



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

N.A

Distr.
GENERAL
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Rev.1
3 April 1997
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Technical Committee

Tenth session

Beirut, 5-6 May 1997

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

**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**

Introduction

1. Unlike previous reports on programme performance, this report covers the first 15 months of the biennium (1 January 1996 to 31 March 1997), rather than 1996 alone. Part I of the report (the present document) comprises a narrative text and three annexes. The narrative highlights the major activities undertaken during the reporting period within the framework of the five thematic subprogrammes constituting the ESCWA programme of work. Annex I comprises a list of departures from programmed activities and the relevant justifications. Annex II outlines activities undertaken in cooperation with United Nations, regional and international organizations. Annex III contains the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, which lists all activities originally planned for the biennium, thus presenting a comprehensive view of activities envisaged. Part II of this document covers technical cooperation activities and advisory services and technical assistance rendered to ESCWA member States at their request (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part II)).
2. The major ongoing constraint faced by ESCWA during the reporting period was the high rate of vacancies in the substantive divisions, recorded at 26 per cent (and rising to 31 per cent when study leaves, missions and other types of special leaves are taken into consideration) (see table below).
3. ESCWA activities during 1996 were implemented through data collection, analyses of economic and social conditions, monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of global conferences, and the provision of technical assistance to member States within a regional framework. The link between the analytical and the operational was clearly marked in the implementation of activities in 1996. Activities undertaken within the context of each of the five thematic subprogramme are described below.

TABLE. VACANCIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 1996 TO 31 MARCH 1997
(Work-months of Professional staff)

Division/Section		Authorized work- months (W/M)	Vacancies					
			Post vacancy		Other vacancies ^{a/}		Total	Overall rate
			W/M	Percentage	W/M	Percentage	W/M	Percentage
Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division								
Energy Issues Section	RB	90	83	92.2	0	0	83	92.2
Natural Resources Section	RB	60	0	0	0	0	0	0
	XB	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environment Coordination Unit	RB	30	15	50.0	0	0	15	50.0
<i>Subtotal</i>	RB	180	98	54.4	0	0	98	54.4
	XB	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economic Development Issues and Policies Division								
Economic Issues and Policies Section	RB	90	32	35.6	14	15.6	46	51.1
Trade and Finance Section	RB	75	15	20.0	15	20.0	30	40.0
<i>Subtotal</i>	RB	165	47	28.5	29	17.6	76	46.1
Social Development Issues and Policies Division								
Population Section	RB	75	30	40.0	0	0	30	40.0
	XB	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human Development Section	RB	75	15	20.0	7.5	0	22.5	30.0
	XB	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Women and Development Unit	RB	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
	XB	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human Settlements Section	RB	60	0	0	7.5	12.5	7.5	12.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	RB	255	45	17.6	15	5.9	60	23.5
	XB	37	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sectoral Issues and Policies Division								
Industry Section	RB	90	4	4.4	0	0	4	4.4
Technology Section	RB	30	11	36.7	0	0	11	36.7
	XB	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport Section	RB	60	15	25.0	0	0	15	25.0
Agriculture Section	RB	75	17	22.7	0	0	17	22.7
<i>Subtotal</i>	RB	255	47	18.4	0	0	47	18.4
	XB	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statistics Division	RB	105	15	14.3	0	0	15	14.3
<i>Grand total</i>	RB	960	252	26.3	44	4.6	296	30.8
	XB	67	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Figures may not add up to totals because of rounding.

a/ Including extended sick leaves, maternity leaves, study leaves, sabbaticals, leaves without pay, extended training, missions (such as peace-keeping) and other leaves (such as those taken by Staff Council members), as well as work-months contributed to other sections (for example, by chiefs and officers-in-charge).

Major activities undertaken
during the period 1 January 1996 to 31 March 1997

A. Subprogramme 1. Management of natural resources and environment

4. The water resources situation in the ESCWA region is critical and therefore constitutes a priority issue for the member States. Extensive analytical and operational work has been carried out in this area with the aim of assisting member States in establishing mechanisms for cooperation in developing and managing water resources. With assistance from the Government of Germany, ESCWA published jointly with the Governments of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic the study on "Investigation of the basalt aquifer system shared by Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic." Another important activity responding to this priority was the study on Water Resources Assessment in the ESCWA Region Using Remote Sensing and GIS Techniques carried out by ESCWA with financial support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference/Islamic Development Bank, and in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre. The Expert Group Meeting on Water Legislation in the ESCWA Region (Amman, 24-26 November 1996) represented an effort to harmonize water legislation among ESCWA member States and to identify possible mechanisms for the effective enforcement of such legislation. Within this context, a study on "Water legislation in selected ESCWA countries" was completed, presenting an overview of water legislation and its enforcement in selected ESCWA member countries, as well as the main findings and recommendations of the above-mentioned Meeting. ESCWA has also developed expertise in this area, and its staff presented papers to a number of meetings such as the Regional Workshop on Water Conservation and Reuse: Practical Approaches and Strategies (Amman, 4-7 March 1996), and the Workshop on the Role of Industry in the Development and Rational Use of Water Resources in the Arab Region (Amman, 13-15 May 1996). One of the most important activities undertaken by ESCWA in this area was the first session of the Committee on Water Resources, which met in Amman on 30 March 1997; the report of this session (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.2 appears under agenda item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Technical Committee of ESCWA.

