the reformulation of 2.

All the above-mentioned proposals were grouped and summarized in the annex to this document. The proposals represent the minimum modifications required in order to avoid "carry-over" activities in the next biennium and to ensure a full implementation of the revised programme.

^{1/} Table 1 indicates the status of programme performance including programme changes by end-1986 while table 2 reflects the status or degree of progress achieved in the implementation of the 1986-1987 biennial programme by end-1986.

Table 1. Status of programme performance of the 1986-1987 programme budget by end-December 1986

Programme	planned for 1986-1987 ^{a/}	Terminated ^{b/}	Added by legislation ^{b/}	Total Number expected outputs for 1986-1987 ^{c/}	Implementation during 1986			Not commenced by end 1986
					Total planned for 1986	Completed in 1986	In progress by end-1986	
Food and Agriculture	13*	-	-	13*	4	4	7*	2
Development Issues and Policies	11+2	-	-	11+2	5+2	6	2	5
Environment in Western Asia	2*	1	-	1*	1	-	1*	-
Human Settlements	15*+3	-	-	15*+3	2+3	4	6*	8
Industrial Development	12+1	-	1	13+1	3+1	3	10	1
International Trade and Development Finance	3	-	-	3	1	1	1	1
Natural Resources	3	-	-	3	-	-	3	-
Population	16	2	4	18	6	3	8	7
Public Administration and Finance	4+1	-	-	4+1	1+1	2	2	1
Science and Technology	6+1	-	-	6+1	1	1	2+1	3
Social Development	5*+1	-	-	5*+1	1+1	-	3*+1	2
Statistics	13*	-	-	13	5	5	2*	6
Transport and Communications	10*	1	2	11	2	3	5	3
Energy Issues	7+1	-	1	8+1	1+1	4	5	-
Transnational Corporations	6	-	-	6	1	1	2	3
Total	126+10	4	8	130+10	33+10	37	59+2	42

* Excluding those technical assistance outputs which are of a continuous nature (not specified). These include activities under Food and Agriculture, Environment, Human Settlements, Social Development, Statistics and Transport. However, activities under Transport were reformulated into a technical publication.

^{a/} Outputs carried over from the 1984-1985 biennium are mentioned separately as additionally planned outputs and denoted by a + sign.

^{b/} Outputs terminated or added by legislation refer to ESCWA resolution 142(XIII) except for one output added in response to Economic and Social Council decision 1985/177 and ESCWA resolution 145(XIII).

^{c/} Excluding three outputs undertaken at the initiative of the secretariat under P.E. 3.2 in Industrial Development, P.E. 1.1 in Trade and P.E. 2.2 in Energy.

Table 2. Progress achieved in the implementation of 1986-1987 work programme by 31 December 1986

Programme	Total number of expected outputs for 1986-1987 ^{a/}	Number of outputs in progress classified by percentage completions				Outputs not commenced	Outputs completed
		1-25	26-50	51-75	76-99		
Food and Agriculture	13 ^{b/}	2	5	-	-	2	4
Development Issues and Policies	13	-	1	1	-	5	6
Environment in Western Asia	1 ^{a/}	-	-	1	-	-	-
Human Settlements	18 ^{b/}	2	2	-	2	8	4
Industrial Development	14	3	4	2	1	1	3
International Trade and Development Finance	3	-	1	-	-	1	1
Natural Resources	3	2	-	1	-	-	-
Population	18	3	4	-	1	7	3
Public Administration and Finance	5	2	-	-	-	1	2
Science and Technology	7	1	2	-	-	3	1
Social Development	6 ^{b/}	-	-	3	1	2	-
Statistics	13 ^{b/}	2	-	-	-	6	5
Transport and Communications	11	2	2	-	1	3	3
Energy Issues	9	1	2	-	2	-	4
Transnational Corporations	6	-	1	1	-	3	1
Total	140	20	24	9	8	42	37
Percentage	100	14.3	17.1	6.4	5.7	30.0	26.5

a/ Excluding those Technical Assistance outputs which are of a continuous nature (not codified).

b/ The total expected number of outputs include "carry-over" outputs from the previous biennium, and additional outputs, as well as terminations in response to ESCWA resolution 142(XIII). It corresponds to column 4 in table 1.

