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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION****PROGRESS MADE DURING 1996 IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997**Report onthe establishment of a committee on energy in the
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

1. At its eighteenth session, the Commission adopted resolution 204 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 on the establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which states that the meetings of the committee should be held every two years starting in 1996. It was not possible to convene the first meeting in time, as the high vacancy rate in the Energy Issues Section made it impossible to provide the necessary expertise for that purpose.
2. It was therefore decided, provisionally, to convene the first meeting of the Committee on Energy in September 1997. The ESCWA secretariat will annex the report of the first meeting to the report which will be prepared during the first half of 1998 on the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997; the latter report is distributed by ESCWA to member States in years during which no ministerial sessions are held to inform them of the activities carried out by the Commission between ministerial sessions.
