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FOR WESTERN ASIA

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# 1995 REPORT



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## **Foreword**

*When I joined ESCWA in early 1995, I was amazed at the number of publications the Commission was producing on the various aspects of the economic and social life of ESCWA member States. The one publication that seemed to be missing, however, was a public-oriented report on the activities of ESCWA itself. Naturally, ESCWA regularly submits reports on its activities to the various organs of the United Nations—the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat—as well as the ESCWA ministerial sessions. None of these reports, however, addresses the general reader who needs to know about the role and activities of the Commission.*

*Coming as I did from the banking sector, I found the non-existence of such a report at ESCWA strange. It is the practice of most private sector companies—foremost among them financial institutions—to produce annual reports that present their activities and, in particular, their financial statements. Such reports are usually a major source of information about company performance and, even more important, about financial creditworthiness as indicated by the bottom line. I realize that the United Nations is not a private institution that submits to the verdict of the market-place. It is, rather, an intergovernmental body subject to the more dignified—though not always convincing—mode of reporting accepted among bureaucratic and political bodies. Civil servants, whether national or international, usually shy away from publicity and the media.*

*Times have changed. Marketing and image-projecting are no longer important only to the private sector and to profit-making organizations. Today, they are prerequisites for the survival of all organizations, public and private. With the increase in public awareness and the information revolution, the legitimacy of any institution depends upon its acceptance*

*by public opinion. Even democratically elected governments cannot wait for periodic election-polls. They are judged instantly by public opinion and must provide their constituencies with continuous information on and justifications of their activities. The new name of the game is transparency and accountability.*

*Perhaps more than any other organization, the United Nations suffers from a lack of appropriate information about its activities. The image of the United Nations is currently being shaped by limited positive information. Moreover, this image is being distorted by misinformation and even disinformation. In the minds of many people, the United Nations is solely a political body involved in peace-keeping and security issues. The few setbacks it has experienced, in places such as Bosnia or Somalia, are sufficient to erode a great deal of the Organization's credibility.*

*The United Nations in general, and ESCWA in particular, cannot afford to present themselves and their work exclusively to member States; rather, it is imperative that the United Nations involve the entire spectrum of society, from parliamentarians to the various institutions of civil society, and from the private sector to pressure groups and non-governmental organizations. The United Nations owes it to itself and to the people of the world to provide information about its various activities in a more public-oriented and reader-friendly way.*

*It is in this spirit that I found it useful to address the public through the present report on ESCWA activities. This endeavour is the first of its kind for ESCWA, and it covers the activities undertaken by the Commission during 1995. Since ESCWA work programmes are planned biennially, the next report will cover the current biennium 1996-1997.*

*Rather than limit the report to a mere description of ESCWA activities during the year, I thought the report would be more useful to readers if it was highlighted by a critical assessment. We in ESCWA know many, but not all, of our shortcomings. We have an idea of where new orientations*



*can help. The final judges of our work remain, however, the member States for which ESCWA was established. This annual report was conceived to help those member States in their assessment of the work of ESCWA, and we look forward to receiving their comments and guidance.*



*Hazem El-Beblawi  
Executive Secretary*

*June 1996*



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## ABBREVIATIONS

ACSAD	Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
AFFI	Arab Federation for Food Industries
AGFUND	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations
AIDMO	Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization
AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
BGR	Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany
CAP	common agricultural policy
CARDNE	Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East
CAWTAR	Center of Arab Women for Training and Research
CDC	Cairo Demographic Centre
CEDARE	Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe
DESIPA	Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis
DPCSO	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	gross domestic product
GIS	Geographic Information System
Habitat	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
Habitat II	United Nations Conference on Human Settlements
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (Beirut)
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSTRAW	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union

## Abbreviations (*continued*)

JCEDAR	Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region
LAS	League of Arab States
MENA	Middle East/North Africa
NENARACA	Near East North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association
NGO	non-governmental organization
Papchild	Pan-Arab Child Health Project
S and T	Science and Technology
SEM	Single European Market
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESOB	United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

**Note:** References to dollars (\$) are to United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.





## **Chapter I**

### **The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**





# **I. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**

## **A. MANDATE**

The **Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)** was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 as the successor to the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (UNESOB). In 1985 the Commission was redesignated the **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**,<sup>1</sup> in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, in order to acknowledge more fully the social aspect of the Commission's activities. The majority of activities under the regular programme of work are regional in dimension. There are, however, a limited number of activities that are country-specific, but have regional implications.

The main functions of the ESCWA secretariat are as follows:

(a) To promote economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration, and to serve as the main general economic and social development forum within the United Nations system for the ESCWA region;

(b) To formulate and promote development assistance activities and projects commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region and to act as an executing agency for relevant operational projects;

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<sup>1</sup> The ESCWA members are Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

(c) To provide substantive secretariat services and documentation for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies;

(d) To organize conferences and intergovernmental and expert group meetings, sponsor training workshops, symposia and seminars, and carry out studies, research and surveys within the terms of reference of the Commission;

(e) To establish and develop statistical databases and information pertinent to the work of ESCWA, through the collection, compilation, standardization, evaluation, processing and dissemination of data to end-users and to assist member countries in improving data services;

(f) To coordinate ESCWA activities with those of the major departments/offices at United Nations Headquarters, the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental organizations, including the League of Arab States (LAS), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with a view to avoiding duplication and ensuring complementarity and exchange of information.

## **B. ESCWA WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

ESCWA is a part of the Secretariat of the United Nations and is one of the five regional commissions which report to the Economic and Social Council, the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for coordinating economic and social activities in the United Nations system. The other regional commissions are: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). ESCWA carries out its work at the Western Asia regional level.

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Since its establishment in 1974, the secretariat of ESCWA has been located in three different capitals: Beirut, Baghdad and now, temporarily, Amman. However, at its seventeenth ministerial session held in Amman in May 1994, the Commission decided by its resolution 197 (XVII) to move its permanent headquarters to Beirut. Negotiations between ESCWA and the Government of Lebanon are currently under way in this regard.

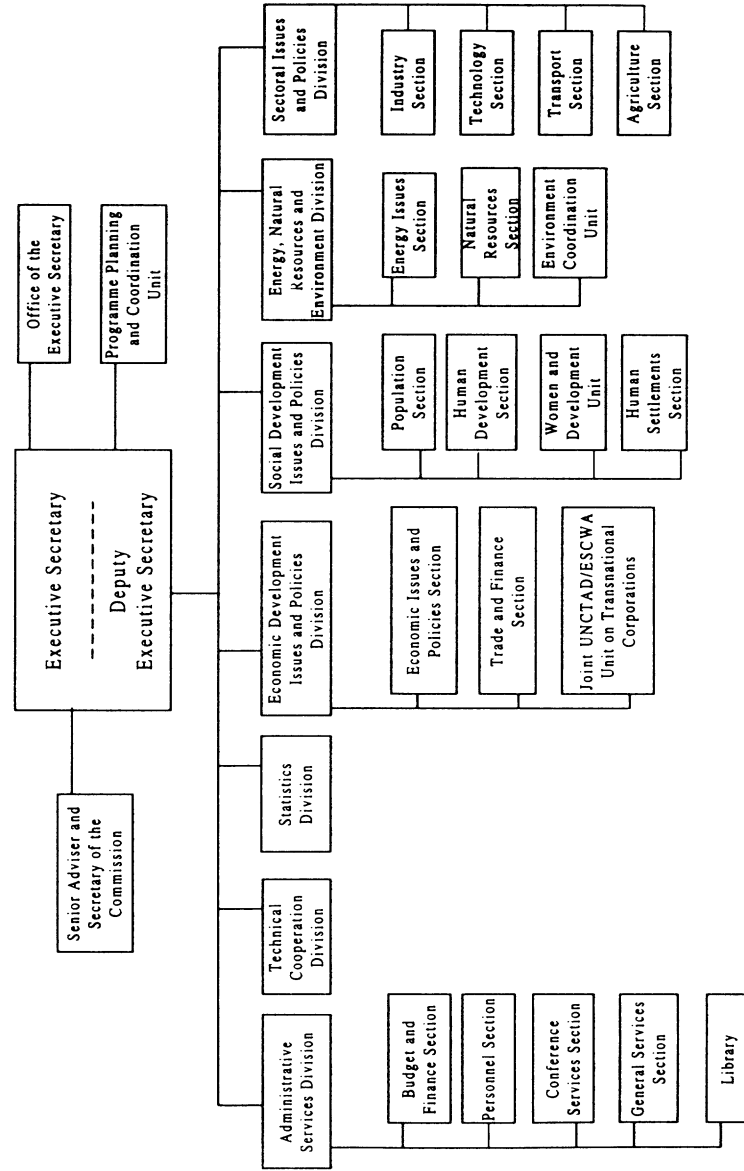
### **C. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The organizational structure of ESCWA is outlined in the chart below.

ESCWA carries out its technical and substantive activities in the economic and social fields through its substantive divisions and regional advisers. The substantive divisions are: the Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division; the Economic Development Issues and Policies Division; the Social Development Issues and Policies Division; the Sectoral Issues and Policies Division; and the Statistics Division.

The Technical Cooperation Division provides regional advisory support services and promotes development assistance activities and projects in line with the needs and priorities of the region, while the Administrative Services Division provides administrative support services in the areas of conference servicing; human resources management; budget and finance; and general services related to building management, electronic data processing, procurement, communications and records management, and security and safety.

**CHART. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**



**D. GOVERNING BODY AND SPECIALIZED SUBSIDIARY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

The **ministerial session** of ESCWA is the governing body of the Commission. The session is held every two years, in accordance with ESCWA resolution 196 (XVII) on the frequency of sessions of the Commission and the Technical Committee. It is assisted by the specialized subsidiary intergovernmental bodies listed below, which serve as points of interaction on programmatic issues between the specialists of the member States and the substantive staff of the ESCWA secretariat.

The Standing Committee for the Programme, the main subsidiary body of the Commission, was established by ECWA resolution 114 (IX) of 12 May 1982 on the ECWA medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. The Standing Committee was subsequently redesignated as the **Technical Committee** by ECWA resolution 125 (XI) of 26 April 1984 on the general policy-making structure of the Commission.

There are four specialized subsidiary **inter-governmental committees** that report to the Technical Committee, which meets every two years in conjunction with the sessions of the Commission, in accordance with ESCWA resolution 196 (XVII). The four committees are listed below:

(a) The **Statistical Committee**, established by ESCWA resolution 179 (XVI) of 2 September 1992, had its first session in November 1995 and will meet every two years thereafter;

(b) The **Committee on Social Development**, established by ESCWA resolution 198 (XVII) of 31 May 1994, is scheduled to meet every two years starting in 1997;

(c) The **Committee on Energy**, established by ESCWA resolution 204 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, is scheduled to meet every two years starting in 1997;

(d) The **Committee on Water Resources**, established by ESCWA resolution 205 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, is scheduled to meet every two years starting in 1997.

The above committees were established to assist the Commission in formulating its work programme in their respective areas of competence.

### **E. OTHER BODIES**

The **Advisory Committee** was established by ESCWA resolution 175 (XV) of 18 May 1989 on strengthening of the role and performance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. This Committee, consisting of heads of diplomatic missions in the host country of the Commission, as well as a representative of the host country, serves in a consultative capacity and is a major point of interaction among member States and between them and the ESCWA secretariat on important issues and events that take place between the biennial sessions of the Commission. The Advisory Committee was reactivated in 1995, and a meeting of the Committee was held in Amman in May 1995. The mandate of the Committee was amended by ESCWA resolution 208 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 to expand the membership so as to ensure the participation of a high-level official from the host country.

The **Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating Group** was established in April 1995 to strengthen coordination at the regional level and identify modalities for this purpose. The Group comprises representatives of United Nations regional offices. So far, the Group has met three times in Amman:



an informal meeting was held in April 1995, and two formal meetings were held in October 1995 and January 1996.

During the last two meetings, the Group agreed to share information about the United Nations; identify common action to be taken to assist the United Nations during this period of financial crisis; and identify possible areas for joint activities. The Group established a task force on gender issues and agreed to establish other task forces on specific issues as required.

#### **Box 1. Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating Group**

In response to requests made by States Members of the United Nations and by the Secretary-General for closer coordination among institutions of the United Nations system, heads of departments and agencies and senior officials have been establishing mechanisms for coordination at the regional and country levels. While the coordination at the global level has been entrusted to the Administrator of UNDP, on behalf of the Secretary-General, coordination at the regional and country levels has been entrusted to the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions and to the United Nations Resident Coordinators respectively.

Regional coordination efforts, as indicated by the Secretary-General, are based on the catalytic role played by the regional commissions in their respective regions and will focus on more coherent, system-wide regional strategies. The coordination of activities, not only at the global but also at the regional and country levels, is also among the major objectives of inter-agency coordination.

Within the above framework, the first attempt to establish a base for inter-agency coordination at the ESCWA regional level was the convening by ESCWA of an informal meeting on 10 April 1995 with the participation of representatives of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO. This meeting decided to explore

**Box 1. (continued)**

the possibilities of establishing a regional inter-agency cooperation mechanism on selected activities.

Further to this initial approach and following various inter-agency consultations, the first meeting of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating Group was held on 14 October 1995 in Amman. The meeting was chaired by the Executive Secretary of ESCWA and was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations organizations: Habitat, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNRWA, WFP and WHO. The meeting shared information on issues relevant to the United Nations, such as the financial crisis, the results of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit (the "Amman Summit") and UNRWA activities.

The second meeting of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating Group was convened on 16 January 1996 in Amman. Representatives of ESCWA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, Habitat, UNHCR, WHO, UNRWA, WFP, UNFPA and UNIFEM attended the meeting. Areas of concentration and discussion were: recent events and meetings with an impact on United Nations activities in the region; follow-up of world conferences; the financial crisis of the United Nations; operational activities for development; and information-sharing within the United Nations system.

During these two meetings, an agreement was reached to continue regional inter-agency coordination in various fields through task forces (such as, for example, follow-up of the Beijing Conference, environmental health, population, and children's issues), which would report to the regional coordination meetings to be held at least twice yearly. The **Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender** was established as a result of the discussions, with UNIFEM acting as the convenor.

## **Chapter II**

### **Economic and Social Conditions in the ESCWA Region**





## **II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE ESCWA REGION IN 1995<sup>2</sup>**

The Western Asia region served by ESCWA includes Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In recent years, several factors have had a significant effect on overall economic development and social progress in Western Asia. These factors include the state of political relations among the countries of the region, the extent and nature of regional cooperation in various socio-economic fields, general trends in the oil sector, economic sanctions on Iraq, the investment climate prevailing at the regional and national levels, and the Middle East peace process.

During 1995, the ESCWA region continued to face economic and social challenges emanating from the above-mentioned factors. Although the economy of the region benefited from the firming up of oil prices and from the rewards of implementing economic and structural reforms in a number of ESCWA member countries, the continuation of the United Nations economic sanctions on Iraq and the low level of economic cooperation in the region have restrained further growth and development in Western Asia, resulting in a modest performance. Overall economic performance in the region registered a slight improvement in 1995 as compared with 1994. The region's GDP, excluding Iraq, is estimated to have registered a growth rate of 2.8 per cent in 1995 in real terms, compared with a meagre 0.8 per cent growth rate in 1994. Owing to the region's relatively high population growth rate (2.7 per cent in 1995), per capita GDP was

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<sup>2</sup> For details of socio-economic developments in the ESCWA region, see the annual publication *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region* (latest edition, 1995).

stagnant in 1995, after registering a negative 1.8 per cent growth rate in the previous year.