5. In the area of environment, the major activities consisted of monitoring regional developments in the implementation of Agenda 21 and contributing to the work carried out by various environment-related bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR), which is a committee of the League of Arab States with ESCWA membership. More specifically, ESCWA contributed the following: 17 Task Manager reports on the regional implementation of Agenda 21 for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development; participation in and contribution to JCEDAR with the objective of promoting regional cooperation for the implementation of priority projects on environment and sustainable development; preparation of a comprehensive report comprising a regional review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and recommendations emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) for presentation to the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1997 for the purpose of reviewing and appraising the implementation of Agenda 21; and the West Asia chapter of the UNEP Global Environment Outlook: State of the Environment Report (1996), which reviews the state of the environment in the ESCWA region.

B. Subprogramme 2. Improvement of the quality of life

6. The major theme of the activities carried out under this subprogramme was follow-up of the recommendations and programmes of action of four global conferences. Consequently, the activities undertaken within this subprogramme constitute inputs into the integrated regional programme of action for the follow-up of the four United Nations global conferences held between 1994 and 1996, namely the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5-13 September 1994), the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995) and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996). Within this subprogramme, a multidisciplinary approach was adopted in the formulation and implementation of activities related to selected priority issues, namely poverty, gender, sustainable human development, and the development of civil society institutions, and in monitoring policies in the areas of population, social development, women and development and human settlements.

7. In the area of population, the Commission published issue No. 44 of the Population Bulletin of ESCWA, a publication launched around two decades ago. ESCWA also joined the Population Information Network (POPIN), a network that exists for the purpose of disseminating population information. ESCWA is developing two population databases. The first will harmonize the storage, processing and tabulation system for demographic data in the countries of the region to facilitate the use of such data in the preparation of demographic estimates and projections for the ESCWA region. With regard to the second, ESCWA has taken action to finalize a specialized database on population policies made up of two parts: a numerical, or quantitative, part aimed at facilitating the compilation of indicators that would assist end-users in following up recommendations of the Arab Population Conference (Amman, 4-8 April 1993) and the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development; and a textual part consisting of information on population policies in the Arab countries. ESCWA, supported by UNFPA, is extending assistance to population councils and committees in the Arab countries as part of the follow-up of the two conferences mentioned above. In this context, training was provided to Arab population councils and committees at the first Training Workshop on Computer Software Packages for Population Policies and Sustainable Development (Amman, 7-11 April 1996), and at the Training Workshop on Population Policies and Sustainable Development, Health Care, Education and Housing (Amman, 8-12 September 1996). Further, the First Meeting of the Heads of National Population Councils and Committees in the Arab World was held in Amman on 9 October 1996. The participants discussed the draft final report prepared for the Expert Group Meeting on Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development in the Arab World (6-8 October 1996). During the latter Meeting, experts from national population councils and committees discussed, among other things, the implications of structural adjustment policies for various population segments and the information system required for monitoring population policies.

8. In the area of social development, the issue of poverty was pivotal. Poverty was a prominent issue at the World Summit for Social Development, but it was also a core concern of the other three global conferences referred to above. During the implementation of the 1994-1995 programme of work, poverty-related activities dealt with the measurement and characteristics of the poor in Western Asia. In 1996, poverty-related activities focused on case-studies which could provide valuable inputs into the regional perspective on poverty eradication. In cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), ESCWA is completing a profile on poverty in selected social sectors which examines poverty-related issues associated with health, education and employment. Based on the information collected in this profile and on information published in a previous study entitled "Poverty in Lebanon" (in Arabic), ESCWA formulated

and is currently in the process of carrying out a project on developing and strengthening the Ministry of Social Affairs in Lebanon. Profiles of Iraq, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have also been prepared and are currently under publication. A number of activities focused on human development, another core area of concern. With support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and acting as the executing agency for a regional project for strengthening national capabilities in the field of sustainable human development in the member States, ESCWA established national networks for sustainable human development in Bahrain, Iraq and Lebanon, and work is in progress for the creation of such a network in Jordan; requests were also made by Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen to establish similar networks. ESCWA, again in cooperation with UNDP, provided assistance to a number of countries in initiating activities to facilitate the preparation of their national human development reports.

9. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, ESCWA has been involved since 1995 in the implementation of a multidisciplinary pilot project on local community development in Arab rural areas (Egypt-Syrian Arab Republic). The project is being carried out in selected rural areas in these two countries and aims at mobilizing local capabilities and resources and promoting self-reliance. The success of the project has prompted the donors to replicate the experience in other countries in the region. This project represents the operational dimension of efforts to alleviate poverty in rural areas.

10. In the area of women and development and within the context of the follow-up of international conferences, particularly the Fourth World Conference on Women, ESCWA updated the "Review and assessment of the progress achieved for the advancement of Arab women in the light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies," including all the information available in the country reports and national plans of action prepared for the Fourth World Conference on Women. This study, which covered Arab countries in Western Asia and North Africa, was a joint activity carried out with the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR). In line with the recommendations of the Conference, ESCWA compiled gender-specific data to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Conference Platform of Action at the regional level. In addition, a database on policies related to advancement of Arab women was set up, covering Jordan and Lebanon. In response to system-wide mandates calling for the development of gender statistics, ESCWA, in cooperation with CAWTAR, completed the first phase of a gender statistics database that was used to issue a publication entitled Arab Women: Statistical Database in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, and also prepared a study on Arab women, 1995: trends, statistics and indicators (under publication). Over the next three years, ESCWA, in collaboration with CAWTAR, and with financial support from UNDP, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), will develop national gender statistics programmes in selected Arab countries. Gender issues have also been addressed in a wall chart prepared recently by ESCWA comparing women and men in Arab countries. Moreover, the ESCWA Statistics Division is promoting the adoption by member States of the minimum national social data set recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission in response to plans of action adopted by major United Nations conferences.