Table 3. Resources required and resources available in 1986
 (Professional staff)

Programme	Resources planned for 1986 in work-months	Resources available in 1986 in work-months	Vacancies in 1986 in work-months	Vacancy rate percentage
Food and agriculture	120	91	29	24
Development Issues and Policies	84	60	24	29
Environment in Western Asia	24	1.2	1.2	50
Human Settlements	84	62	22	27
Industrial Development	120	72	48	40
International Trade and Development Finance	24	24	0	0
Natural Resources	24	1.2	1.2	50
Population	108	56	52	48
Public Administration and Finance	24	1.2	1.2	50
Science and Technology	48	1.2	36	75
Social Development	48	38	10	21
Statistics	72	54	18	25
Transport and Communications	84	41	43	51
Energy Issues	60	51	9	15
Transnational Corporations	24	1.2	1.2	50
Total	948	609	339	36

Annex

Summary of proposed modifications in the 1986-1987 programme budget

A. Proposals for termination

1. Food and Agriculture

Programme element 2.2 output:
Technical publication: Prospects and feasibility of setting up a regional early warning system. Case-studies in three selected countries (fourth quarter 1987).

To be terminated due to unavailability of extra-budgetary funds originally foreseen for its implementation, and the vacancy situation in the programme.

2. Development Issues and Policies

Programme element 3.1 output (ii):
Technical publications; Studies on Development problems in countries of Western Asia (second quarter 1986 and first quarter 1987).

To be terminated due to the vacancy situation in the programme and the freeze on recruitment.

3. Human Settlements

(a) Programme element 1.1 output:
Technical publication: Assessment of indicators and trends for planning in human settlements in the ESCWA region (second quarter 1987).

It was identified for termination in the context of preparations for the 1988/1989 programme budget due to its low priority and the coverage of its components under programme element 1.2.

(b) Programme element 3.1 output (iii):
Report to the Commission on assistance to member States regarding the improvement of building materials industries (fourth quarter 1987).

To be terminated due to vacancies and the freeze on recruitment.

4. Population

Programme element 2.1 output:
Technical publication: Review and appraisal of national population policies and measures in the ESCWA region (fourth quarter 1986).

To be terminated due to UNFPA withdrawal of funds originally committed to implement this programme element.

5. Public Finance

Programme element 1.2 Output:
Technical publication: Pilot case-study on the role of public enterprise in promoting economic growth with particular reference to capital formation, output and employment (fourth quarter 1987).

To be terminated due to the vacancy situation in the programme. Highest priority was accorded to a reformulated output under programme element 1.3 in response to ESCWA resolution 142(XIII) which deals with a study of the current situation and prospects of Arab banks in the light of the changing economic conditions.

6. Statistics

Programme element 3.2 output:
Technical publication: Study on population censuses (fourth quarter 1987).

To be terminated due to its low priority and relocation of resources to higher priority outputs due to vacancy.

7. Transport and Communications

(a) Programme element 1.3 output (i)(a):
Technical publication: Study on rural road network in selected countries in Western Asia (first quarter 1987).

This output was identified for termination within the context of preparations for the 1988-1989 work programme due to its marginal usefulness and relocation of resources to higher priority outputs due to vacancy.

(b) Programme element 1.5 output:
Technical publication: Transport Bulletin No. 1 (fourth quarter 1986) and No. 2 (fourth quarter 1987).

This programme element has been proposed for termination within the context of preparations for the 1988/1989 work programme due to the vacancy situation in the programme.

8. Transnational Corporations

Programme element 4.14 output (ii):
Technical publication on assessment of laws and regulations relating to transnational corporations in Western Asia (fourth quarter 1987).

To be terminated due to post vacancy and freeze on recruitment.