The GDP of the GCC countries<sup>3</sup> is estimated to have registered a 2.0 per cent growth rate in 1995 compared with a negative 0.5 per cent growth rate in the preceding year. This turnaround may be attributed mainly to the growth in the oil sector which, despite diversification efforts during the past decade, contributes over a third of the GCC countries' GDP, more than 80 per cent of government revenues, and more than 90 per cent of their exports. The growth in the oil sector more than compensated for declines in some other sectors that were adversely affected by reductions in government expenditures, which were undertaken to reduce budget deficits. Per capita GDP in the GCC countries is estimated to have declined by 1.0 per cent in 1995, after declining by 3.2 per cent in the previous year. In 1995, GDP growth rates varied among the GCC countries, ranging from 4.5 per cent in Oman to 1.0 per cent in Qatar.

The more diversified economies of the region<sup>4</sup>—with the exception of Iraq—continued to record a good performance in 1995, registering an estimated GDP growth rate of 5.2 per cent, after achieving a 4.3 per cent growth rate in the previous year. Despite a high population growth rate, per capita GDP in the more diversified economies increased by 2.3 per cent in 1995, compared with a growth rate of 1.7 per cent in 1994. Factors contributing to this good performance include the rejuvenation of the private sector in a number of countries implementing economic reform and liberalization,

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<sup>3</sup> These countries include Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

<sup>4</sup> These include Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

as illustrated by the surge of non-oil exports; the improved conditions for private investment, both domestic and foreign; considerable increases in tourism; the continuation of large inflows of transferred workers' remittances; and a declining debt-servicing burden, as well as an 8 per cent rise in oil prices in 1995. Among the more diversified economies, excluding Iraq, Lebanon had the highest GDP growth rate, with an estimated 7.0 per cent, and Yemen had the lowest growth rate with 0.5 per cent.

Economic reform and structural adjustment programmes continued to be implemented in most countries in the ESCWA region in 1995. The programmes were used to correct internal and external imbalances, as well as to enhance efficiency and productivity, which are particularly essential in a rapidly globalizing world economy. The trend of moving away from an inward-looking economic development strategy, depending primarily on the Government, to an outward-looking development strategy that depends on a leading role by the private sector is becoming more evident. Privatization of public enterprises is taking place, though at a very slow pace, in several ESCWA member countries. New investment and tax laws have been formulated to encourage private investment, both by local and foreign investors. Substantial progress has been made in increasing non-oil exports, particularly by Egypt and Jordan. Nevertheless, private foreign investment in the region remained very modest compared with other developing regions.

In the GCC countries, most Governments in 1995 restrained their expenditures; some GCC countries privatized parts of several public sector enterprises or reduced the subsidies provided, while at the same time modifying foreign investment laws to attract investments from abroad. In the more diversified economies, Egypt and Jordan continued their successful implementation of their respective structural adjustment and economic reform programmes, which they

began in the early 1990s under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In 1995 Yemen began to implement its structural adjustment and economic reform programme as recommended by the IMF and the World Bank. The pace of privatization in Egypt was slow in 1995 but gained momentum towards the end of the year and is expected to accelerate in 1996. Economic liberalization continued in the Syrian Arab Republic, but no major privatization is envisioned in the near future, although the private sector is encouraged to play a major role in the tourism sector. Both Jordan and the Palestinian Authority passed investment laws in 1995 that are very encouraging to both domestic and foreign private investors.

Inflation rates rose in the GCC countries in 1995 owing to the weakening of the United States dollar<sup>5</sup> versus major European currencies and the Japanese yen, thereby raising prices of imports from these countries. However, the reduction in subsidies of government-produced goods and services was the main reason for higher inflation rates in some GCC countries, particularly in Saudi Arabia. Inflation nevertheless remains at very low levels compared with other developing countries. In 1995, inflation rates among GCC countries are estimated to have ranged from 1.0 per cent in Oman to 4.8 per cent in Saudi Arabia and 5.0 per cent in the United Arab Emirates. Among the more diversified economies, countries that have been implementing IMF-supported structural adjustment and economic reform, namely Jordan and Egypt, had the lowest inflation rates in 1995, 3.5 and 4.9 per cent respectively. In other countries, inflation rates registered during 1995 ranged from 12.5 per cent (Lebanon) to 45 per cent (Yemen), while hyperinflation continued in Iraq.

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<sup>5</sup> The currencies of all GCC countries, with the exception of Kuwait, are pegged to the United States dollar.



In economic terms, unemployment remains a major problem in the ESCWA region, particularly in countries with more diversified economies. Over the past several years, high population growth rates have contributed to an increase in the number of new entrants to the labour market beyond the economy's capacity fully to absorb them. Moreover, employment opportunities beyond national boundaries are becoming increasingly limited. In addition, underemployment is prevalent, particularly in countries where the public sector is the major employer, as in Egypt, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Yemen and the West Bank and Gaza Strip had the highest unemployment rates in the ESCWA region, estimated at 30 per cent in 1995.

As regards the trade balance and international reserves in ESCWA member countries as a whole, in 1995 the region's exports and imports (excluding Iraq) were positively affected by increasing oil prices and higher growth rates, which outweighed the negative effects of the continued economic sanctions against Iraq. Exports are estimated to have increased by 8.4 per cent while imports are estimated to have increased about 9.2 per cent. In 1995 the region's ability to finance imports from its export proceeds, as measured by the export/import ratio, remained at 1.18, a figure unchanged from 1994. Partial and preliminary data for 1995 indicate that the region's international reserves (excluding Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) increased by 9.4 per cent over 1994 levels, from \$45.7 billion to \$50 billion, as a result of higher reserves in both the GCC countries and the countries with more diversified economies. This is part of a continued trend of increasing international reserves in the region which began in 1991. However, the external debt of the countries in the ESCWA region in 1995, excluding Iraq, remained at almost the same level as 1994, namely around \$182 billion. The drop in the external debt of a number of ESCWA member countries, such as Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, was by and large negated by the

rise in the external debt of other ESCWA member countries, such as Egypt, Lebanon and Yemen.

In the banking sector, the more stringent conditions that characterized the banking markets in the ESCWA region in most of 1994 continued during the first half of 1995, but eased significantly during the second half of the year, following an upturn in economic activity. The increase in the oil revenues of the GCC countries and the revenues of other ESCWA member countries from trade in services, particularly tourism, contributed to this development. Most banks in ESCWA member countries continued in 1995 to strive for further development of the retail and consumer banking business, which resulted in an increase in the latter's share in the region's banking market to 55 per cent, compared with 45 per cent in 1994. Moreover, stock markets in most ESCWA member countries emerged in 1995 as a major constituent of the financial systems of these countries. For banks and other financial institutions, as well as corporations, stock markets proved to be an adequate vehicle for raising private capital. For the public sector, they proved to be an appropriate channel to offer stocks of companies in the process of privatization. Though advances have been noted, as of 1995 most stock markets in the ESCWA region remained far from being considered emerging markets by international standards.

The overall economic performance and major economic developments described above are also sensitive to the recent political changes occurring at the Middle Eastern regional level. In fact, the anticipated benefits from the MENA Summit and the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held in Amman and Barcelona respectively during the fourth quarter of 1995, are expected to enhance economic growth and trade developments in the more diversified economies in the ESCWA region. Moreover, a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, when achieved, may be expected to give a tremendous boost to the confidence, and therefore the

economic activities, of private investors, both domestic and foreign, in the region. The impact of these new developments on international and regional issues not only concerns the political environment, but also affects the whole economic and social fabric in all ESCWA member countries. The effects of the Middle East peace process thus become more relevant to the regional socio-economic and political scene and are shaping the future of ESCWA member countries.

Social problems faced by the ESCWA region during recent years are related mainly to the inequality in income distribution, which has resulted in disparities in standards of living and in the emergence of pockets of poverty. The situation is further aggravated by the inability of economic growth to generate enough jobs for the new entrants to the labour markets. High population growth during the past two decades, intensive rural to urban migration and the poor educational system in the region further exacerbate the employment and poverty situation. The cycle of poverty and unemployment threatens to destabilize the social structure of the region by creating marginalized groups with frustrations that lead to waves of violence and extremism. In a specific manner, during 1995, accelerated population growth has put pressures on the social infrastructure, which required sacrificing quality for quantity. In 1995, the above situation persisted in most of the region and caused further problems, particularly concerning unemployment and poverty.

As a result of the huge investment in building the infrastructure of urban centres, dramatic shifts of population from rural to urban areas continue to dominate the ESCWA demographic scene. By 1995, the majority of the population in 10 ESCWA member countries resided in urban areas. Such demographic expansion exerts pressure on the social services provided in urban centres (health, education and recreation) and thus lowers the quality of such services. The urban labour force is growing at a rapid rate of 4 to 6

per cent a year in most countries, with added pressures on already saturated urban labour markets; this situation feeds the unemployment in cities while at the same time depriving rural areas, where the potential for productive employment opportunities could be greater, of manpower.

The rate of adult illiteracy in the region is high compared with the average for middle income countries worldwide. Adult illiteracy among the female population is particularly high by any standards. The fact that such low rates of adult literacy were recorded in 1995, after the massive investment in education during the past two decades, indicates the ineffectiveness of the educational systems in the region and the neglect of formal education.

In 1995, ESCWA member countries continued to face a vast number of new challenges in their labour markets: problems related to labour absorption; restructuring of education; creation of productive employment opportunities; structural imbalances in the labour market of each country; rehabilitation of the unemployed, especially those who suffered from long-term unemployment; integration of new entrants to the labour markets, especially young people; restructuring and downsizing of the public sector; and increasing pressures to pursue market-based growth paths and to open up to the global economy.

Poverty in Western Asia currently affects more than one quarter of the population. In absolute terms, this represents about 37 million people, the ESCWA region's total population being around 145 million. In this respect, countries of the ESCWA region can be classified into three groups. The first group includes Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, where the percentage of poverty is about 10 per cent of the total population (including non-nationals), but is negligible for nationals. The second group covers the majority of ESCWA member countries and includes Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon,

Oman, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic; the percentage of poverty in this group is estimated to be 20 to 25 per cent of the total population. The percentage increases drastically in the third group, which includes Yemen and Iraq, to reach roughly half of their total populations.

Other social ills currently faced by the region are related to crime, family disintegration, drug abuse and the marginalization and alienation of certain social groups. Although the magnitude of such problems is small if compared with other regions in the world, the rapidity of their expansion continues to create social instability.

Within the above socio-economic context, during 1995 ESCWA carried out the activities reported on in the present document. They were undertaken within the available resources, according to ESCWA work programme priorities, and sometimes on the initiative of the Secretariat, to respond in the best possible way to the above economic and social challenges in the region.



## **Chapter III**

### **ESCWA Activities**

**During 1995**







### III. ESCWA ACTIVITIES DURING 1995

#### A. BACKGROUND

In order to increase the responsiveness of ESCWA to the region's needs, a restructuring of the ESCWA secretariat was undertaken. The restructuring was finalized in October 1994 with the issuance of a circular on the new organizational structure (ST/SGB/Organization, Section: ESCWA/Rev.1, 6 October 1994). This exercise enabled the Commission, especially in the substantive areas, to change its previous sectoral set-up into a more articulated thematic and multi-sectoral/interdisciplinary structure. Thus, the old programme structure of 15 sectoral subprogrammes has been replaced by 5 thematic subprogrammes, as follows: **Management of natural resources and environment, Improvement of the quality of life, Economic development and cooperation, Regional development and global changes, and Special programmes and issues.** Each thematic subprogramme relates to one or more substantive divisions. Based on the above approach, the ESCWA work programme for 1994-1995 was reformulated to put more emphasis on major socio-economic issues facing the region.

In addition to the Commission's activities embodied in its regular work programme, ESCWA also extends its technical assistance programme to identification, formulation and implementation of technical assistance projects. More important, the Commission's regional advisory services provide direct and timely services geared to assisting the individual member States in various substantive disciplines. These services proved highly useful and effective because they are normally requested by the member States to tackle specific technical issues. This is one of the most important direct and tangible links between ESCWA and its member States.

During 1995 (and the coming biennium), the work of ESCWA was planned and implemented according to the programme framework established as a result of the ESCWA **restructuring exercise**. The multidisciplinary approach focusing on specific socio-economic development issues, as well as a quick and adequate response to the rapidly changing ESCWA regional scene, will constitute the backbone of ESCWA activities. Trends to be addressed by ESCWA in the near future will certainly require a more concentrated—but at the same time, more flexible—framework, including closer cooperation between the secretariat and member States. Future developments in the ESCWA region would most probably include rapid changes in a more peaceful environment conducive to the launching of new development schemes. Thus, ESCWA intraregional cooperation will become one of the major tools in designing and coordinating future ESCWA activities.

**Box 2. ESCWA restructuring—1994**

Since its establishment in 1974, ESCWA has been serving as the main general economic and social development forum within the United Nations system for the Western Asia region, promoting economic and social development through regional cooperation and by formulating development strategies, policies and schemes. ESCWA studies, research and surveys in all socio-economic fields, including statistical databases and information, as well as ESCWA technical cooperation services, have been contributing to the region's development and progress.

After 20 years of experience, the ESCWA secretariat, inspired by member countries' needs and aspirations, and as an integral part of the United Nations system-wide organizational and programme review process, undertook a **restructuring exercise** which was started in 1993 and concluded in 1994.

The main focus of this exercise has been the rethinking and re-evaluation of the ESCWA mandate, tasks and implementation mechanisms. At the initial stage, the programme structure and organizational set-up of ESCWA were reviewed in the light of recent regional developments. To enhance ESCWA effectiveness and efficiency in providing appropriate services to its member States, the

**Box 2. (continued)**

restructuring of ESCWA programmes and activities was also the subject of consultations within the ESCWA secretariat and between ESCWA staff and regional and international experts. These consultations centred on development issues and their priorities, thus identifying themes on which ESCWA medium-term plans and biennial work programmes would concentrate. ESCWA invited experts in different fields and with a wide variety of experience to act as resource persons during an interdisciplinary forum held in Amman from 31 January to 3 February 1994. These consultations formulated concrete proposals for a new ESCWA programme structure, which was subsequently adopted by ESCWA at its seventeenth session in May 1994.

The final outcome was a major restructuring to streamline ESCWA activities, in order to make the Commission more focused and to increase interaction with member States. This entailed moving from a sectoral programming approach encompassing 15 subprogrammes to 5 thematic subprogrammes to be implemented in an integrated, multidisciplinary fashion. For the implementation of these thematic subprogrammes (Management of natural resources and environment, Improvement of the quality of life, Economic development and cooperation, Regional development and global changes, and Special programmes and issues), a new streamlined ESCWA organizational structure was adopted. On 6 October 1994, the Secretary-General issued a circular (ST/SGB/Organization, Section: ESCWA/Rev.1) on the new organizational structure, which is composed of five substantive divisions, the Technical Cooperation Division and the Administrative Services Division. The circular included a statement on the overall functions of ESCWA.

The first concrete applications of the new restructured programme planning frame were the revisions of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the 1994-1995 programme of work, as well as the preparation of the 1996-1997 ESCWA programme of work and the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

## **B. ACTIVITIES OF SUBSTANTIVE DIVISIONS IN 1995**

### ***1. Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division***

The objectives of the Division are to promote regional and subregional cooperation in the development of natural

resources; provide assistance in the formulation of policies and measures for the proper management of natural resources (land, water and energy resources); and assist in the application of environmentally sound technologies in the development of water and energy resources in the region. The related activities are detailed below under individual sections.