11. In follow-up of Habitat II, a database on human settlements policies was established, with emphasis on housing and urbanization policies. This database complements those on population policies and gender issues. ESCWA has continued to cooperate with the League of Arab States and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in issuing the News Bulletin on Human Settlements in the Arab World. Attention has also been given to Bedouin communities, a population group with special needs that are often neglected. In cooperation with the United Arab Emirates University in Al-Ain, ESCWA held the Symposium on Environmentally Sustainable Human Settlements Development in Desert Regions (Al-Ain, 21-22 October

1996). This particular topic is taking on increasing significance in the light of the intention of the Gulf countries to adopt development policy decisions aimed at ensuring the preservation of the cultural components of Bedouin societies.

C. Subprogramme 3. Economic development and cooperation

12. One of the main activities under this subprogramme was the issuance of the annual Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 1995, a multidisciplinary activity drawing on contributions from most of the substantive divisions. The Survey analysed the socio-economic developments in 1995 at both the regional and country levels and provided a forecast for 1996. In conjunction with this Survey, the Preliminary Overview of Economic Developments in the ESCWA Region in 1996 was produced for the first time in December 1996 with the objective of providing decision makers in the region and the public at large, as early as possible, with an overall assessment of developments during that year and preliminary predictions for 1997. Within the context of economic policies, the issue of privatization was a major area of concern, as reflected by a series of studies including the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, Part Two: Privatization in the ESCWA Region and a review of the role of financial markets in privatization in the ESCWA region (currently under publication). Privatization was also addressed in the Assessment of Privatization of the Electric Power Sector in Selected ESCWA Member Countries, which includes an overview and case-studies of Egypt, Jordan and Yemen. The objective of all these studies is to provide decision makers with information on the implications of privatization. Another aspect of economic reform that is gaining prominence is the development of micro-enterprises, an issue that has been an important component of the Commission's work for the past few years. As a culmination of the work in this area, ESCWA organized the Regional Seminar on Assessment of the Role of Business Incubators in Economic Development (Beirut, 11-13 September 1996). ESCWA has also continued to promote entrepreneurship through a series of "Start Your Own Business" training courses in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Gaza in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). In support of another UNIFEM project on strengthening institutions for the development of women's enterprises, ESCWA assisted in the establishment and operation of business counselling units for women entrepreneurs in Jordan and Lebanon.

13. In the area of industry, the Commission has initiated efforts to enhance the upgrading of the industrial sector in the region—particularly small- and medium-scale enterprises—and to further promote cooperation among institutions providing support services to this sector. In an effort to promote entrepreneurship and quality management, ESCWA, in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), is currently in the process of updating the Directory of Arab Information Sources with a view to formulating recommendations for practical steps that can be taken to enhance the information infrastructure in the countries of the region, both to provide an important and much needed support service and to promote cooperation and networking among related institutions at the regional level. Another study is being undertaken to assess the capabilities and performance of national standardization institutions in the region; as part of the study, practical steps will be formulated to further develop these institutions and to promote the coordination of their activities, taking into consideration the growing global trend towards stricter adherence to international standards and specifications.

14. In the area of technology, ESCWA is in the process of preparing a comparative study on the assessment and promotion of research and development (R&D) capabilities in the ESCWA member countries.

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The study reviews the promotion of specialized R&D networks and alliances and highlights the importance of R&D in key areas, including information technologies for sustainable development. The study also evaluates policies and measures designed to enhance the contribution of female scientists and engineers to R&D activities. To address the issue of diffusion of modern technologies, two studies have been undertaken: the first on environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) in selected industries, dealing with the improvement of technological developments in leather tanning and finishing; and the second on biotechnology in the ESCWA member countries: sectoral issues and policies (under publication), which addresses the use of biotechnology in agriculture. Progress has also been made on the preparation of a study on science and technology indicators which emphasizes the need to elaborate and apply output-side indicators in the ESCWA member countries.

15. In the area of transport, ESCWA organized the Expert Group Meeting on Border-Crossing Formalities and Agreements for the Transport of Goods and Passengers (Cairo, 4-7 November 1996). The Meeting highlighted various existing practices and addressed the need for harmonizing and standardizing formalities in order to facilitate border crossing and transit traffic. A set of regional guidelines for transport agreements and conventions was prepared and is currently under publication. In addition to serving as a reference on the membership of countries in the ESCWA region in such agreements and conventions, this publication proposes future actions to promote regional cooperation in relation to international transport-related conventions. Issue No. 7 of the Transport Bulletin was published, and the focus this time was on multimodal transport and modal coordination. Technical adviser missions were undertaken by the Transport Section staff, including one to the Palestinian Authority/Ministry of Transport and one to the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). ESCWA continued to support the activities of regional organizations. Assistance was provided to the GCC General Secretariat in its efforts to establish a land and maritime transport database and to the secretariat of the League of Arab States in activities related to the enforcement of standardized axle loads and gross weights. ESCWA also cooperated with the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre, an affiliate of the League of Arab States, in conducting the Training Workshop on Traffic Regulations in Major Cities (Amman, 7-25 September 1996).