B. Proposals for postponement

1. Human Settlements

- (a) Programme element 3.1 output (i):
Report to the Commission on
assessment of alternative energy-
saving building materials and
housing designs in selected
countries of the ESCWA region
(third quarter 1986).
To be postponed until next
biennium due to delays in
approving the relevant project
by the French Energy Agency and
the Government of the Yemen
Arab Republic.
- (b) Programme element 4.1 output:
Technical publication on survey
and evaluation of the existing
situation regarding prefabrication
in selected countries
(third quarter 1987).
This output was reprogrammed in
the 1988-1989 work programme
under programme element 4.1.
It has been postponed due to the
reintroduction of a programme
element from the previous
biennium upon the request of
the Committee for Programme
and Co-ordination and the
unavailability of the required
expertise.

2. Industrial Development

- Programme element 3.1 output (iii):
Technical publication on identification
and promotion of capital goods
(fourth quarter 1987).
The elements of this output
dealing with food processing
and oil drilling equipment have
been reprogrammed in the 1988-
1989 work programme under
programme element 3.1 output
(ii) (a) and (b) due to a
vacancy situation.

3. Science and Technology

- (a) Programme element 1.2: Role of
financial institutions and
development of endogenous
scientific and technological
capabilities.
This programme element which
includes two outputs was
reprogrammed in the 1988-1989
work programme under programme
element 1.2. Resources
originally allocated to this
programme element have been
redeployed to implement outputs
carried over from the 1984-1985
biennium. The "carry-over"
activity is a prerequisite for
the implementation of this
programme element. It consists
of an intergovernmental meeting
on strengthening research and
development capacity and
linkages with the production
sector in the region.

(b) Programme element 2.2: Role of the public sector in the transfer and endogenization of technology.

This programme element which includes one output has been reprogrammed in the 1988-1989 work programme under programme element 2.2. Its postponement is due to a vacancy situation.

4. Statistics

Programme element 3.1 output (i): Compendium on social statistics (fourth quarter 1987).

This output was reprogrammed in the 1988-1989 work programme under programme element 3.1. Its postponement is due to the vacancy situation in the programme.

C. Other proposals

1. Industrial Development

Programme element 3.1 output (iii) on identification and promotion of capital goods (fourth quarter 1987).

To be reduced in scope to cover the aspects related to cement mill equipment only. Other aspects relating to food processing and oil drilling equipment will be postponed until the next biennium as mentioned above.

2. Natural Resources

Programme element 1.1 output (i): Technical publication on planning of development and conservation of water resources for urban and rural water supply in selected ESCWA countries (fourth quarter 1987).

To be reduced in scope and coverage to cover planning of development and conservation of water resources in a few selected ESCWA countries. This modification is due to vacancies.

3. Social Development

Programme element 1.1 output:
Technical publication on trends in
social integration in four countries
of the region (fourth quarter 1987).

This output is to be expanded
in scope to include work carried
over from the 1984-1985 biennium
dealing with trends in social
planning and change. The two
outputs will be integrated into
one study on "Major trends in
social development with special
emphasis on developmental social
welfare policies" covering all
ESCWA countries, instead of four
selected countries.

4. Science and Technology

(a) Programme element 2.1 output (i):
Technical publication: Review and
assessment of policies and modes
of technology transfer in selected
countries in the ESCWA region and
suggestions for improving the
efficiency of transfer processes
(fourth quarter 1987).

To be reduced in scope and
coverage due to the high
vacancy situation in the
programme.

(b) Programme element 1.2 output:
Report to and substantive servicing
of an intergovernmental meeting on
strengthening research and
development capacity and linkages
with the production sector in the
ESCWA region (second quarter 1985).

This "carry-over" activity is to
be reformulated into proceedings
of an expert meeting on streng-
thening research and development
capacity and linkages with the
production sector in the region.
The main reason for this
reformulation is the need for an
expert opinion on the subject.

5. Transnational Corporations

Programme element 4.8 output (i):
Technical publication: The operation of
transnational banks in Western Asia
(fourth quarter 1986).

To be reduced in coverage to
one country instead of three due
to the vacancy situation under
this programme.