*(a) Energy Issues Section*

The Energy Issues Section is in charge of compiling and disseminating energy-related information; developing a regional approach to efficient energy use; promoting the use of appropriate techniques for efficient energy use; and identifying suitable regional, subregional and national projects for the development of both conventional and new and renewable sources of energy.

In this connection, one issue of the ***ESCWA Energy Bulletin*** was published in 1995; it considered trends in the region's oil industry, focused on recent developments in the field of natural gas in the ESCWA region and provided country-specific time-series indicators covering oil and gas reserves, annual energy consumption, annual per capita energy consumption and energy intensity. Prior to that, a publication on ***Energy Information in the ESCWA Region*** was issued. In addition, an ***Analytical Study of Recent Projects on the Development of Oil and Natural Gas in Selected ESCWA Member Countries (Jordan and Yemen)*** was published.

*(b) Natural Resources Section*

The functions of the Natural Resources Section include: assessing water resources potential and contributing to the formulation of master plans for water and water usage; analysing demands on water resources and proposing guidelines for water resources conservation; assisting ESCWA

member States in the promotion of new and appropriate technologies for water resources management; and recommending policies and techniques for further development of non-conventional water resources.

In this regard, a *Report to the Commission on the Introduction of Appropriate Mechanisms to Promote Regional Cooperation in the Water Sector* was issued. The report assessed the progress achieved in 1995 in the establishment of a regional training network in the water sector. A study was completed on the *Assessment of Water Quality in the ESCWA Region*, which included a set of recommendations for water quality standards to be adopted by member States in line with internationally recognized guidelines and, at the same time, with national needs.

Two expert group meetings and one training course were held in 1995. The first meeting, the *Expert Group Meeting on the Implications of Agenda 21 for Integrated Water Management in the ESCWA Region* (Amman, October 1995), was held in cooperation with UNEP as a follow-up activity to implement in the ESCWA region the recommendations of chapter 18 and other chapters of Agenda 21 on water issues. The proceedings of the Meeting, financed by UNEP, will be published in 1996. The second meeting, the *Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Regional Training Network in the Water Sector in the ESCWA Region*, was held in cooperation with the World Bank (Amman, November 1995). The *Training Course on Using Remote Sensing Data and Geographic Information System (GIS) Techniques in Hydrology and Hydrogeology* took place in Amman in December 1995.

Two field projects were continued in 1995: "Assessment of water resources by using remote sensing techniques in the ESCWA region" and "Investigation study on shared basalt

*aquifers in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.*" Both projects are scheduled for completion in the biennium 1996-1997.

*(c) Environment Coordination Unit*

The objectives pursued by the Environment Coordination Unit include: ensuring that environmental considerations are contained in the ESCWA programme of work and in the formulation of various projects; coordinating environmental activities with other organizations, especially the implementation of relevant chapters of Agenda 21; and studying selected environmental issues.

Coordination activities were reflected in the contributions to the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab World (JCEDAR) and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE) of the League of Arab States, in the preparation of reports on the regional implementation of Agenda 21 and reports for submission to the annual meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

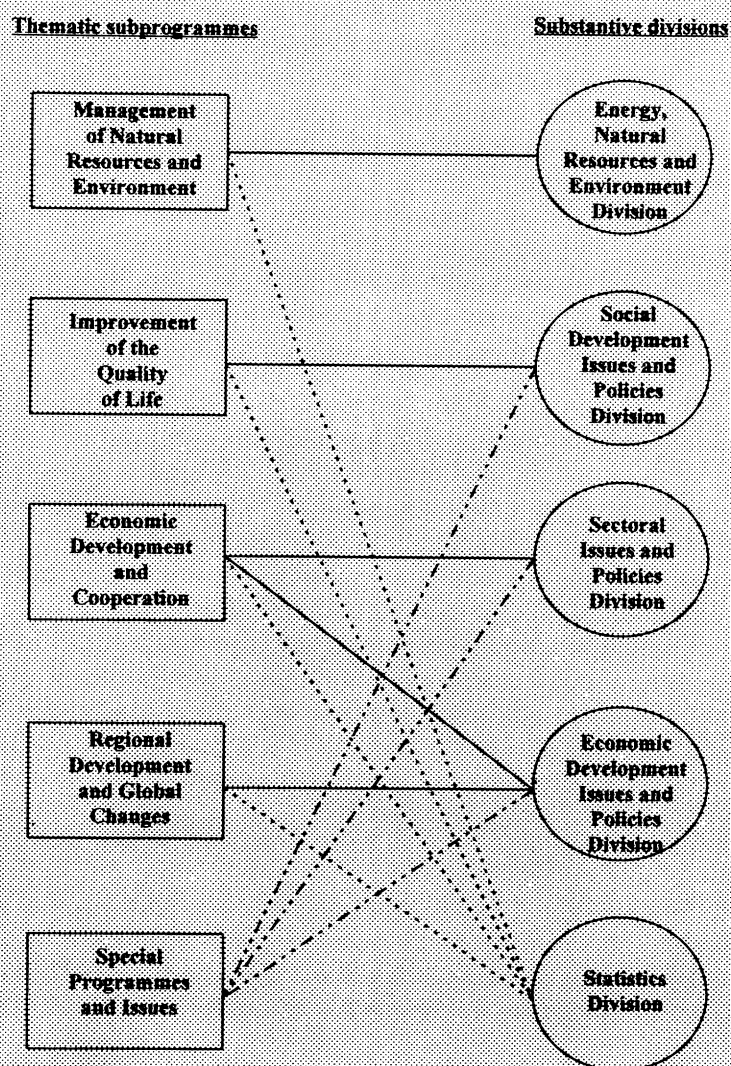
***2. Economic Development Issues  
and Policies Division***

The objectives of the Division are to analyse current economic issues, trends and policies, taking into consideration opportunities and constraints at the national, regional and global levels, with a view to promoting national economic development and regional cooperation and integration. These objectives have been carried out so as to provide policy makers in the region with alternative policy options in dealing with development issues confronting the region. The related activities are detailed below under individual sections.

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### Box 3. Thematic subprogrammes and substantive divisions

The chart below demonstrates the relations between the five thematic subprogrammes and the five substantive divisions of ESCWA.



**Box 4. Impact of the Single European Market on ESCWA member countries**

The study on the *Impact of the Single European Market on ESCWA Member Countries* was one of the multidisciplinary activities undertaken by ESCWA within its new thematic programme approach, with contributions from different sections. The ESCWA secretariat formed an Interdisciplinary Task Force made up of staff from the substantive sections concerned (Trade and Finance, Agriculture, Industry, and Technology), supported by consultants who also provided inputs into the substantive preparations. In order to reconcile each author's contribution with the need to maintain the unity and integrity of the work, while respecting the specific nature of each subject area, the study was issued in six volumes.

In addition to the volume of **Summary and Recommendations**, which presents an overview of the whole research project, the study comprises the following five volumes:

**Volume I: Foreign Trade** reviews the impact of the Single European Market (SEM) on the foreign trade sector of the ESCWA member countries, through trade creation and trade diversion, and analyses developments in the merchandise trade transactions between the European Union (EU) and ESCWA member countries.

**Volume II: Agriculture** deals with the impact of the SEM on the agricultural sector in the ESCWA member countries, as well as the impact of the 1992 common agricultural policy (CAP) reforms and enlargement of the EU, the EU agreements with Central and Eastern Europe, the EU Mediterranean policy and the EU GATT-94 commitments on agriculture in the ESCWA region, and on trade in agricultural commodities between ESCWA member countries and the EU.

**Volume III: Trade in Manufactured Products** focuses on the implications of the SEM on trade in manufactured goods in the ESCWA region, in particular textiles, petrochemicals and food industries, taking into consideration the results of the Uruguay Round.

**Volume IV: Banking and Finance** addresses the impact of the SEM on banking and financial institutions in the ESCWA region.



**Box 4. (continued)**

**Volume V: Science and Technology** assesses the impact of the SEM on science and technology (S and T) in the ESCWA region. S and T policies of the EU, both at the national and community levels, are examined with special regard to areas of particular interest to the ESCWA region.

The above volumes approach the subject from different perspectives and apply different tools of analysis. Admittedly, no single model could have been adopted for all the various sectors. Thus differences in approach were unavoidable. Furthermore, with the advent of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the recent Euro-Mediterranean initiative, issues raised in the volumes may need further elaboration. However, one major conclusion reached in these volumes is indisputable: the need for setting up an operational and effective economic arrangement for the region.

*(a) Economic Issues and Policies Section*

The Economic Issues and Policies Section is responsible for reviewing and analysing the progress of economic development in the region and recommending appropriate policies and measures. The Section undertakes special studies on major economic issues facing the region, makes quantitative assessments of development prospects in ESCWA member countries and assists these countries in the choice of appropriate development strategies, policies and tools.

The above objectives were met during the year 1995 through the issuance of the multidisciplinary publication *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1994*. The *Survey* is issued every year and receives contributions from the different substantive sections of ESCWA. *Stock Markets in the ESCWA Region*, a publication completed in conjunction with the *Survey* published in 1995, analysed the performance of stock markets

and their role in development finance. Data on Yemen were compiled for the period 1994-1995 for inclusion in the publication on the *Review of Progress Made in the Implementation of the New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s*, 1996-1997 issue. Two studies, *Privatization in the Gulf Countries* and *Privatization in ESCWA Countries with More Diversified Economies*, were published (the latter in Arabic only).

*(b) Trade and Finance Section*

The Trade and Finance Section analyses developments in the external trade and payments sectors by undertaking studies on issues related to interregional trade, cooperation and integration, as well as on the implications for the region of the globalization of the world economy and on financial and monetary issues.

In line with these objectives, the Section completed two annual reviews: *Analytical Review of Developments and Issues in the External Trade and Payments Situation of Countries of the ESCWA Region* and *Review of Developments and Trends in the Monetary and Financial Sectors in the ESCWA Region, 1994*. In addition, the Section initiated work on a study on trade policy aspects of environmental measures in countries of Western Asia, which will be completed in 1996.

At the request of the Secretariat, the Section completed a number of reports and position papers, among which were: a position paper on regional long- and medium-term development issues and priorities; a report on the possibilities of establishing a fund for reconstruction and development in the ESCWA region; Jordan—country strategy note—overall orientation; and the ESCWA contribution to the Secretary-General's report on South-South cooperation.

(c) *Joint UNCTAD/ESCWA Unit on Transnational Corporations*

The objectives of the Joint UNCTAD/ESCWA Unit on Transnational Corporations include compiling and analysing information on various aspects of transnational corporations operating in the region and monitoring the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governmental organizations related to transnational corporations. The Unit identifies problem areas and needs for technical assistance. In this regard, initial steps were taken to establish a database on transnational corporations.

**3. *Social Development Issues and Policies Division***

The primary objectives of the Division include promoting social development issues through regional and subregional cooperation; developing operational activities and projects that meet the needs of member countries and are in line with the priorities of the region; organizing regional conferences, expert group meetings and training workshops in order to enhance the sustainable capabilities of the countries of the region; establishing databases and information systems pertinent to the work of the Division; and conducting relevant studies and in-depth research to investigate major problems and challenges confronting social development in the region. The related activities are detailed below under individual sections.

(a) *Population Section*

The objectives of this Section centre around the following areas: improving the quality of information on the population of the countries of Western Asia and disseminating population information; identifying future demographic trends and their bearings on sustainable development; monitoring population policies and their relevance to the political, socio-

economic and environmental changes and challenges facing the region and affecting the quality of life of its people; and following up relevant recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994.

In this regard, the annual *Population Bulletin, No. 43* and the biennial *Demographic and Related Socio-economic Data Sheets* were issued. Two databases on *Demographic estimates and projections* and on *Policies and measures covering population* were established, and work on them will continue in the biennium 1996-1997 under the umbrella of a UNFPA-funded project. In addition, the Section organized the *Regional Expert Group Meeting on Demographic Estimates and Projections* (Cairo, June 1995), which was held in conjunction with the *Regional Training Workshop on Statistical Data Processing on the PC*, as the topics are interrelated. The Meeting aimed at identifying national potential, enhancing skills of participants and national cadres through their exposure to new techniques and software packages for preparing population projections, and coordinating efforts for unifying techniques used in preparing population projections in the Arab countries.

*(b) Human Development Section*

The objectives of this Section include preparing for and following up various relevant international events and regional meetings; promoting a comprehensive approach to sustainable human development through in-depth evaluation of the development process at the national and regional levels; addressing issues relating to special population groups; and monitoring the social situation in the region.

In cooperation with UNDP, ESCWA issued a publication under the series *Studies on Human Development in the Arab World* on *Human Development in the Arab World: Social and Cultural Dimensions* (in Arabic). Two

other studies under this series are under way on Measurement of human development and Financing of human development and will be issued in 1996. A report to the Commission was issued on Technical assistance projects for the improvement of the quality of life: human development. A biennial publication on Selected Social Trends in Western Asia will be issued in 1996 and will include chapters on health, education, employment and culture. A *Social development database* was established, which includes statistical tables on social issues, and a project document was prepared on *Preparatory assistance for regional support to national efforts in pursuit of sustainable development*.

### Box 5. Poverty eradication

The issue of poverty eradication was addressed in multi-disciplinary activities at ESCWA, with contributions from all sections in the Social Development Issues and Policies Division and the Economic Issues and Policies Section of the Economic Development Issues and Policies Division. In this context, the following studies were undertaken:

(a) *The Impact of Selected Macroeconomic and Social Policies on Poverty: the Case of Egypt, Jordan and the Republic of Yemen*, published in 1995;

(b) Population dynamics and poverty, including a country profile of poverty in Palestine, due to be issued in the biennium 1996-1997;

(c) Plan of Action for Eradication of Poverty in Western Asia, which is due to be developed and adopted during the expert group meeting on the subject to be held in the biennium 1996-1997;

(d) *Poverty in Western Asia: A Social Perspective*, published in January 1996, which includes components on poverty and shelter, measuring poverty in Western Asia, and a poverty profile on Lebanon. In addition, a poverty profile on Iraq is scheduled to be issued in 1996;

(e) *Women and Poverty in the ESCWA Region: Issues and Concerns*, published in January 1996.

Activities related to international events focused on preparations for the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995), and included the convening of an expert group meeting, in cooperation with LAS, to formulate the *Draft Arab Declaration for Social Development*, which fostered a unified Arab approach. The *Proceedings of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit for Social Development* were subsequently published.

In connection with special population groups, a study on the *Situation of Disabled Women: Their Marginalization and Measures for Social Integration in the ESCWA Region* was published. The study covered four ESCWA members affected by war: Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen. In addition, a seminar was held on disability and women, and a field project was initiated on "*Establishing a training centre for the use of computers for blind girls in Amman*," an activity programmed for the biennium 1996-1997.

(c) *Women and Development Unit*

The objectives of this Unit include: reviewing issues hampering the integration and participation of Arab women in development and assisting member States in developing their national policies and legislation related to the status of women; compiling and disseminating quantitative and qualitative information on policies and legislation related to the Arab family and the status of Arab women; providing assistance to ESCWA member States and to NGOs in executing technical assistance projects for the advancement of women; and preparing for and following up various relevant international conferences and regional meetings, mostly related to the regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995) involved participation in the

following preparatory meetings: a national workshop entitled "Beyond Beijing", organized in April 1995 by the Lebanese Joint National Preparatory Committee for the Conference; and a meeting on the Current Situation of Kuwaiti Women and Future Prospects, organized in May 1995 by the Kuwait NGO Preparatory Committee for the Conference. Furthermore, in cooperation with UNIFEM, a *Regional Workshop on Lobbying and Leadership Skills and Coordination among Arab Official Delegations to the Fourth World Conference on Women* was conducted (Beirut, July 1995) to facilitate a common position on controversial issues in the Conference Platform of Action. The *Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005* was also prepared; a study on *Review and Assessment of the Progress Achieved for the Advancement of Arab Women in light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies* was revised to include all 22 Arab countries; and a *Report to the Commission on the Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women* was issued.