16. In the area of agriculture, the Commission continued to examine and analyse policy issues. Within this context, a study on the Evaluation of Agricultural Policies in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Policy Analysis Matrix Approach) was completed. ESCWA also held the National Training Workshop on Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis (Amman, 3-20 November 1996) to enhance the capability of government officials at the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan to employ various techniques in agricultural policy analysis, with focus on the use of the Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM). In close cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for the Near East (FAO/RNEA) in Cairo, ESCWA prepared issue No. 18 of Agriculture and Development in Western Asia (under publication). This bulletin addresses issues related to the impact of world grain trade on food security in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, reviews the prospects for natural resources development in ESCWA member countries, and analyses recent developments in the agricultural sector in the ESCWA region. ESCWA also provided technical backstopping services for two studies currently being published by FAO/RNEA—one on the production, marketing and processing of olive oil in Jordan and the other on the urban food distribution system in Amman. As an additional output, the Commission cooperated with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in conducting the Workshop on the Implications of the GATT Agreement for the Region, held in Amman on 22 and 23 May 1996.

17. In the area of statistics and information, ESCWA initiated a feasibility study for the establishment of an integrated statistical information system in the ESCWA region. The findings may lead, in the long run, to a regional operational programme for harmonizing standards, definitions, and instruments of data collection and processing as well as providing technical assistance to develop the capacities of statistical bodies in the region. ESCWA has continued to publish its widely used Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region, National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region and the External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region. Publication of the Statistical Newsletter has continued as well, with a view to disseminating information on developments in statistics in the region. In order to propagate international standards and norms in statistics, ESCWA conducted the Regional Training Workshop on PopMap and Internet (Damascus, 12-17 October 1996). A newly implemented project on the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in ESCWA member countries was undertaken jointly with the World Bank. The Seminar on the International Comparison Programme in the ESCWA Region (Amman, 21-23 October 1996) was held to discuss the results of the ICP field surveys carried out in nine ESCWA member countries and to outline the steps for implementing the ICP in the future.

D. Subprogramme 4. Regional development and global changes

18. One issue of both immediate and long-term concern to the member States is their position in the new global economy (the new world trading system), reflected in their relationship with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and their concern with the impact of WTO on their economies. Under this subprogramme, ESCWA is addressing several aspects of this issue by advising member States on negotiations for their accession to WTO and by researching the implications of WTO for the economies of the member countries. In this context, a multidisciplinary study is currently being prepared on the challenges and opportunities of the new international trade agreement (Uruguay Round): post-Uruguay preparations and adjustments. The study covers activities in four strategic sectors: crude oil, petroleum and petrochemicals; textiles and clothing; agriculture; and technology transfer, with special reference to pharmaceutical industries. An innovative study entitled Trade Policy Aspects of Environmental Measures in the ESCWA Member Countries addresses the serious challenges that environmental concerns pose to the expansion of trade and stresses the need to observe environmental standards.

19. Another important activity undertaken under this subprogramme was the Workshop on Total Quality Management and ISO 9000 with Special Reference to the Cement Industry (Abu Dhabi, 21-23 May 1996). During the Workshop, industrialists were provided with information regarding international standards for quality management, including practical steps for coping with the implications of these codes, and discussions of related issues were held.

E. Subprogramme 5. Special programmes and issues

20. ESCWA gives attention to countries with special needs in the region and also to special issues, notably the implications of the peace process for various sectors. In this context, a profile of poverty in Gaza and the West Bank has been prepared and is now under publication. In addition, a study has been prepared on the situation of Palestinian cities and villages and requirements for development (in Arabic; also under publication), which attempts to determine the magnitude of the housing problem, to estimate housing needs until the year 2005, and to propose a strategy for housing. ESCWA has also initiated a study on the impact of the peace process on selected sectors, with emphasis on industry and finance. This study examines changes that have already taken place in the industrial sector, highlighting a labour-intensive industry (textile

and garments) and a high-tech industry (electronics and related applications), and attempts to predict changes. It also defines the opportunities and hazards linked to the peace initiative.

21. Lebanon, as a country with special needs, has also benefited from the services of ESCWA. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 50/22 C of 25 April 1996 on the Israeli military attacks against Lebanon and their consequences, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA was requested by the Secretary-General to lead a multidisciplinary team of experts on a special technical mission to Lebanon within one month of the adoption of the resolution to report on the human and material losses and damage resulting from the hostilities (of April 1996) in Lebanon. The mission comprised representatives of ESCWA, the Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) at United Nations Headquarters, UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNICEF, and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The mission visited Lebanon from 27 May to 10 June 1996 and submitted its report to the Secretary-General on 18 June 1996.

Annex I**DEPARTURES FROM PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES****SUBPROGRAMME 1. MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
2. Parliamentary services		
2a <u>Parliamentary documentation</u>		
Work of the inter-agency working group on the role of non-governmental organizations active in the water sector	Third quarter, 1996	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
3. Published material		
3c <u>Technical material</u>		
Development and maintenance of a database on water statistics	Continuous	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminal at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
Development and maintenance of a database on energy statistics	Continuous	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated owing to vacancies resulting from financial restrictions imposed throughout the United Nations system (the freeze on recruitment) in September 1995

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Annex I (continued)

SUBPROGRAMME 2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
2. Parliamentary services		
2b <u>Ad hoc expert group meetings</u>		
Population policies: exchange of national experiences (RB/XB)	Second quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Reformulated</u> Status: <u>In progress</u> Reformulated for programmatic reasons; expanded in scope owing to the availability of extrabudgetary funds from UNFPA to include the following meetings: (a) The Expert Group Meeting on Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development in the Arab World (third quarter, 1996) (held between 6 and 8 October 1996); (b) First Meeting of Heads of National Population Councils and Committees in the Arab World (held 9 October 1996; final report published: see E/ESCWA/POP/1996/WG.4/2, dated 13 October 1996); (c) Expert Group Meeting on Population Policies and Sustainable Development in the Arab World: Population Dynamics, Urbanization and Environment (fourth quarter, 1997) (in preparation); (d) Second Meeting of Heads of National Population Councils and Committees in the Arab World (first quarter, 1997) (in preparation).
Cultural dimension of development: towards a practical approach (RB/XB)	Fourth quarter, 1996	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat owing to vacancies and the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes

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Annex I (continued)**SUBPROGRAMME 2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE**

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
Techno-entrepreneurship and business incubators	First quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
Poverty measurement (RB/XB)	Third quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated owing to the lack of resources
3. Published material		
3a <u>Recurrent publications</u>		
Population estimates and projections	Fourth quarter, 1996	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated for programmatic reasons owing to the fact that this activity is identical in scope to the publication entitled <u>Demographic and Related Socio-Economic Data Sheets</u>
Social survey of the ESCWA region (biennial)	First quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
Annotated bibliography of research on sustainable human development (RB/XB)	Fourth quarter, 1996	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat owing to vacancies and curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes

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Annex I (continued)

SUBPROGRAMME 2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
Annotated bibliography of research on sustainable human development (RB/XB)	Fourth quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
Policies and measures: Inventory of non-governmental organizations and directory of national machineries	Continuous	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat for programmatic reasons to avoid redundancy. Amalgamated with a carried-over activity (database on policies, measures and programmes concerning women and development), as the database has the same scope and is identical in content
3b <u>Non-recurrent publications</u> Assessment of the role of non-governmental organizations active in the water sector	Third quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
Appropriate national population measures and programmes for sustainable development in the region	First quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat for programmatic reasons, and replaced by a non-recurrent publication (proceedings of four expert group meetings on population policies in the Arab region) to avoid duplication

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Annex I (continued)

SUBPROGRAMME 2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
Assessment of the population situation in the region in 1997 and future trends	Third quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes and also for programmatic reasons, since the Population Section's contribution to the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region (an annual publication) is similar in terms of coverage
Manual/guidelines on formulation of population policies (XB)	Third quarter, 1996	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat for programmatic reasons, and replaced by a non-recurrent publication (proceedings of four expert group meetings on population policies in the Arab region) to avoid duplication
4. Operational activities		
4a <u>Advisory services</u>		
Support to national institutions on organizing workshops/courses on "Starting Your Own Business"	Continuous	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
Development of gender statistics and civil registration and vital statistics systems	Continuous	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes

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Annex I (continued)

SUBPROGRAMME 2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
4b <u>Group training</u> Workshop on the integration of population variables into the development planning process (XB)	Fourth quarter, 1996	Departure: <u>Reformulated</u> Status: <u>In progress</u> Reformulated for programmatic reasons into four meetings; expanded in scope
4c <u>Field projects</u> Promotion and establishment of business incubators in selected ESCWA member countries	Continuous	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes

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Annex I (continued)

SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
2. Ad hoc expert groups		
2c <u>Ad hoc expert group meetings</u> Prospects for the development of trading companies in the region	Fourth quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Postponed</u> Status: <u>Postponed</u> Postponed for the 1996-1997 biennium, as the study to be issued for the meeting will not be finalized until the end of 1997. Meeting is proposed in the 1998-1999 work programme
3. Published material		
3a <u>Recurrent publications</u> Bulletin on Prices and Index Numbers in the Region, No. 14 (annual)	Fourth quarter, 1996	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
Bulletin on Prices and Index Numbers in the Region, No. 15 (annual)	Fourth quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
3b <u>Non-recurrent publications</u> Proposal for a <i>modus operandi</i> of the regional gas network	Third quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat for efficiency and programmatic reasons and amalgamated with an activity which is similar in coverage and scope

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Annex I (continued)

SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
<p>Policy and project proposals for the development of a multi-modal transport system in the region</p>	<p>Fourth quarter, 1997</p>	<p>Departure: <u>Reformulated</u></p> <p>Status: <u>In progress</u></p> <p>Reformulated for programmatic reasons into a paper to be presented at the expert group meeting on multimodal transport for middle and high-level managers in the transport sector, scheduled to be held during the second quarter of 1997</p>
<p>3c <u>Technical material</u> Development and maintenance of a database on financial statistics</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Departure: <u>Terminated</u></p> <p>Status: <u>Terminated</u></p> <p>Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes</p>

Annex I (continued)**SUBPROGRAMME 4. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CHANGES**

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
3. Published material		
<u>Non-recurrent publications</u>		
Impact of privatization on power generation in ESCWA member States (Revised citation: Assessment of privatization of the electric power sector in selected ESCWA member countries)	Second quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Reformulated</u> Status: <u>Completed</u> Reformulated and retitled for programmatic reasons; expanded in scope owing to the importance of the subject of privatization in the region to include, in addition to the overview of the region, three case-studies on Egypt, Jordan and Yemen. A meeting was held in Cairo from 27 to 29 November 1996 between the Regional Adviser in the Energy Issues Section and the consultants hired to conduct the three case-studies, each on his own country (Egypt, Jordan and Yemen) in order to harmonize the three submissions
Entrepreneurial and managerial skills under conditions of uncertainty (Revised citation: Promotion of entrepreneurship and "Start Your Own Business" in selected ESCWA member countries)	Fourth quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Reformulated</u> Status: <u>In progress</u> Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat and retitled; enlarged in scope
4. Operational activities		
4a <u>Advisory services</u>		
Advisory services to member States on issues related to the new international trade agreement (Uruguay Round) and ISO 9000	Continuous	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated for programmatic reasons.