Under the series *Arab Women and Development*, each issue of which addresses a specialized topic concerning women and development, a publication was issued (in Arabic) on *Changing Values in the Arab Family*. A *Database on policies, measures and programmes concerning women and development* was started in 1995, and an annotated bibliography on Arab women and the family is being compiled and will be completed in the biennium 1996-1997. Furthermore, the *Directory of Professional Arab Women for Technical Cooperation Projects* is being updated and will be published in the biennium 1996-1997.

(d) *Human Settlements Section*

The objectives of this Section include analysing problems and policies and preparing reports on trends and

developments regarding human settlements in the region; disseminating human settlements information; preparing for and following up relevant international conferences and regional meetings—especially Habitat II, held in Istanbul, Turkey in June 1996; and providing technical assistance to ESCWA member States on human settlements development and on formulating, assessing and supplementing policies within an overall regional cooperation perspective.

In this connection, the *Regional Perspective of Human Settlements in ESCWA Countries* and a study on *Technological and Social Aspects of Upgrading and Revitalizing Settlements: the Case of the Town of Thula in Yemen* were prepared. In addition, work on four *newsletters on human settlements issues* was jointly undertaken by ESCWA, LAS and Habitat; and a *Database on human settlements* was initiated, including tables on various aspects of human settlements.

Within the context of international conferences, ESCWA was involved in the preparations for the First, Second and Third Arab Preparatory Meetings for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). These meetings were held in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), LAS and the Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). In addition, ESCWA held a *Regional Expert Group Meeting in preparation for Habitat II* (Amman, January 1995), in order to study urbanization trends and availability of adequate housing, prepare a framework for national reports and discuss the Draft Arab Declaration on Sustainable Human Settlements. The *Proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* were subsequently published (in Arabic only), and reports were also submitted to the Commission on *Preparations for the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Habitat II and Technical*



***Assistance Activities on the Improvement of the Quality of Life in the Area of Human Settlements Development.***

***4. Sectoral Issues and Policies Division***

The objectives of the Division include assisting member States in: promoting cooperation and strengthening capabilities in the agriculture, industry, technology and transport sectors; formulating sectoral policies and strategies for sustainable development; raising productivity in utilizing resources; and benefiting from new opportunities and coping with new challenges brought about by the changes in the world. These objectives and the activities carried out to implement them in each section of the Division are presented below.

***(a) Industry Section***

The objectives of this Section include the following: promoting industrial policies and mechanisms of cooperation and coordination in the region; promoting development of technological capabilities and human resources for industry; adopting sustainable industrial development policies; and upgrading industrial institutions.

Studies were completed on: ***Review of Recent Development of Manufacturing Activities and Prospects in the ESCWA Region, 1994***, which is structured around three areas: analysis of the overall performance of the manufacturing sector, analysis of the performance of selected and relatively important industries in the region (fertilizers and aluminium), and analysis of recent developments in industrial policy issues (privatization and export promotion); ***Industrial Strategies and Policies in the ESCWA Region within the Context of Changing International and Regional Environment; Promoting Cleaner Production Technologies in Oil, Gas and Related Industries in the ESCWA Countries;***

and *Investment Environment in the Industrial Sector in Yemen*, which was prepared (in Arabic) in cooperation with a national team.

Two concurrent meetings: the *Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Strategies and Policies in the Context of Changing Regional and International Environment*; and the *Expert Group Meeting on Entrepreneurial and Managerial Skills under Changing Conditions* (Bahrain, November 1995) were organized by ESCWA in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Economic Research Forum. The meetings aimed at assisting in formulating a vision and a strategy for industrial development in the region.

A *Workshop on Micro and Small Enterprise Development in the Occupied Territories* (Gaza, April 1995) was organized in cooperation with UNRWA for the staff of NGOs and institutions involved in this field. A *Regional Seminar on Total Quality Management based on ISO 9000* (Beirut, January 1995) was organized in cooperation with the International Organization for Standardization and other agencies, and the *Second Arab Conference and Expo for Electronics, Communications and Software Industries* (Cairo, November 1995) was held in cooperation with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other agencies.

*(b) Technology Section*

The objectives of this Section are threefold: promoting regional cooperation in science and technology for development; improving the technology transfer process; and promoting the development of technological capabilities.

In cooperation with UNIDO and a number of national and regional research and development institutions, the

following activities were implemented in fulfilment of the above objectives. The publication on *Revitalization of Research and Development Activities in Selected Countries of the ESCWA Region* examined a number of national institutions, as case-studies, to assess their current performance and their role in coping with the challenges and opportunities created by technological progress, liberalization of the economy and the new international trade system. The methodology applied in the case-studies is an adaptation of the one developed by UNIDO for the global exercise on the subject. A study on *Techno-economic Aspects of the Application of New Materials in the ESCWA Region, with Specific Relevance to Polymers, Composite Materials and Ceramics* was published, and work on a study on Biotechnology in Agriculture is under way and scheduled for completion in 1996-1997. An *Expert Group Meeting on Revitalization of Research and Development Activities in the ESCWA Region* was held in Hurgada, Egypt, in September 1995, to discuss the results of the study on the subject. The *Expert Group Meeting on Techno-economic Aspects of the Application of New Materials Technologies in the ESCWA Region* (Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, October 1995) included an exhibition and an investment forum and was part of UNIDO preparations to establish a regional centre for materials research and development in the Syrian Arab Republic.

(c) *Transport Section*

This Section sought to accomplish the following main objectives: enhancing regional cooperation and assisting ESCWA member countries in planning the development of transport and communications facilities and services and in formulating integrated transport policies covering networks, multimodal operations and training; improving regional land, maritime and air transport infrastructure and services;

facilitating interregional and intraregional traffic and communications by harmonizing transport rules, regulations and design and border-crossing formalities; promoting utilization of information technology and disseminating transport information.

The Section issued the *Transport Bulletin, No. 6*, which provides information on the development of road networks and vehicle fleets, air transport operations, tourism activities, merchant fleets by country, tonnage, types, shipping traffic and containers in selected ESCWA member countries, and transport development issues of importance to the region. Studies were published on *Upgrading the Performance Level and the Quality of Services in the Field of Transport and Port Management: Case-study of Egypt*; *ESCWA Regional Strategy for Multimodal Transport Development and Training*; and *Port Pricing Model for the ESCWA Region*, which was undertaken in cooperation with ESCAP, using the Jordanian port of Aqaba as a pilot study. In addition, an *Expert Group Meeting on the Development of a Multimodal Transport Chain in Western Asia* (Amman, April 1995) was organized, at which policy recommendations were made to develop multimodal transport, emphasizing the need to move from segregated to coordinated modes of transport, greater utilization of information technology and development of inland container terminals.

(d) *Agriculture Section*

The objectives of this Section include: promoting activities aimed at strengthening the capabilities of member countries in the formulation and implementation of comprehensive food and agricultural policies, plans and strategies, taking advantage of regional complementarities and possibilities of cooperation; promoting integrated rural development; assisting member countries in the management, conservation and development of agricultural resources and in

combating desertification; rehabilitating the agricultural sector in member countries affected by civil strife and military conflicts; and monitoring agricultural development.

The Section prepared publications on: *Resource Conservation Policies and Strategies for Agriculture: Case of Syrian Arab Republic*; a commodity-specific policy analysis matrix (PAM) in Jordan, which will be finalized in 1996; *Impact of the Structural Adjustment Programme on Food Production and Consumption in Egypt*; *Agricultural Integration between Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan* (in Arabic); *Development of Fisheries Statistics in the United Arab Emirates* (in Arabic); *Present Status of Agricultural Extension in Yemen and Future Prospects*; *Agricultural Finance: Reference for Teaching at Arab Universities* (in Arabic); *Impact of the Structural Adjustment Programme on Food Production and Consumption in Egypt*; and *The Impact of Population Growth and Urbanization on Food Consumption Patterns in Jordan*. In addition, *Agriculture & Development in Western Asia, Bulletin No. 17*, which addressed issues relating to policies and planning, current agriculture problems and food security, was issued.

Studies relating to the formulation of an action programme for restructuring public agricultural institutions in the occupied territories were prepared as follows: *Farm Data Handbook, Occupied Territories (The West Bank and the Gaza Strip)* (in Arabic), which was designed to facilitate the use of current farm data for planning, policy analysis and project design; *Prospective Development of the Agricultural Institutions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories* (in Arabic); *Study and Evaluation of Agricultural Credit Institutions in the Palestinian Territories* (in Arabic); and *Assessment of the Cropping Pattern in the Gaza Strip and Prospects for Development* (in Arabic).

Several workshops were conducted, in cooperation with FAO, as follows: *Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis* (Amman, October 1995); *Training Workshop on the Analysis and Management of the Agricultural Sector* (Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, December 1995); *Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on Project Planning and Environmental Considerations* (Ankara, September 1995), which was aimed at strengthening institutional capacity in identifying and formulating investment projects and integrating environmental considerations in agriculture and rural project planning; and *Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Projects* (Amman, September 1995). In addition, the Agriculture Section contributed substantially to workshops organized by FAO and the Near East North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (NENARACA) and other regional organizations.

### **5. Statistics Division**

The overall objective of the Statistics Division is to develop the national statistics systems in the ESCWA region and to improve the relevance and accuracy of economic and social data and the accessibility of such data to policy makers and researchers.

This can be further translated into the following related objectives: (a) establishing and developing statistical databases pertinent to the work of the ESCWA secretariat and to end-users from member States; (b) compiling and disseminating statistical data series and providing technical support for specialized surveys requiring data collection and processing; and (c) promoting international standards and harmonizing statistics for enhancing regional and international comparability.

The Statistics Division established and maintained the following databases: (a) ***Labour Force Statistics Database***, a system which facilitates the storage, updating and retrieval of data on the economically active population of ESCWA member countries, classified by education, occupation, age groups, gender, industry, employment status and other categories; (b) ***ESCWA Social Statistics Database***, which contains a series of data and indicators that depict the social situation in ESCWA member States and the social changes taking place in these countries; (c) ***Gender Statistics Database for the ESCWA member States***, which serves as a statistical reference for use by researchers, governmental and non-governmental institutions and regional and international organizations, and is meant to be used as a tool to detect the actual changes occurring in the status of women in ESCWA member States; and (d) ***Arab Women: Statistical Database***, which includes a publication of the same title and was established in collaboration with the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and the Statistical Division at United Nations Headquarters, and which contains the same type of data mentioned under (c) above, but which covers all the Arab countries.

The following statistical series were published: (a) ***Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region, No. 15***, an annual publication including general economic and social data for each ESCWA member country, covering a period of 10 years in nine sections: population, social statistics, national accounts, agriculture, industry, energy, foreign trade, finance and price index numbers, and transport and communication; (b) ***Prices and Financial Indicators in the ESCWA Region, No. 13***, a biennial bulletin in two parts: part one presents consumer price indices and their weights for ESCWA member countries and gives a series of retail prices for main foodstuffs in the ESCWA region, while part two contains a series of financial statistics for ESCWA member States, including

government and banking statistics; (c) *National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region, Bulletin No. 15*, an annual publication covering the consolidated accounts for individual ESCWA member States (GDP by expenditure, national disposable income, capital finance, external transactions, GDP and gross capital formation by kind of economic activity), and also covering GDP by expenditure and economic activity at constant prices, in addition to selected indicators of national accounts aggregates for ESCWA member States; (d) *External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region*, a biennial bulletin providing information on external trade of countries of the ESCWA region and divided into three parts: a summary table of overall trade, trends and the region's share in total world trade; interregional trade of the ESCWA region; and data on the geographical distribution of trade of individual countries for the period 1983-1992; and (e) *Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries, 1995 (No. 2)*, a joint activity with AIDMO, aimed at demonstrating the importance of the industrial sector in the GDP of Arab countries, describing the main indicators of industrial production in the Arab countries, and showing the variation over time of principal commodities produced in the Arab region.

Furthermore, several regional workshops were organized as follows: (a) *Workshop on the Geographic Information System (GIS) and its Uses in Statistics* (Qatar, January 1995), organized in collaboration with AGFUND. The objective of the Workshop was to familiarize officials from central statistical organizations in the ESCWA region with GIS technology and its statistical applications; (b) *ESCWA Region Workshop on the International Comparison Programme (ICP)* (Amman, June 1995), jointly organized by ESCWA and the World Bank in cooperation with the Statistical Division, United Nations Headquarters, to introduce the reduced information method of the ICP, initiated by the World Bank, for use by those countries that are unable to use the full-scale method; and (c) *Regional Training Workshop on Statistical*



*Data Processing on the PC* (Cairo, June 1995), organized in cooperation with the Cairo Demographic Centre and held in conjunction with the *Regional Expert Group Meeting on Demographic Estimates and Projections*, as the topics are interrelated. Its objective was to upgrade capabilities of computer specialists from central statistical organizations of ESCWA member States.

### C. REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES

#### 1. Background

The ESCWA programme of regional advisory services aims at assisting member States in their national development efforts. These services are made available in response to requests from Governments and involve advisory missions on an individual or a joint multidisciplinary basis. These services can provide technical support, assist in preparation and formulation of project proposals and documents, evaluate programmes and project proposals, and advise Governments on various issues such as implementation of international recommendations and agreements. Services are provided by the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Division in managing and coordinating requests for advisory services by member States; in backstopping regional advisory services; and in disseminating reports on these services to the respective member States.

ESCWA is doing its utmost to meet all requests for advisory services received from its member States. For those areas in which no in-house expertise is available, ESCWA recruits short-term regional advisers for specific assignments.

In each member country the services were provided according to the requirements and requests of that country; therefore the objectives, coverage and final results of each advisory mission reflected the country's needs for assistance in given sectors. The duration, characteristics and methods of

missions were geared to the objectives and priorities of countries to achieve the best possible impact from the assistance provided.

ESCWA provided advisory services to its member States in the areas of agriculture, data processing, energy, environment, industry, national accounts, social development policies and issues, transport and water. Selected areas of concentration and topics of advisory missions are reviewed below on a country-by-country basis.

**Box 6. Training activities for ESCWA members**

During 1995, ESCWA conducted a total of 12 training seminars/workshops for its member States, including the preparation of training materials. These activities were either regional or national and the countries involved in each activity are provided below. A number of regional and international organizations also participated in some of these activities.

**Regional training activities**

***Workshop on the Geographic Information System (GIS) and its Uses in Statistics***, in cooperation with AGFUND (Qatar, January 1995); 12 participants from 8 ESCWA members (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen).

***Regional Seminar on Total Quality Management based on ISO 9000***, in cooperation with ISO, UNIDO, AIDMO, Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) and the Association of Lebanese Industrialists (Beirut, January 1995); over 200 experts from Arab countries participated.

***Regional Training Workshop on Statistical Data Processing on the PC***, in cooperation with IIASA and the Cairo Demographic Centre (Cairo, June 1995); 15 participants from 8 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen).

***ESCWA Regional Workshop on the International Comparison Programme (ICP)***, in cooperation with the World Bank (Amman, June 1995); 30 participants from 11 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen).

**Box 6. (continued)**

*Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on Project Planning and Environmental Considerations*, in cooperation with FAO and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (Ankara, September 1995); 17 participants from 4 ESCWA members (Egypt, Jordan, Oman, and Syrian Arab Republic), as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia and Turkey.

*Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Projects*, in cooperation with CARDNE and AOAD (Amman, September 1995); 23 participants from 5 selected ESCWA members (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic).

*Training Workshop on Management of Technical Cooperation*, in collaboration with the ILO Training Centre, Turin, Italy (Amman, October 1995); 23 participants from 5 ESCWA members (Egypt, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen), as well as ESCWA staff.

*Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis* (Amman, October 1995); 23 participants from 5 selected ESCWA members (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen), as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Sudan and Tunisia.

*Training Course on Using Remote Sensing Data and GIS Techniques in Hydrology and Hydrogeology*, in cooperation with UNEP and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (Amman, December 1995); 17 participants from 8 ESCWA members (Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen).

**National training activities**

*Workshop on "Start Your Own Business" for Women Potential Entrepreneurs in Jordan*, in cooperation with the Business and Professional Women's Club, Jordan (Amman, March 1995); 27 participants.

*Workshop on Micro and Small Enterprise Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*, in cooperation with UNRWA (Gaza, April 1995); 23 participants.

*Training Workshop on the Analysis and Management of the Agricultural Sector*, in cooperation with FAO (Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, December 1995); 19 participants.

## *2. Services provided to ESCWA members*

### *(a) Bahrain*

Advisory services were provided to Bahrain on: social statistics of the household income and expenditure surveys; economic statistics on new consumer price indexes and wholesale prices indexes; and environmental management of asbestos and its impact on health and the environment.

### *(b) Egypt*

Advisory services were provided to Egypt on: upgrading the biogas research programme in the National Research Center and initiating the establishment of a biogas technology incubator; data processing on household income and expenditure surveys, aimed at developing analytical statistical studies; introducing the 1993 Revised System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) at the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and preparing a pilot project for its implementation; evaluating and reviewing educational programmes related to statistics; implementation of the GIS programmes in the academic and educational public institutions; upgrading the performance level and the quality of services in transport and port management; and establishing a unit for restructuring transport and cargo handling.

### *(c) Jordan*

Advisory services were provided to Jordan on: designing and implementing a survey on energy demand in the household sector, including integration and adoption of new methodologies for domestic energy savings and consumption; assessment and management of energy consumption in the transport sector using different types of combustibles; providing new and unified standards for tariff

structure of road freight transport; development of multimodal transport systems and unification of road standards; formulation and development of an integrated water policy; technical and vocational education and training as part of human resources development (jointly with UNICEF, ILO, UNDP and UNESCO); initiation and preparation of the Human Development Report for Jordan (in cooperation with UNDP); preparation of project documents for the Middle East North Africa Economic Summit; regional study on pharmaceutical production and possibilities of cooperation in that sector; and strengthening environmental issues in cooperation with UNEP for the implementation of Agenda 21.

*(d) Kuwait*

Advisory services were provided to Kuwait on the 1993 Revised System of National Accounts.

*(e) Lebanon*

Advisory services were provided to Lebanon on: introduction of new and renewable energy technologies in rural areas (Bekaa Governorate); preparation of a manual to improve the accessibility of disabled persons in the urban environment (Beirut district); implementation of the PapChild project; industrial promotion and management with the application of ISO 9000; introducing and briefing the public sector on the process of negotiating accession to WTO; preparation of the Human Development Report for Lebanon; and initiation of networking activities on sustainable human development as part of a UNDP/ESCWA technical assistance project.

*(f) Oman*

Advisory services were provided to Oman on: data processing for social statistics; development of programmes

for women and children; and formulating a national housing policy.

*(g) Palestine*

Advisory services were provided to Palestine on: a comprehensive survey of factories and workshops in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank involved in computers and software programmes; preparation of a plan of action for the Palestine Monetary Authority for a statistical database on monetary and banking systems; preparation of a plan of action for the Ministry of Transport on land transport of passengers and goods; assistance to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Natural Resources on a population survey in the Palestinian camps in the Syrian Arab Republic. The survey was undertaken jointly with UNICEF and the Syrian authorities.

*(h) Qatar*

Advisory services were provided to Qatar on: revision of plans, programmes and projects in education, environmental health and administrative development for the Supreme Council for Planning; the management of drinking water in rural areas, including recommendations on pumping trials; managerial and economic issues related to marketing of chemical fertilizers; introduction of the 1993 SNA; and formulation of a comprehensive agricultural policy for the State of Qatar.

*(i) Saudi Arabia*

Advisory services were provided to Saudi Arabia on data processing for household surveys and on the establishment of an information centre for transport and communications.

*(j) Syrian Arab Republic*

Upon the request of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), advisory services benefiting the Syrian Arab Republic were provided on agricultural research, including the identification of problems and the management of water harvesting and supplemental irrigation; and on preparation of studies on farm resources management. Services were also provided to the Syrian Arab Republic on preparation of studies on integrated management of major non-renewable groundwater basins in coordination with LAS and the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD); data processing on the results of the household surveys; implementation of two pilot biogas projects as part of the joint ESCWA/AGFUND project on local community development in Arab rural areas, including preparation of a summary report on different stages of designing and operating biogas systems; reviewing the work plan of the Syrian Centre for Industrial Research and Testing; reformulation of trade policy for the promotion of export activities; and guidance for negotiating the process of accession to the WTO.

*(k) United Arab Emirates*

Advisory services were provided to the United Arab Emirates on: preparation of hydraulic and hydrologic design criteria for a small dam at Wadi Jazir; reviewing of the economic components of GNP and GDP for the Abu Dhabi Emirate and application of the 1993 SNA; assistance to Dubai Municipality on agricultural development issues for a comprehensive national policy; review of policy instruments and institutional mechanisms in the agricultural and fisheries sector; and development and promotion of the planting of decorative plants and trees in Dubai.

*(1) Yemen*

Advisory services were provided to Yemen on: data processing of the first results of the household income and expenditure surveys; introduction of new consumer price indexes and national accounts to the Central Statistical Organization; and conducting an industrial survey for the Ministry of Industry and General Investment Authority. ESCWA also contributed to the World Bank project on a comprehensive study of poverty in Yemen by preparing the findings on the development of education in that country.

**D. TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES*****1. Background***

ESCWA provides technical cooperation assistance through implementation of field projects or training workshops and meetings, which may originate either in response to specific government requests or in proposals formulated by various offices concerned in the context of the approved substantive work programme to meet global development needs singled out for priority action by United Nations legislative bodies. ESCWA acts as an executing or cooperating agency for technical assistance projects financed by extrabudgetary resources.

***2. Sectors of activity***

Within the above framework, ESCWA technical cooperation activities during the period under consideration covered various economic and social sectors. Chief among them were: water resources, community development, human development and statistics. Major specific technical cooperation projects executed or coordinated by ESCWA can be listed as follows.



(a) *Water resources*

Technical cooperation between ESCWA and the BGR (Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany) consists of a project entitled: "*Advisory services to ESCWA member States in the field of water resources*," which includes the following components:

- (i) Basalt aquifer study: There is a basalt aquifer which could be shared by Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Intensive water withdrawal is taking place in Jordan as the aquifer furnishes one of the main water supply sources for the Greater Amman area and the southern part of the Syrian Arab Republic; this affects the water quality and quantity. Both Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic are currently individually engaged in further studying this aquifer with the aim of increasing their water supplies. Further groundwater extraction may worsen the situation.

ESCWA initiated a study on this subregional basalt aquifer system as part of its activities for the biennium 1994-1995 within the context of the ESCWA/BGR project. The study was implemented in cooperation with competent authorities in both countries, namely the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Syrian Ministry of Irrigation, through the provision of advice in the fields of: hydrogeology, hydrochemistry, remote sensing, isotope hydrology, preparation of digitized thematic maps and the overall assessment of the potential water resources in the basalt aquifer system.

The long-term objective of this component of the project is to achieve an optimized sustainable management of the available water resources in the basalt

**Box 7. Fields covered by regional advisory services****Agriculture**

The Regional Adviser on Agriculture provides services to ESCWA members on issues related to strategies, plans and programmes for agricultural development and rural institutions; and on the identification and formulation of projects for technical assistance activities. Thus, advisory services were provided to: Jordan in preparing project documents for the MENA Summit; Palestine on its agricultural credit system; Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in formulating a comprehensive agricultural policy; and the Syrian Arab Republic, through ICARDA, on agricultural research and farm resource management.

**Data Processing**

The Regional Adviser on Data Processing provides advice on development and updating of main economic and social databases, and designing and conducting integrated household surveys and training programmes. In this regard, advisory services were provided to: Bahrain for a training workshop on data processing of statistical data and social surveys; Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen on data processing of household income and expenditure surveys, and Oman on data processing of social statistics.

**Energy**

The Regional Adviser on Energy advises ESCWA members on new and renewable sources of energy, including policy planning, promotion of the efficient use of energy, project identification and formulation and possibilities of adopting appropriate technologies for the development of alternative and conventional sources of energy. In this connection, advisory services were provided to: Egypt on upgrading the biogas research programme and establishing a biogas technology incubator; Jordan on an energy consumption survey; Lebanon on the introduction of renewable energy technologies; the Syrian Arab Republic on the implementation of the pilot project on biogas; and Yemen on the development and improvement of biogas projects.

**Environment**

The Regional Adviser on Environment provides advice to ESCWA members on various environmental issues such as the promotion of environmental protection, the identification and formulation of relevant projects, and the strengthening of regional cooperation in the environment area. In this connection, advisory services were provided to: Bahrain on management of asbestos and its impact on health and the environment;

**Box 7. (continued)**

Jordan on the implementation of Agenda 21; and Qatar on environmental health issues.

**Industry**

The Regional Adviser on Industry provides advice to ESCWA members on industrial economics; identification of investment opportunities; preparation of investment project profiles; diagnostic studies to raise productivity in small- and medium-scale enterprises; training programmes for project identification; and review and formulation of industrial policies and strategies. Thus, advisory services were provided to: Jordan in the preparation of a regional study on pharmaceutical production; Palestine on a survey of computer and software factories and workshops; Qatar on managerial and economic issues related to the marketing of chemical fertilizers; the Syrian Arab Republic on the work plan of the Syrian Centre for Industrial Research and Testing; and Yemen on an industrial survey.

**National Accounts**

The Regional Adviser on National Accounts advises ESCWA members on the adoption of current national accounting and related systems and classifications according to the requirements of international guidelines and recommendations of the United Nations System of National Accounts, and on how to provide the necessary training. In this regard, advisory services were provided to: Bahrain on the household surveys and consumer price indexes; Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates on the 1993 SNA; Palestine on a statistical database on monetary and banking systems; and Yemen on consumer and wholesale prices indexes and the 1993 SNA.

**Social Development**

The Regional Adviser on Social Development advises ESCWA members on enhancing the optimal use and development of human resources; upgrading vocational skills; mapping social development policies; and on related social and community development areas. In this connection, advisory services were provided to: Egypt on statistical educational programmes; Jordan on educational and vocational training and on the Human Development Report; Lebanon on improving the accessibility of disabled persons in the urban environment and on implementation of the Papchild project; Oman on development of programmes for women and children and on formulating a housing

**Box 7. (continued)**

policy; Palestine on a population survey; Qatar on educational programmes; and Yemen on development of education.

**Transport**

The Regional Adviser on Transport assists ESCWA members in formulating transport strategies and policies, with emphasis on planning and development of national and regional transport networks, surveys and pre-investment feasibility studies. Advisory services were provided to: Egypt on port tariffs and on the level and quality of services in the transport and ports sectors; Jordan on tariff structure for road freight transport; Palestine on organizing the land transport sector for passengers and goods; and Saudi Arabia on the creation of an information centre for transport and communications.

**Water Resources**

The Regional Adviser on Water Resources advises ESCWA members on the development, conservation and management of water resources at the national and regional levels, and on problems arising from shared water resources. In this regard, advisory services were provided to: Jordan in formulating an integrated water policy; Qatar on the management of drinking water in the rural areas; the Syrian Arab Republic on integrated management of major non-renewable ground-water basins; and the United Arab Emirates on hydraulic and hydrologic design criteria for a dam.

*Note: There are also regional advisers' posts in the areas of: **WTO/GATT-94 Issues**, which will deal with issues emanating from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the setting up of the WTO; **Surface Water**, which will assist member States in developing programmes in various areas of watershed management and in evaluating their schemes for improving present practices of surface water distribution systems and use; and **Technology**, which will provide advice on measures and mechanisms for strengthening scientific and technological capabilities, the formulation of policies and plans, transfer and adoption of technology, technological assessments and the establishment of technological institutions and operations. However, these posts were vacant for all or most of 1995.*

aquifer, while the immediate objectives are: (a) to establish an information base on the hydrogeological conditions of the basalt aquifer region, which is needed for sustainable management of the groundwater resources; (b) to formulate proposals for feasibility studies and technical measures for water resources development, management and conservation in specific areas; and (c) to introduce appropriate methods for groundwater exploration and management in the basalt aquifer area.

An interim report was issued on the study, which included a brief account of the main activities carried out during the biennium 1994-1995 and presented the outcome of the evaluation and investigations on: geological set-up of the study area (lithology, stratigraphy and geotectonic features), prevailing hydrogeologic conditions in the basalt aquifer system (groundwater occurrence, movement and aquifer characteristics) and hydrochemical investigations. The report also introduced descriptive notes on the thematic maps produced, incorporating all the data and information that have been made available about the basalt aquifer system in the area. Complementary investigations and the final report on the study will be completed at a later stage. The final report will include, in addition to the outcome of the initial activities, the groundwater balance in the aquifer system; the outcome of the hydrochemical evaluation and isotope hydrologic investigations; the final version of the digitized thematic maps at different scales; and a plan of action for further investigations.

(ii) Regional studies: This part of the project consists of specific regional water studies covering: (a) evaluation of groundwater quality in the ESCWA region; (b) assessment of the applicability of isotope

hydrologic methods in Western Asia; and (c) simulation modelling of groundwater recharge through the Wadi Ham dam in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.

(iii) Advisory services: This component of the project provided advisory services to ESCWA member States upon request, as follows: (a) advisory services to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the United Arab Emirates on problems of groundwater use in the northern Emirates; (b) advisory services to the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research on groundwater contamination problems; and (c) advisory services to ACSAD, Damascus, on the planning of a project on "*Groundwater protection in the Arab region.*"

A detailed work plan was prepared based on ESCWA proposals to the Embassy of Germany. This work plan will be implemented during the two-year extension of the ESCWA/BGR project from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1997.

The project on "*Assessment of water resources in the ESCWA region using remote sensing techniques*" was aimed at increasing knowledge of water resources in the ESCWA region through application of modern techniques of remote sensing and GIS. The project was executed by ESCWA and financed by UNEP and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), with contributions in the amounts of US\$ 175,000 and US\$ 200,000 respectively. The project activities include regional assessment of surface and groundwater sources and formulation of water strategies with emphasis on shared water resources through interpretation and analysis of hydrological, hydrogeological and remotely sensed data. Advanced remote sensing and GIS techniques were applied to define key features on: major watersheds physiography and surface water bodies, regional hydrogeology and land uses within the ESCWA region.

Application of remote sensing techniques has contributed to further refinement of the delineation of geomorphological characteristics of the 20 major drainage basins, geological lineaments, areal extent of aquifers, natural vegetation cover, and irrigated areas. The use of remote sensing in combination with GIS techniques also strengthened the integration of hydrological and hydrogeological information, leading to further refinement of assessments of the surface run-off and flow of rivers, groundwater hydraulics characteristics, recharge, and development activities. A detailed analysis was also made of shared water resources, especially surface water of major rivers, including the Tigris, the Euphrates, the Nile, the Orontes, the Yarmouk, and the Jordan, as well as groundwater potential of shared aquifers, such as the Dammam aquifer (Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), the Ordovician sandstone aquifer (Jordan and Saudi Arabia), and the carbonate aquifer (Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic).

The project culminated in the publication of a technical report addressing three major components: methodology of remote sensing and GIS techniques in related water resources assessment; hydrological analysis, including regional physiography, surface and groundwater resources and suggestions for water strategies for development and management of shared water resources in the ESCWA region; and the development of regional hydrological and hydrogeological maps. In addition, and as a complementary activity to the project, a two-week training workshop on using remote sensing data and GIS techniques in hydrology and hydrogeology was held in Amman in December 1995.

*(b) Community development, including women*

In this area, ESCWA is implementing “*Arab rural community development—Egypt/Syrian Arab Republic*,” a

project funded by AGFUND which includes segments on women and biogas. This project uses a grass-roots approach emphasizing a long-term development perspective, local capacity-building, and collaboration between United Nations agencies, local governments and NGOs. The target of the project is to enhance rural development through innovative ways of involving all relevant domestic actors and through helping the community to become self-reliant by finding solutions to issues through the eradication of rural poverty, improvement of the standard of living, improvement of the role and participation of rural women, improvement of the performance of the agricultural sector and the introduction of small-scale industries.

(c) *Human development*

AGFUND provided funding for a project on the “*Regional Centre for Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls/Women—Arab Gulf States*” which helps to support a training centre in Amman. The Government of Japan has also contributed to the project. The objective of the project is to establish a permanent training mechanism for blind girls/women to prepare them for careers in fields related to computer technology in national organizations, agencies, academic institutions and social services. Moreover, ESCWA has recently completed implementation of another project, funded by AGFUND, in this area on “*Capabilities and needs of the disabled—ESCWA region.*”

Also in the field of human development, the UNDP-funded project “*Arab Declaration for Social Development*” helped to prepare the Arab Declaration on the subject for presentation to the World Summit for Social Development. Expert group meetings were organized and background and position papers were prepared on alleviation and reduction of poverty; reduction of unemployment; promotion of social integration; and cultural aspects of social development.



Another activity in this area is the project funded by UNDP on “*Preparatory assistance for regional support of national efforts in pursuit of sustainable human development*,” aimed at enhancing the national capacity in the Arab region to implement the sustainable human development (SHD) concept and methodology through the preparation of national human development reports and the setting up of national and regional SHD networks; to contribute to the dissemination of SHD-related experience in the Arab region through workshops and technical studies on critical aspects of SHD; and to develop and validate a regional SHD strategy in coordination with other regional organizations. Participating countries are: Bahrain, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

In addition, the project on “*Fellowship in planning*”, funded by the UNDP Office in Yemen, provided training in administrative and development planning to Yemeni Government officials.

(d) *Entrepreneurship*

In the area of private sector development, the UNDP-funded project on “*Establishment of engineering infrastructure industries in the ESCWA region*” is designed to carry out a thorough analysis of the region’s market for the identification and costing of selected infrastructure projects.

A project proposal on “*Establishment of business incubators in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*” was submitted to several donors in June 1995. The overall purpose is to stimulate business and technological entrepreneurship in the context of the new economic policy framework in the occupied territories.

(e) *Statistics*

In the statistics area, AGFUND provided funding to the “*Household Survey Capability Programme-ESCWA region*” through which ESCWA continued to offer assistance to member States in designing and executing household surveys, processing of the resulting data, training, translating United Nations statistics manuals into Arabic and initiating geographic information systems.

(f) *Environment*

UNEP financed a project on “*Strengthening environmental and management planning in Jordan.*” The objective was to assist the Government of Jordan in designing an environmentally sound sectoral development plan and area development programmes to demonstrate the methods, policies, incentives and institutional arrangements for environmental planning and development.

## **Chapter IV**

### **Cooperation and Coordination with United Nations, International and Regional Organizations**





## **IV. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **A. BACKGROUND**

Contacts maintained or established by the ESCWA secretariat during 1995 were aimed at strengthening cooperation with United Nations organizations and international and regional institutions. Another objective of these contacts was the initiation or further implementation of joint projects, as well as participation in technical meetings on topics of mutual concern. Since one of the main objectives of ESCWA cooperation within the United Nations system was to implement a joint approach, concerted efforts were made to achieve similar or coordinated goals on the basis of United Nations mandated joint activities.

Contacts with international and intergovernmental institutions were increased, particularly with regard to Middle East-North Africa economic cooperation and European-Mediterranean partnership, which culminated in the Middle East-North Africa Economic Summit held in Amman in October 1995.

Through these contacts, ESCWA is intensifying its efforts to mobilize resources from external sources in order to implement technical assistance projects, workshops and training related to its work programme. In addition, the work of ESCWA on the technical cooperation programme and the promotion of cooperation with various funding agencies in order to enhance extrabudgetary technical assistance activities is designed to increase funding.

ESCWA cooperation efforts also concern bilateral contacts with government agencies, both inside and outside the ESCWA region. ESCWA has established trust funds for

its technical assistance activities with funding from the Governments of France, Germany and the Netherlands; the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities operates with contributions from ESCWA member States, although contributions have diminished during recent years.

Following are the United Nations organizations and agencies, and the international and regional institutions which cooperated with ESCWA, as well as the main features of this cooperation.

## **B. UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES**

### ***1. United Nations Secretariat and other bodies in the United Nations system***

#### ***(a) United Nations Headquarters***

ESCWA coordinated with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD) on issues such as: ESCWA activities in the implementation of various chapters of Agenda 21, for which inputs were submitted for reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development. Furthermore, ESCWA cooperated with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA) in the fields of demographic estimates and projections, with the aim of streamlining and harmonizing country-specific estimates published by the national accounts and the United Nations Economic and Social Information System. ESCWA also coordinated with the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development on ESCWA preparatory activities for the Summit, and with the Commission on the Status of Women on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

*(b) United Nations Office at Vienna*

ESCWA participated with the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the joint mission to Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic to evaluate facilities offered to establish the Regional Centre for Outer Space Science and Technology Education. ESCWA also provided input to the Secretary-General's report on coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system for 1995, 1996 and future years.

*(c) Economic Commission for Africa*

ESCWA contributed to an ECA study on incentives for promoting the development and application of science and technology.

*(d) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*

ESCWA cooperated with ESCAP in the implementation of ESCWA regional activities for the second phase (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific and contributed to an ESCAP study on human resources development.

*(e) United Nations Children's Fund*

UNICEF continued to cooperate with ESCWA, particularly in the organization of the Seminar on the Role of the Family in Integrating Disabled Women into Society, as well as on relevant areas of the ESCWA work programme.

*(f) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*

ESCWA coordinated with UNCTAD on preparations for a study on the implications of GATT for policies and

strategies in the industrial sector; on programming and budgetary matters for the Joint UNCTAD/ESCWA Unit on Transnational Corporations; on the ESCWA Conference on China and the Arab World (to be held in 1996); and WTO/GATT-94 issues, including the possibilities for WTO to provide training to ESCWA staff.

*(g) United Nations Development Programme*

ESCWA/UNDP cooperation focused on human development. UNDP financed several meetings and workshops on an integrated Arab approach to human development, with UNDP providing assistance for business-related training programmes in the occupied territories. UNDP has also been active in providing funding and cooperation for inter-agency issues, such as regional preparation for international United Nations conferences.

*(h) United Nations Development Fund for Women*

On the initiative of UNIFEM, ESCWA organized and presented papers to two meetings on promoting the concept of and establishing business incubators for women in Jordan and Lebanon. These meetings were co-sponsored by the Jordanian Business and Professional Women's Club, the Association of Lebanese Industrialists, UNIDO and UNIFEM.

*(i) United Nations Volunteers Programme*

The UNV cooperates with ESCWA in implementing community development projects in Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic.

*(j) United Nations Environment Programme*

ESCWA participated in reviewing and commenting on reports prepared by UNEP and other United Nations entities for submission to their respective Governing Councils or the



Commission on Sustainable Development and contributed to UNEP current and planned activities on cleaner production methods and waste minimization within the framework of the Basel Convention. In addition, UNEP cooperated with ESCWA in its follow-up activities to implement the recommendations of relevant chapters of Agenda 21 in the ESCWA region.

*(k) United Nations Population Fund*

ESCWA is cooperating with UNFPA on the ESCWA regional project (initiated in July 1995) on population policies for the Arab countries. This cooperation covers: several training activities on the formulation of population policies; several multidisciplinary studies on the major components of population policies and their application to the Arab countries; and coordination of population activities among UNFPA Country Support Teams, the regional commissions and the United Nations specialized agencies. The cooperation also covers the implementation of follow-up activities in the Arab region on the International Conference on Population and Development.

*(l) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*

ESCWA cooperated with UNRWA in conducting the workshop on micro and small enterprises development in the occupied territories, held in the Gaza Strip.

*(m) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)*

ESCWA worked with Habitat regarding joint Arab regional preparatory activities for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). These activities included the convening of the Regional Expert Group Meeting (held in Amman) in preparation for Habitat II,

and the joint publication of newsletters on human settlements in the Arab world. In addition, ESCWA worked with the other regional commissions on a joint position paper for the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Human Settlements Development.

(n) *United Nations Research Institute for Social Development*

The Institute reviewed the ESCWA work programme as it concerned the Arab regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development. An agreement was reached on topics for future joint activities, including a possible seminar on social development and the social effects of economic measures (restructuring and GATT).

## ***2. Specialized agencies***

(a) *International Labour Organization*

ESCWA finalized an agreement with the ILO Arab Office on Technical Cooperation regarding joint funding for the preparatory work done for the Arab Declaration for Social Development. Training activities were organized in the field of management of technical cooperation for government officials from ESCWA member States and for ESCWA staff.

(b) *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*

FAO continued its cooperation with ESCWA in 1995, in spite of the abolition of the Joint ESCWA/FAO Agriculture Division following the restructuring of FAO in 1994. FAO cooperated in the preparation of most of the studies and reports and the organization of training workshops undertaken by the ESCWA Agriculture Section. In addition, ESCWA staff prepared papers for and lectured at several workshops/seminars organized by FAO on human resources

development in agriculture, agricultural marketing and export promotion, and strengthening the role of agricultural extension systems.

(c) *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*

ESCWA worked with UNESCO on preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, on research and development activities in the ESCWA region, on statistical indicators for the 1996-1997 work programme, and on a UNESCO study on the cultural dimension of development.

(d) *World Health Organization (WHO)*

ESCWA consulted with WHO on policies and technologies for integrated rural water management (water supply and irrigation).

(e) *World Bank*

ESCWA coordinated with the World Bank on two studies on poverty in Lebanon; and on the implementation of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in the ESCWA region. ESCWA also cooperated with the Economic Development Institute (World Bank/EDI) on development management training.

(f) *International Telecommunication Union*

ESCWA participated with the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa in the Preparatory Committee of the Regional Conference on Telecommunication Development in Africa and the Middle East. ESCWA provided a substantive contribution to the Conference sessions on regional cooperation and to workshops on competition, monopolies and deregulation.

(g) *United Nations Industrial Development Organization*

ESCWA worked with UNIDO to implement activities on a special programme for industrial development in the Arab countries (in cooperation with AIDMO), which includes sectoral studies on the sugar, textile and electronics industries; revitalization of research and development activities in the ESCWA region; promoting the use of cleaner industrial production technologies; techno-economic aspects of the application of composites and ceramics in the ESCWA region; the Regional Seminar on Total Quality Management based on ISO 9000; the enhancement of the integration of women in the manufacturing sector; and the joint Second Arab Conference and Expo for Electronics, Software and Communications Industries. In addition, UNIDO contributed to ESCWA regional preparatory efforts for the Fourth World Conference on Women by establishing a regional network on industrial policy issues and strategies related to the integration of women in industrial development in the region. UNIDO also contributed financially and substantively to all the meetings of the ESCWA Industry Section during 1995.

### **C. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

#### ***1. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Foundation)***

ESCWA worked with the Foundation on environmental impact assessments, the creation of indigenous entrepreneurship and opportunities for small- and medium-scale industrial development, and technology business incubators. ESCWA also worked with the Foundation and the Economic Research Forum on two concurrent ad hoc expert group meetings on: entrepreneurial and managerial skills under changing conditions; and industrial strategies and policies in the context of the changing regional and international environment.

## **2. Friedrich Neumann Foundation**

ESCWA representatives participated in a panel in the International Conference on Environmentally Sound Technologies, organized by the Friedrich Neumann Foundation, the Jordan Environment Society and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, and presented a paper entitled "*Strategy for environmentally sound technologies in the ESCWA region.*"

## **3. International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas**

Cooperation with ICARDA was enhanced in 1995 through ESCWA participation in the consultancy team organized for the evaluation of the current ICARDA research programme on resource management, and also through ESCWA participation in the regional workshop, organized by ICARDA, on the preparation of an "*Ecoregional Initiative - Water in West Asia and North Africa Region.*"

## **4. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis**

ESCWA cooperated with IIASA in developing a joint project to prepare a comprehensive population projection for the Arab world for the first 50 years of the next century, through the use (for the first time in the region) of demographic, social, economic and environmental variables. A jointly prepared project document entitled "*Future demographic and education trends for sustainable development*" was submitted to UNFPA in September 1995. ESCWA and IIASA will continue to collaborate in implementing this project.

## **D. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### ***1. League of Arab States***

ESCWA-LAS cooperation during the period covered by this report focused on the preparations for international conferences at the regional level including, in many cases, all Arab countries. In this respect, seminars and preparatory meetings were held jointly by ESCWA, LAS and other regional organizations on the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women (including meetings covering issues such as the Arab family and the situation of women in Arab countries) and Habitat II (including the Regional Preparatory Workshop on Housing and Urban Indicators and the publication of four newsletters on human settlements in the Arab world). Joint Arab positions were formulated in these meetings and Arab declarations were drafted for each conference.

As regards cooperation between ESCWA and the specialized agencies of LAS, in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and CARDNE, ESCWA organized a Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Projects. ESCWA works with the LAS Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment on issues such as industrial pollution, illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes, and the implementation of Agenda 21.

Cooperation activities also included analysis of the impact of GATT on Arab economies; Arab trade efficiency; human resources development in rural areas; sustainable agriculture and rural development; statistics; the impact of structural adjustment on population; multimodal transport; natural gas development; and interconnection of electricity grids.

## ***2. Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands***

ACSAD and ESCWA are currently reviewing potential joint activities on water resources development and are working together to collect information on current water-related activities in the ESCWA region. ESCWA participated in two ACSAD meetings on water resources development.

## ***3. Arab Federation for Food Industries***

ESCWA representatives presented two papers in the conference organized by AFFI on investment and food security in the Arab countries, held in Amman.

## ***4. Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations***

ESCWA cooperates with AGFUND on activities in the field of renewable energy and on the AGFUND project to establish a database on Arab NGOs, which it is developing in cooperation with United Nations agencies. Furthermore, as a member of the Technical and Coordinating Committee of the Pan-Arab Child Health Project (Papchild), which is funded by AGFUND and executed by LAS, ESCWA participated in the 1995 meeting to review the country reports and recommend action and directives for the execution of the project.