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Annex I (continued)

SUBPROGRAMME 5. SPECIAL PROGRAMMES AND ISSUES

Activity	Date due	Status of implementation/modification
3. Published material		
3b <u>Non-recurrent publications</u>		
New emerging urbanization trends in relation to recent regional changes: input into the Arab Regional Population Conference	First quarter, 1996	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat as part of the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes
Exploratory study on Arab cultural identity within the peace perspective	Fourth quarter, 1997	Departure: <u>Terminated</u> Status: <u>Terminated</u> Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat owing to vacancies and the curtailment of activities for efficiency purposes

Annex II

**COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH
UNITED NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL
AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

A. Background

During 1996, ESCWA continued to cooperate with many United Nations organizations, as well as with various other international and regional organizations. The main purpose of this cooperation was to enhance relations, to initiate and/or implement joint projects, to coordinate the follow-up of international conferences, and to participate jointly in meetings.

The organizations with which ESCWA cooperated and the bases for such cooperation are detailed below.

B. United Nations organizations and agencies

1. The United Nations Secretariat and other bodies in the United Nations system

(a) United Nations Headquarters

ESCWA and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development continued to coordinate their efforts on activities related to the special session of the General Assembly, which is scheduled to be held in June 1997 for the purpose of reviewing and appraising the implementation of Agenda 21 (a five-year assessment of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [UNCED]), and on follow-up activities related to the World Summit for Social Development. In addition, ESCWA contributed to the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women (1996-2001) which was submitted to the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (11-22 March 1996), and to the Secretary-General's report on gender, women and the family. Moreover, ESCWA cooperated with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis on the revision of the study on Arab women, 1995: trends, statistics and indicators (currently under publication) and on activities related to the Population Information Network (POPIN), and also participated in the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development (26 February - 1 March 1996).

(b) United Nations Office at Geneva

ESCWA submitted a statement on its recent population-related activities and plans to the nineteenth session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections (Geneva, 25-27 June 1996).

(c) Economic Commission for Europe

ESCWA provided information to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on initiated or planned activities pertinent to the chemical industry. At the request of ECE, and in an effort to both harmonize the activities of the two commission and promote the adoption of international conventions in the transport field,

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ESCWA reviewed the land transport agreements and conventions developed by the ECE Land Transport Committee and forwarded them to the LAS General Secretariat for its input.

(d) Economic Commission for Africa

ESCWA and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) exchanged information on activities in the field of remote sensing and GIS techniques. In this context, ESCWA participated in the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, held by ECA at its headquarters in Addis Ababa from 10 to 17 November 1996, and presented a paper entitled "Thematic mapping for development and management of shared water resources in the ESCWA region".

(e) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCWA continued to cooperate with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on the implementation of ESCWA regional activities for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific; and on the ESCAP study on "Prospects for container shipping and port development: intra-regional container trade".

(f) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) included the participation of ESCWA in the eighth Asian Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 (Amman, 6-11 January 1996) in preparation for the ninth session of UNCTAD (UNCTAD IX), and in UNCTAD IX itself (Midrand, South Africa, 27 April - 11 May 1996). In addition, discussions were held with UNCTAD on multimodal transport issues (Amman, March 1996), and ESCWA provided substantive comments on the UNCTAD study entitled "Implications of the post-Uruguay Round international trading system for petroleum exporting countries and for international trade in petroleum and petroleum products" (March 1996). ESCWA made substantive contributions to the UNCTAD Workshop on Analyzing the Impact and Dynamic Effects of the Uruguay Round Agreements on Development: Methodological Issues and Country-Specific Studies (Geneva, 3-4 March 1997). ESCWA helped organize and made substantive contributions to the joint UNCTAD/UNDP/WTO/Government of Jordan National Workshop on the Implications of the Uruguay Round for Jordan (Amman, 22-23 September 1996). In this connection, ESCWA participated in the Workshop on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership between Jordan and the European Union, held by UNCTAD and the Government of Jordan (Amman, 25 September 1996).

(g) United Nations Development Programme

ESCWA cooperated with UNDP on: the joint project on preparatory assistance for regional support of national efforts in pursuit of sustainable human development, including the provision of support in the preparation of national reports on sustainable human development in the Arab countries; the implementation of the field project on community development services; activities related to housing policies and urbanization; and the implementation of recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women. ESCWA also attended the Symposium on Gender and Human Development in the Arab Region organized by UNDP and CAWTAR in Tunis from 20 to 22 May 1996 and participated in the Round Table on the Promotion of Syrian Export Development in the Light of the New International Trading System organized by UNDP in Damascus from 3 to 4 June 1996. Furthermore, ESCWA cooperated with UNDP in the areas

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of integrated water management, Agenda 21, business incubators, ISO 9000, trade policy and export promotion by preparing inputs to or commentaries on the respective reports.

(h) United Nations Development Fund for Women

ESCWA cooperated with UNIFEM on follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women; UNIFEM and ESCWA have, at different times, been the convenors of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender established by the Amman-based Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Group. In addition, ESCWA and UNIFEM agreed, through a letter of understanding, to engage in more formal cooperation in the area of enterprise development. In this regard, ESCWA provided technical assistance to the UNIFEM project on strengthening institutions for the development of women's enterprises (which covers Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied territories) by carrying out activities related to entrepreneurship training, business counselling and information, and the establishment of business incubators for women.

(i) United Nations Environment Programme

ESCWA cooperated with UNEP on the preparation of the Task Manager's report on the regional implementation of Agenda 21 for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1997 for the purpose of reviewing and appraising the implementation of Agenda 21 (a five-year assessment of UNCED).