## ***5. Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization***

As part of the AIDMO comprehensive study on the investment climate in the Arab world, ESCWA cooperated in preparing a study and holding a seminar on the promotion of the industrial sector in Yemen. ESCWA has also cooperated with AIDMO in organizing the Regional Seminar on Total Quality Management based on ISO 9000, and the Second

Arab Conference and Expo for Electronics, Communications and Software Industries. Other organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization, UNIDO and UNESCO, have also contributed to these activities.

#### ***6. Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research***

ESCWA-CAWTAR cooperation focused on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, involving the provision of technical assistance by ESCWA to establish a CAWTAR database on Arab women and translate the INSTRAW Gender Training Kit into Arabic. CAWTAR provided funding for an ESCWA meeting and study on women's issues.

#### ***7. Committee on Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe***

ESCWA cooperated with CEDARE in organizing financial support for the ESCWA regional expert group meeting in preparation for Habitat II and the planned expert group meeting on environmental impact assessment; the latter was subsequently postponed to the biennium 1996-1997.

#### ***8. Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils***

ESCWA cooperated with FASRC and the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development on work for the revitalization of research and development activities in the ESCWA region and on techno-economic aspects of the application of composites and ceramics in the ESCWA region.



***9. Joint Committee on Environment and Development  
in the Arab Region***

ESCWA has increased its participation in various inter-agency coordination activities of JCEDAR, which includes in its membership UNEP, UNDP, ECA, UNESCO, FAO and WHO. The coordination focuses on joint implementation of the regional priorities of Agenda 21.

***10. Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural  
Development for the Near East***

ESCWA cooperated with the Regional Centre, as well as FAO and other organizations, in organizing workshops on project planning and environmental considerations, monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects and on food and agricultural policy analysis.



## **CHAPTER V**

### **Assessment and Future Prospects**





## V. ASSESSMENT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Self-appraisal is not easy. It can lead to either self-congratulations or self-criticism. To strike a balance between the two extremes is quite a task.

The objective of this chapter is to draw attention to some of the shortcomings or limitations facing ESCWA. Some of these limitations are structural, and thus beyond the control of ESCWA; others can be overcome. The purpose here is not to justify as much as to explain and to draw lessons for the future.

### A. A LEGACY OF CONSTRAINTS

Initial conditions always have a profound impact on the performance of any organization. By the 1990s, ESCWA had accumulated many problems from the past. As recently as November 1993, the Office of Inspections and Investigations submitted a report on the programme and administrative practices of ESCWA which stated at the outset that:

“Few United Nations Programmes have had to deal with as many **external constraints** *[emphasis added]* as have affected the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). A first move in 1982, from provisional headquarters at Beirut to permanent headquarters at Baghdad, was followed in 1990 by the Gulf war, which led to the dismantling of the Baghdad accommodation and to a period, extending over a year, of what could be termed suspended animation, during which most staff members returned to their country of origin or of preference and waited for the crisis to end. There then followed, in 1991, a further move to the current **temporary** *[emphasis added]* headquarters in Amman.”

In his statement before the ESCWA eighteenth ministerial session, which was held in Beirut in May 1995, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA reiterated the above-mentioned point and went even further:

“The creation of ESCWA was contemporaneous with developments of the highest significance, such as the renewed hope of regaining dominion over the land and the right to its wealth. This restored some faith and confidence within the region and gave the petroleum producers the freedom to act according to market conditions, with the result that money flowed into the region at a rate unparalleled in all of history. Thus ESCWA came into being in a climate of confidence and optimism about the future.

“To the same extent that general conditions were propitious, ESCWA’s fate was unfortunate. In fact, ESCWA may have been in some measure the victim of those favourable conditions. ESCWA was created to bring together some of the Asian Arab States at a time when numerous other regional organizations existed in the area. Thus the Commission suffered since its inception from an identity crisis that limited its role *vis-à-vis* other regional organizations existing in the area, which were in a better position, either enjoying greater credibility or wielding massive financial leverage, which was out of ESCWA’s range. The Arab League with its specialized agencies, for example, which embraces all the Arab States and embodies the community of Arab action, having behind it a long and important history, a cultural legacy and pan-Arab aspirations, enjoys a legitimacy and a firmly established place in people’s minds that ESCWA can hardly hope to match. Practically the same thing can be said about the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its institutions (the Islamic Development Bank, for

example), which are founded on Islamic solidarity. Moreover, the abundant financial resources generated by the oil boom fostered the creation of a number of regional and national financial institutions with enormous financing capabilities. Thus ESCWA found itself face to face with a multiplicity of competitor regional institutions and organizations, some of them nationally or culturally based, and some backed up by immense financial resources. ESCWA was therefore confined to a limited space as a neutral technical agency of the United Nations.

“This being the case, it was natural that ESCWA should undertake a process of soul-searching to define for itself an identity that would distinguish it from other regional organizations in the same area, yet complement them. The success of ESCWA, as with any organization, depends on its identifying and understanding a genuine regional need and responding to that need. However, instead of ESCWA’s being given the opportunity to think about defining and deepening its role, the conditions prevailing at the time forced on it a state of constant wandering and change of abode.

“Those conditions prevented ESCWA to a large extent from concentrating on defining a distinctive role for itself in the region; yet those very conditions stemmed from the state of fragmentation from which the region suffers, making it difficult to gain a clear vision of the roles of regional organizations or even the future of the region itself. The crisis in Lebanon, the first and then the second war in the Gulf, with the resulting split in cooperation in the region and the simultaneous decline in petroleum wealth, and the overall shift in the region from a state of financial surplus to one of deficit—all these events cast their shadow over the region as a whole and, needless to say, over ESCWA. Under such

circumstances, ESCWA's overriding concern was to maintain its existence and offer the member States as many services as possible, given the harsh conditions."

In all fairness, despite these adverse conditions, ESCWA tried hard to overcome its circumstances. A major restructuring effort was undertaken and a new organizational structure was issued by the Secretary-General as indicated above (see chap. III, sect. A). All the recommendations put forward by the Office of Inspections and Investigations were implemented fully. It suffices here to quote the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on ESCWA follow-up action as of 31 March 1995:

"The management of ESCWA **complied** with the recommendation in accordance with the phases and time schedule recommended. The revised programme of work that emanated was subsequently endorsed by the seventeenth session of ESCWA, held at Amman in May 1994. Furthermore, the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 was revised along thematic lines to enable the development of a better focused programme of work.

"A new organizational structure of the secretariat of ESCWA was finalized and issued in ST/SGB/Organization, Section: ESCWA/Rev.1, dated October 1994. The new structure consolidates the resources of the secretariat by reducing the number of divisions from nine to seven. It also addresses the concern expressed in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services relating to the quality and relevance of the outputs produced."

## **B. NEW CHALLENGES, NEW PROMISES**

ESCWA was launched in a turbulent time. Because of the unsettled conditions in the region over the past half



century, the Commission has had to navigate through many difficulties. However, it can now be said that the ESCWA region is on the threshold of a new era of hope and optimism for the future. In his statement to the eighteenth session of the Commission, the Executive Secretary also made it clear that:

“History is an unbroken continuum. It is not an easy matter to say that at a given moment one stage has come to an end and a new one has begun. Nevertheless, it is no exaggeration to say that we are on the verge of a new phase and that the history of the region is now being mapped out before our eyes. As a result, it is our responsibility to take part in the making of a better future. This is something that will require realism combined with vision and imagination: realism for understanding the opportunities that are there as well as the possible pitfalls and the laws that govern them, so as to take advantage of the opportunities and sidestep the risks. Working with reality does not mean submitting to it, but rather comprehending it and turning it to account. As for vision and imagination, without them we would lose our steering mechanism: our hopes would be dashed and we would become the object of events rather than the driving force behind them.

“When talking about the future of our region, it is imperative that we take into account the importance of the end of the cold war and its implications for our region. The countries of the world do not stand isolated with respect to these global developments; rather, each one belongs to a regional system or order that assists it and enables it to adapt to new global trends. Other regions of the world, in fact, have prepared themselves accordingly. One need only mention the series of developments triggered by the

creation of the European Union, or NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), or the new coalitions in the Pacific region.

“The end of the cold war, however, did not merely give rise to developments of a general nature; it had a direct impact on conditions specific to our region. Here it will suffice to mention that one of the consequences of the cold war was that international problems were, in a manner of speaking, held in suspense, without any deterioration and at the same time without any solution. Now that the cold war is over, the ‘freeze’ on conditions in our region is to a large extent a thing of the past, which means that we must take a serious look at the possibilities for change and its likely consequences and prepare ourselves accordingly. Perhaps it is fitting here to emphasize that, despite the range and variety of efforts and views and the numerous interests involved, the United Nations resolutions for establishing peace and restoring rights in the region still constitute the sole acceptable basis. The United Nations and its agencies should continue and redouble their efforts to bring about the requisite conditions for stability and the restoration of rights.”

In his message to the 1995 Middle East-North Africa Economic Summit, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, noted the newly emerging perspective in the region:

“As we meet today, with peace prospects closer than ever to realization, it should be clear in our minds that peace will neither prevail nor endure unless it is comprehensive on all fronts and just to all parties. Yet, peace without development or freedom would remain fragile and vulnerable. Furthermore, effective

development can only be achieved through regional economic cooperation.

“It remains true, nonetheless, that regional economic cooperation goes well beyond the implementation of selected regional projects or the participation of the private sector. It requires, primarily, the setting up of a **regional institutional framework**, which would ensure its continuity and stability in future.

“Institutionalizing the participation of the private sector through the establishment of a Council for businessmen and a Tourism Association is definitely a welcome development. Other aspects also matter. First and foremost is the question of finance which, after all, is the backbone of economic life.

“However, the establishment of the proposed new regional financial institution, important as it is, cannot cover all aspects of economic cooperation. **Regional economic cooperation** would require a much larger range of activities, chiefly policy coordination and harmonization of regulations and standards, as well as the provision of a forum for the exchange of ideas and a centre for the preparation of studies. This regional financial institutional framework would thus need to be complemented by another regional body—limited to the countries of the region—for economic and social development.

“This brings me to the future role of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). As we look forward to a better future, we must strive to build confidence and trust and dismantle the psychological barriers of the past. It would be unrealistic, however, to think that we can totally erase our collective memory. The present generation in our

region has suffered seemingly endless frustration and disappointment. What is left are fragile remnants of trust and optimism, which we cannot afford to waste. It is our duty to nurture it and to lead it into a brighter future.

“In these times, as voices call for the creation of new organizations for economic and social cooperation in the region, it makes sense that the present **role of ESCWA** should develop in such a way as to meet the demands of the future. For ESCWA to undertake such a new role, however, there must be a new vision and appropriate restructuring within the Commission, a process that has already been initiated. Doors should open, and horizons should be expanded to accommodate a New Middle East.”

### C. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

Notwithstanding the exogenous structural factors referred to above, a review of ESCWA programme implementation shows that more than three quarters of the planned activities for 1994-1995 were completed. The non-completion of the remaining activities in the work programme was due to the following factors:

(a) For more than a decade, the high level of vacancies in the Professional category in substantive subprogrammes has been a major obstacle in terms of programme implementation. This vacancy rate has always accounted for approximately one third of Professional staff in substantive areas. The 1994-1995 biennium was no exception since the overall vacancy rate in substantive areas was 32 per cent of total authorized Professional posts. If those “vacancies” related to extended leaves—such as study leaves, special leaves or assignments to peacekeeping missions—are added to this figure, the vacancy rate reached 37 per cent.

(b) This situation was compounded by the freeze on recruitment imposed system-wide and the consequent inability to fill the vacant posts. One of the consequences of this situation was reliance on the work of consultants to complete some of the programmed outputs, so as to compensate for the vacant posts.

(c) Vacancy of higher level managerial posts (posts of chiefs) in some divisions, the provisional nature of the responsibility of the officers-in charge and their need to devote time to the managerial tasks at hand, apart from substantive responsibilities entrusted to them in their own sections, also had adverse effects on programme performance.

(d) Another factor that affected performance, though to a much lesser extent, was the financial situation (restrictions on travel and consultants) imposed system-wide in September 1995. ESCWA attempted to mitigate the effects of this situation by seeking alternative sources of funding, by shifting the venue of meetings to Amman, where possible, and by having those staff members on missions outside the duty station obtain required information for other subprogrammes as well, when possible. Thus, the number of activities whose implementation was affected by the financial situation was reduced to approximately 10, including participation in meetings for coordination purposes. These activities were either reformulated (reduced in scope) or terminated. In addition, a number of missions scheduled for regional advisers had to be cancelled.

(e) Resource constraints faced by the Agriculture Section merit special mention. Until the end of 1994, ESCWA maintained a Joint ESCWA/FAO Agriculture Division. As of 1 January 1995, FAO withdrew its staff support and the former division became a section under the Sectoral Issues and Policies Division. While FAO continued to cooperate in many of the Section's activities, the work

**Box 8. Qualitative performance criteria for ESCWA activities during 1995**

A summary of ESCWA training activities during 1995 is provided in box 6 above, while other criteria are presented below.

**Demand for ESCWA publications**

ESCWA maintains mailing lists for its publications based on the subject of reports and routinely distributes documents as they are published to addressees on the lists. In addition, ESCWA distributes its publications at conferences and meetings and, upon request, to individuals or institutions, as well as internally within ESCWA.

During 1995, ESCWA distributed over 19,000 publications to individuals and institutions on its mailing lists; over 24,000 publications at conferences and meetings and, upon request, to external sources; and almost 7,000 publications internally to its divisions.

**Requests for advisory services**

**Agriculture:** 10 requests from 5 ESCWA members (Jordan, Palestine, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic [through ICARDA] and United Arab Emirates).

**Data Processing:** 12 requests from 8 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen).

**Energy:** 7 requests from 5 ESCWA members (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen).

**Environment:** 3 requests from 3 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Jordan and Qatar).

**Industry:** 8 requests from 5 ESCWA members (Jordan, Palestine, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen).

**National Accounts:** 9 requests from 8 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Yemen).

**Box 8. (continued)****Requests for advisory services (continued)**

**Social Development:** 10 requests from 7 ESCWA members (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar and Yemen).

**Transport:** 8 requests from 4 ESCWA members (Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Saudi Arabia).

**Water Resources:** 7 requests from 4 ESCWA members (Jordan, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates).

**Addresses by the Executive Secretary**

The Executive Secretary of ESCWA was requested on many occasions to deliver lectures or be a keynote speaker in various forums. He responded to several requests, notably from the **Kuwait Economic Society**, Kuwait, in celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary and in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations; the **Bahrain Economic Society**, Manama; the **International Society**, Amman; the **Arab Thought Forum**, Amman; and the **New Civic Forum**, Cairo.

**Number and scope of Expert Group Meetings**

A total of nine meetings were conducted during 1995, in which the participation of ESCWA members may be summarized as follows:

***Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Regional Training Network in the Water Sector in the ESCWA Region***, in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (Amman, November 1995); 5 participants from 4 selected ESCWA members (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syrian Arab Republic); and the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management.

***Regional Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II***, in cooperation with Habitat, LAS and CEDARE (Amman, January 1995); 35 participants from 6 ESCWA members (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen), as well as Morocco and Tunisia.

**Box 8. (continued)**

***Expert Group Meeting on Implications of Agenda 21 for Integrated Water Management in the ESCWA Region***, in cooperation with UNEP (Amman, October 1995); 33 participants from 11 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen); and regional and international organizations.

***Regional Expert Group Meeting on Population Estimates and Projections***, in cooperation with IIASA and the Cairo Demographic Centre (Cairo, June 1995); 15 participants from 10 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) as well as Sudan and Tunisia.

***Expert Group Meeting on Revitalization of Research and Development Activities in the ESCWA Countries***, in cooperation with UNIDO (Hurghada, Egypt, September 1995); 35 participants from 10 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen); as well as United States of America.

***Expert Group Meeting on Techno-economic Aspects of the Commercial Application of New Materials Technologies in the ESCWA Countries***, in cooperation with UNIDO (Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, October 1995); 35 participants from 8 ESCWA members (Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates) as well as Austria, Germany and Italy.

***Expert Group Meeting on the Development of a Multimodal Transport Chain in the ESCWA Region*** (Amman, April 1995); 22 participants from 5 ESCWA members (Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Syrian Arab Republic).

***Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Strategies and Policies under Conditions of Global and Regional Change***, in cooperation with the Economic Research Forum, UNDP and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Foundation) (Manama, November 1995); 25 participants from 8 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Syrian Arab Republic) as well as Tunisia, Turkey, and regional organizations [held concurrently with the Expert Group Meeting below].



**Box 8. (continued)**

*Expert Group Meeting on Managerial and Entrepreneurial Skills under Conditions of Global and Regional Change*, in cooperation with the Economic Research Forum, UNDP and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Foundation) (Manama, November 1995); 25 participants from 8 ESCWA members (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Syrian Arab Republic) as well as Tunisia, Turkey, and regional and international organizations.

programme had been formulated with FAO support in mind, and after the FAO withdrawal the Section had to terminate some of its programmed activities owing to lack of resources.

(f) Another constraint which continues to hamper effective implementation of the work programme and the quality of outputs is the scarcity of reliable, up-to date, accurate and comparable data in various socio-economic fields, which are the basis for ESCWA publications and the analytical work therein. In 1995, ESCWA continued to face problems in obtaining such data from member States.

(g) The temporary nature of the ESCWA presence in Amman is yet another factor that hinders programme implementation. It results in constraints regarding recruitment of qualified Professional and General Service staff, especially the latter, who may wish to seek more permanent employment. The temporary situation has also resulted in overcrowded office space; the dispersion of staff and facilities into three buildings with the consequent constraints; and the inability to utilize fully the available facilities—such as printing and library facilities—owing to lack of space. For example, because of the lack of space, ESCWA cannot utilize all its printing equipment, and this has meant a resort to external printing of covers for publications, which in turn leads to considerable delays in the issuance of publications.

With regard to the rate of implementation of the work programme, it should be noted that this is only a very general, quantitative indicator of performance and consequently does not sufficiently reflect the qualitative aspects of the work accomplished. It must be acknowledged that it is very difficult to measure the real relevance of the ESCWA work programme to member States. Quantitative measures need to be supplemented by qualitative indicators, such as records of the demand for ESCWA publications, the number of requests for advisory services, the number and scope of training activities and the participation of member States in ESCWA meetings.

#### **D. ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE**

In a vastly changing environment, ESCWA must re-examine three major issues: its **identity**, its **image** and its **management culture**.

First and foremost, the **relevance** of ESCWA must be enhanced. A **new geo-economic reality** is emerging in the region. Over and above the peace process, which will reshape the region, major issues—such as water resources, energy, environment, transport and communications—are on today's agenda. At a time when competing initiatives such as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) concept and the Euro-Mediterranean scheme are being discussed, it is imperative that the United Nations' regional organization—ESCWA—contribute to the shaping of the region's future.

In spite of its past constraints, ESCWA—compared with other competing organizations—possesses strong credentials enabling it to play a major and positive role in the future of the region. As a United Nations body with a presence in the region for more than two decades, ESCWA is the natural regional arm for future regional development. Over the years, ESCWA has accumulated a base of knowledge and networks

that other regional organizations will find difficult to surpass in the near future.

Although the geo-economic regional potential of ESCWA has been emphasized here, it is important to realize that the success of the Commission does not depend solely on the existence of a **real** need for it in the region. Equally important is the **perception** of that real need. ESCWA should therefore project the **image** of being the leading regional organization.

In order to project such an image, ESCWA needs to identify its constituencies and the best means to reach them. As an intergovernmental body, the United Nations must seek the approval and support of its Member States. Times have changed, however. Dealing with Member States requires a more imaginative approach in order to reach not just senior officials, but the general public, opinion makers, and legislators as well.

At a time of financial drought for the United Nations, it is important for its agencies to generate extrabudgetary contributions. This can only be achieved if the **image** of these agencies is attractive enough to warrant such contributions. The renewed commitment of ESCWA to the region is future-oriented and aims at producing more with less resources. It also aims to focus on the “value for money” principle so dear to donor countries.

Finally, like most modern organizations, ESCWA has to build a managerial culture commensurate with the changes in the international environment. Today’s world is more competitive, knowledgeable and transparent. The United Nations, and hence ESCWA, should live up to this challenge.

The new ESCWA management culture is characterized by transparency in decision-making, the open flow of

information, and active participation by staff members. The aim is to ensure that ESCWA staff morale is high, that staff members feel confident about their future in the organization, and that they have a strong sense of responsibility to, and identification with, the work of ESCWA. This renewed responsibility and commitment within ESCWA can contribute in no small part to the expansion of the Commission's role in the region.

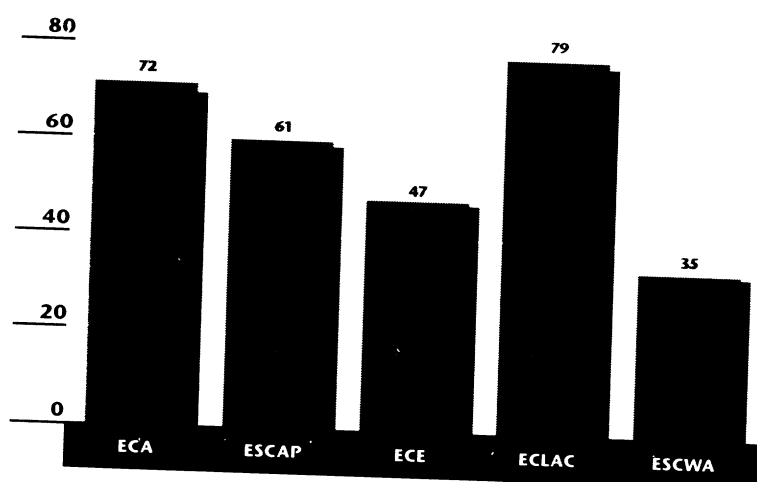
# **Annexes**



## Annex I

### COMPARATIVE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

**Regional commissions: revised appropriations for the  
biennium 1994-1995**  
(Millions of US dollars)



Source: Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations, *Confronting New Challenges: Annual Report on the Work of the Organization* 1995, p. 145.

## Annex II

### SELECTED LIST OF ESCWA PUBLICATIONS IN 1995

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/SED/1994/3	مسح للتطورات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في منطقة اللجنة
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/3	Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1994
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/3/Add.1	Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1994. Part Two, Stock Markets in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Summary and Recommendations
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.1	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume I, Foreign Trade
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.2 E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/8	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume II, Agriculture
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.3 E/ESCWA/ID/1995/3	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume III, Trade in Manufactured Products
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.4	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume IV, Banking and Finance
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.5 E/ESCWA/TECH/1995/1	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume V, Science and Technology
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/6	Impact of Selected Macroeconomic and Social Policies on Poverty: The Case-Study of Egypt, Jordan and the Republic of Yemen
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/7	نتائج جولة اوروغواي وآثارها على دول الإسكوا (محسن هلال)
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/8	Privatization in the Gulf Countries
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/9	Analytical Review of Developments and Issues in the External Trade and Payments Situation of Countries of the ESCWA Region



## Annex II (continued)

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/10	Review of Developments and Trends in the Monetary and Financial Sectors in the ESCWA Region, 1994
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/11	الخصخصة في دول الإسكوا ذات الاقتصاد المتنوع
E/ESCWA/POP/1994/3	النشرة السكانية، العددان ١٩٩٣/٤١ - ١٩٩٤/٤٢
E/ESCWA/POP/1995/1	Population Bulletin, 1995/43
E/ESCWA/POP/1995/2	Demographic and Related Socio-economic Data Sheets, No. 8
E/ESCWA/SD/1993/3	أثر اساءة استعمال المخدرات على الشباب في منطقة الإسكوا
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/10	Final Report, High-level Segment, 9-10 November 1994
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/IG.1-WOM/3	Report on the Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women, 6 - 8 November 1994
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/IG.1-WOM/3 Rev.1	تقرير اجتماع فريق الخبراء لصياغة خطة العمل الإقليمية للنهوض بالمرأة ٦-٨ تشرين الأول/نوفمبر ١٩٩٤
E/ESCWA/SD//1994/WG.1/9	Proceedings of ESCWA Regional Seminar on the Role of the Family in Integrating Disabled Women into Society, 16-18 October 1994
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.4-WOM/11	التقرير الختامي اجتماع فريق الخبراء حول الأسرة العربية في مجتمع متغير: مفهوم جديد للمشاركة ١٠ - ١٤ كانون الأول/ديسمبر ١٩٩٤ ابو ظبي، دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/4 E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/6	Women and Poverty in the ESCWA Region: Issues and Concerns  المرأة والفقير في منطقة الإسكوا: قضايا واهتمامات سلسلة دراسات عن المرأة العربية في التنمية (٢٢)
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/1	The Situation of Disabled Women, Their Marginalization and Measures for Social Integration in the ESCWA Region

## Annex II (continued)

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/2	تقرير حول المهمة الاستشارية الى وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية والعمل، مديرية المرأة والطفل ٢٧-٥ شباط/فبراير ١٩٩٥ مسقط، سلطنة عُمان (تغريد خوري طبعه)
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/3	Report on the Preparation of the Expert Group Meeting on the Arab Declaration on Social Development, 19 - 22 September 1994, Amman
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/4	Selected Proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on Human Development in the Arab World, Cairo 6 - 9 December 1993
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/7	التنمية البشرية في الوطن العربي: الأبعاد الثقافية والمجتمعية
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/8	Poverty in Western Asia: A Social Perspective
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/8/Add.1	قياس الفقر في دول اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/8/Add.2	الفقر في لبنان
E/ESCWA/HS/1995/1	وقائع اجتماع الخبراء الاقليمي للتحضير لمؤتمر الأمم المتحدة للمستوطنات البشرية "الموئل الثاني" ٢٦-٢٣ كانون الثاني/يناير ١٩٩٥، عمان
E/ESCWA/HS/1995/2	Technological and Social Aspects of Upgrading and Revitalizing Settlements: The Case of the Town of Thula in Yemen
E/ESCWA/HS/1995/4	منظور اقليمي لأوضاع المستوطنات البشرية في بلدان الإسكوا
E/ESCWA/NR/1994/20	ESCWA Energy Bulletin نشرة الطاقة
E/ESCWA/ENR/1995/14	Assessment of Water Quality in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/ENR/1995/15	Analytical Study of Recent Projects on the Development of Oil and Natural Gas in Selected ESCWA Member Countries (Jordan and Yemen)
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/1	Establishment of Business Incubators in the ESCWA Region. The Cases of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Palestinian Territories

## Annex II (continued)

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/1/Rev.1	حاضنات الأعمال التكنولوجية
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/6	Review of Recent Development of Manufacturing Activities and Prospects in the ESCWA Region, 1994
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/7	Industrial Strategies and Policies in the ESCWA Region within the Context of Changing International and Regional Environment
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/8	Promoting Cleaner Production in the Oil, Gas and Related Industries in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/TECH/1995/2	Techno-Economic Aspects of the Commercial Application of New Materials Technologies in the ESCWA Member Countries
E/ESCWA/TECH/1995/3	Revitalization of Research and Development in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/TRANS/1995/2	ESCWA Regional Strategy for Multimodal Transport Development
E/ESCWA/TRANS/1995/6	Transport Bulletin
E/ESCWA/TRANS/1995/9	نشرة النقل A Port Pricing Model for the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/7	National Farm Data Handbook: Occupied Territories
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/9	دراسة وتقييم مؤسسات الإقراض الزراعي في الأراضي الفلسطينية
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/10	The Impact of the Population Growth and Urbanization on Food Consumption Patterns in Jordan
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/11	واقع وآفاق تطور النمط الزراعي في قطاع غزة
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/12	Resource Conservation Policies and Strategies for Agriculture: Case of Syrian Arab Republic
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/13	Impact of the Structural Adjustment Programme on Food Production and Consumption in Egypt
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/14	آفاق التكامل الزراعي بين الأردن والجمهورية العربية السورية والعراق ولبنان

## Annex II (continued)

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/XVII	Agriculture and Development in Western Asia, No. 17
E/ESCWA/STAT/1995/15	Final Report Regional Training Workshop on Statistical Data Processing on the PC, Cairo, 4 to 8 June 1995
E/ESCWA/STAT/1995/23	National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region, Bulletin No.15
E/ESCWA/STAT/1995/24	نشرة الاحصاءات الصناعية للدول العربية ١٩٩٣ - ١٩٨٣ Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries, 1983-1993
E/ESCWA/STAT/1995/25	Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/STAT/1995/26	Prices and Financial Statistics in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/PTF/1995/1	برنامج المقارنات الدولية لمنطقة الإسكوا Economic and Social Consequences of the Establishment of Settlements by Israel in the Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, Occupied since 1967, and the Syrian Golan. Report of the Secretary-General
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/WG.1/7	Final Report of the Regional Seminar on Total Quality Management based on ISO 9000, 17-19 January 1995, Beirut
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/WG.1/8	التقرير الختامي
E/ESCWA/HS/1995/WG.1/9	التقرير الختامي اجتماع فريق الخبراء الاقليمي للتخضير لمؤتمر الامم المتحدة للمستوطنات البشرية "الموئل الثاني" ٢٣ - ٢٦ كانون الثاني/يناير ١٩٩٥ عمان
E/ESCWA/TRANS/1995/WG.1/8	التقرير الختامي اجتماع فريق خبراء حول تطوير حلقات النقل متعدد الوسائط في منطقة الاسكوا ٢٤-٢٧ نيسان/ابريل ١٩٩٥ عمان
E/1995/84 E/ESCWA/18/7	Report of the Commission on its eighteenth session

## Annex II (continued)

Symbol	Title
	تقرير الدورة الثامنة عشرة
E/ESCWA/POP/1995/WG.1/17	التقرير الختامي حلقة عمل اقليمية للتدريب على تجهيز البيانات الاحصائية باستخدام الحاسوب الشخصي والاجتماع الاقليمي لفريق الخبراء حول التقديرات والاستطلاعات السكانية ١٤-١٠ حزيران/يونيو ١٩٩٥، القاهرة
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/WG.1/3	التقرير الختامي ندوة اقليمية حول تطوير المهارات القيادية واستراتيجيات التفاوض والتنسيق لوفود الدول العربية الرسمية المشاركة في المؤتمر العالمي الرابع للمرأة (بيجينغ ١٩٩٥) ٦ - ٨ تموز/يوليو ١٩٩٥، بيروت
E/ESCWA/TECH/1995/WG.1/10	Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Revitalization of R and D Activities in the ESCWA Countries
E/ESCWA/TECH/1995/WG.2/23	Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Techno-Economic Aspects of the Commercial Application of New Materials Technologies in the ESCWA Countries
E/ESCWA/ENR/1995/WG.1/20	Final Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Implications of Agenda 21 for Integrated Water Management in the ESCWA Region, 2-5 October 1995, Amman
E/ESCWA/STAT/1995/IG.1/16	Final Report of the first session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee, 6-9 November 1995, Amman
E/ESCWA/ENR/1995/WG.2/4	Final Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Regional Training Network in the Water Sector in the ESCWA Region, 15-16 November 1995, Amman