(j) United Nations Population Fund

ESCWA coordinated its efforts with UNFPA in the implementation of the UNFPA-supported project on population policies in the Arab countries of the ESCWA region and North Africa.

(k) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

ESCWA cooperated with the other regional commissions and with Habitat on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), providing comments and feedback on the draft agenda.

(l) United Nations University

ESCWA participated in the fifth United Nations University (UNU) Global Environmental Forum on Freshwater Resources in Arid Lands (Tokyo, 13 June 1996) and presented a paper on "Fresh water resources of the Arabian Peninsula".

2. Specialized agencies

(a) International Labour Organization

ESCWA, in cooperation with the ILO, held the Training Course on Management of Technical Cooperation (Amman, 6-17 October 1996). ESCWA also cooperated with the ILO in the implementation of a joint activity focusing on the establishment of community-based vocational rehabilitation programmes in rural areas in the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, ESCWA translated the ILO manual on surveys of

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economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, to be published in 1997. The Commission contributed a resource person to two workshops held by the ILO Turin International Training Centre: the Strategy Formulation Workshop on the Creation and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises in Arab Mediterranean Countries (Turin, Italy, 2-6 September 1996); and the seminar on Start Your Own Business within the Context of Support Policies and Programmes (Muscat, 16-17 March 1997), held jointly with the ILO regional office in Beirut and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

(b) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ESCWA cooperated with FAO in the preparation of several agricultural studies in line with chapter 14 of Agenda 21 on promoting agriculture and rural development for submission by the Secretary-General to the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1997 for the review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 (a five-year assessment of UNCED).

(c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

In addition to cooperating with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in activities in the field of technology, ESCWA undertook the responsibility of translating the UNESCO document entitled "Cultural dimensions of development: towards a practical approach".

(d) World Health Organization

ESCWA participated in the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Workshop on Water Conservation and Reuse: Practical Approach and Strategies (Amman, 4-7 March 1996), presenting a paper entitled "Overview of the water situation in the ESCWA region".

(e) World Bank

Discussions were held regarding possible World Bank support to implement demonstration projects for raising energy efficiency in selected energy-intensive sectors and to hold the 1997 water summit meeting in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region. ESCWA also held discussions with the World Bank regarding the follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women, on assessing water resources in the ESCWA region, and on the continued implementation of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in the ESCWA region.

(f) United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ESCWA participated in the UNIDO Workshop on the Role of Industry in the Development and Rational Use of Water Resources in the Arab Region (Amman, 13-15 May 1996), at which it presented a paper on "Perspective of water supply and demand in the ESCWA region". ESCWA cooperated with UNIDO on activities related to the latter's Global Report 1997 by participating in the preparations for the Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Investment in Industrial Development (Vienna, 21-22 October 1996) and contributing information to the Report on the industrial investment environment in ESCWA member States and North Africa. Moreover, in cooperation with UNIDO and AIDMO, ESCWA will publish a regional directory on sources of industrial information in the Arab countries. ESCWA also cooperated with UNIDO on activities related to ISO 9000, business incubators, and research and development.

C. International organizations

1. Centre for Arab Gulf Studies at the University of Exeter (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

ESCWA participated in the fourteenth international Symposium on Water and Arab Gulf Development: Problems and Policies organized by the Centre for Arab Gulf Studies (Exeter, 10-12 September 1996), and presented two papers: "Integrated approach to water resource development and management in the GCC countries" and "Prospects of non-conventional water resources in the Arabian Peninsula".

2. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

ESCWA collaborated with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, UNDP and UNIDO on the organization of two activities: the Workshop on Total Quality Management and ISO 9000 with Special Reference to the Cement Industry (Abu Dhabi, 21-23 May 1996); and the Regional Seminar on Assessment of the Role of Business Incubators in Economic Development (Beirut, 11-13 September 1996).

3. German Agency for Technical Cooperation

In collaboration with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, or GTZ), ESCWA organized the National Training Workshop on Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis (Amman, 3-20 November 1996).

4. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

ESCWA participated in the Sixteenth International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage (Cairo, 15-22 September 1996).

5. International Organization for Standardization

The ISO cooperated with ESCWA in the organization of the Workshop on Total Quality Management and ISO 9000 with Special Reference to the Cement Industry (Abu Dhabi, 21-23 May 1996), and also on preparations for a study on the assessment of standardization organizations in the ESCWA region.

D. Regional organizations

1. League of Arab States

ESCWA has maintained contact with LAS, its specialized agencies and affiliated bodies within the context of the ESCWA programme of work, mainly through the preparation of reports and reciprocal participation in meetings. More specifically, ESCWA participated in the Arab Telecommunication Policies and Economics Colloquium organized by LAS, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Union (EU) and held in Cairo from 28 to 30 September 1996, and presented a paper entitled "Development of telecommunications capabilities in the Arab countries: roles for regional organizations", which included a discussion of modalities for networking R and D efforts. The Commission also participated

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in the twenty-first session of the Standing Statistical Committee of the League of Arab States (LAS) (21-22 November 1996). ESCWA cooperated with LAS in organizing the Expert Group Meeting on Border-crossing Formalities and Agreements for the Transport of Goods and Passengers (Cairo, 4-7 November 1996), as well as on port development and a pricing structure for Arab ports. Moreover, in collaboration with the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre, ESCWA conducted the Training Workshop on Traffic Regulations in Major Cities (Amman, 7-25 October 1996).

ESCWA also cooperated with LAS, the Arab Demographic Association, the Cairo Demographic Center, and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population on the preparations for the first Arab Regional Population Conference (Cairo, 8-12 December 1996) and presented a paper to the Conference on "Gender statistics in the Arab countries: current issues and future plans". Furthermore, at the request of LAS, ESCWA provided technical support and other services to the Arab Conference on the Formulation of a Unified Arab Programme and a Follow-up Mechanism for the Action Plan of the Fourth World Conference on Women: the Conference of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs (Amman, 25-29 September 1996).

ESCWA and the AOAD have held annual coordination meetings to exchange views and identify activities of mutual interest. In this regard, ESCWA collaborated with AOAD on preparations for the Workshop on the Implications of the GATT Agreement for the Region, held in Amman on 22 and 23 May 1996.

In an attempt to promote regional cooperation in the implementation of priority environmental and sustainable development projects in the Arab region, ESCWA contributed to and participated in the meetings of JCEDAR. In addition, ESCWA prepared a report on the regional implementation of Agenda 21 for submission to the Eighth Meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (Cairo, 27-28 November 1996).

2. Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations

ESCWA cooperated with the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) in the implementation of programmed activities related to both community development services and the establishment of the Arab Regional Computer Training Centre for Blind Women in Amman.

3. Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization

ESCWA, in cooperation with AIDMO and UNIDO, is in the process of updating the Directory of Arab Information Sources to facilitate access to existing sources of industrial information in the Arab world by client enterprises. Further, ESCWA provided an outline for discussions with AIDMO on activities proposed for joint implementation, such as the study on the impact of the new international trade agreement on the textiles and clothing industry (under publication). ESCWA also attended the regular ministerial meeting of AIDMO held in June 1996.

4. Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics

ESCWA participated in the twenty-first meeting of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) Board of Directors, held in Amman on 22 and 23 July 1996.

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5. Arab Planning Institute

ESCWA participated in the Symposium on Principles for Developing a Standard Country Model for the Assessment of Economic Policies, organized by the Arab Planning Institute (API) (Cairo, 20-22 May 1996), and presented a paper on "Standard economic models and their uses and the experience of ESCWA in this regard".

6. Association of Lebanese Industrialists

ESCWA participated in the Workshop on the Identification of New Technologies to enhance the Competitiveness of Lebanese Industry, organized by the Association of Lebanese Industrialists and UNIDO (Beirut, 4-5 December 1996), for which a paper was prepared entitled "Technology transfer and technology policy".

7. Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research

ESCWA cooperated with CAWTAR on the finalization of the study on Arab women, 1995: trends, statistics and indicators (under publication), and the two organizations are currently involved in implementing a project on the development of national gender statistics programmes in Arab countries.

8. Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey

ESCWA participated in the Economic Research Forum (ERF) Conference on Labour Markets and Human Resource Development (Kuwait, 16-18 September 1996). Moreover, in 1996, ESCWA, the ERF and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung jointly published the Selected Proceedings: Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Strategies and Policies [and] Managerial and Entrepreneurial Skills under Conditions of Global and Regional Change for the two expert group meetings held concurrently in Bahrain from 20 to 23 November 1995. The ERF is also contributing to the expert group meeting organized by ESCWA on the impact of the peace process on the industrial sector, scheduled to be held from 23 to 25 June 1997.

9. Federation of Arab Institutes for Economic and Social Research

ESCWA participated in the Federation of Arab Institutes for Economic and Social Research (FAIESR) Seminar on Prerequisites for Development in the Middle East in the light of Regional and Global Development (Cairo, 24-26 September 1996) and presented a paper entitled "Foreign trade and foreign direct investment: Can they be the engine of economic growth in the Arab countries?".

10. Islamic Development Bank

ESCWA participated in the Regional Workshop on Water Conservation and Reuse: Practical Approaches and Strategies organized by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and WHO/EMRO/CEHA (Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean/Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities) in Amman from 4 to 7 March 1996. Furthermore, ESCWA provided funding for the participation of three trainees from member States and areas (Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) in the seven-week IDB Training Course on Farm Water Management and Rationalization (Kafr el-Sheikh, Egypt, 11 May - 27 June 1996).

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11. Al-Urdun Al-Jadid Research Centre

ESCWA presented a paper entitled "The Middle Eastern project and the future of Arab economic integration" at the Al-Urdun Al-Jadid Research Centre Seminar on the Jordanian Economy in its Regional Framework: Future Outlook (Amman, 26-29 May 1996). ESCWA also participated in the Centre's Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean (Amman, 8-9 July 1996).

12. Other regional cooperation

At the request of the Secretary-General, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA was designated the team leader for the special technical mission to Lebanon (27 May - 10 June 1996), which was carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/22 C of 25 April 1996 on the Israeli military attacks against Lebanon and their consequences. In addition, the Executive Secretary, as the representative of the Secretary-General, participated in the Middle East/North Africa Economic Conference held in Cairo from 12 to 14 November 1996.

Annex III*

**ESCWA PROGRAMME OF WORK
 FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997**

**Subprogramme 1
 Management of natural resources and environment**

Table 19.8 **Summary by object of expenditure**
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>1992-1993 expenditures</i>	<i>1994-1995 appropriations</i>	<i>Resource growth</i>		<i>Total before recosting</i>	<i>Recosting</i>	<i>1996-1997 estimates</i>
			<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>			
Posts	2 254.4	2 760.9	—	—	2 760.9	187.5	2 948.4
Consultants and experts	86.3	93.6	(7.5)	(8.0)	86.1	4.5	90.6
Travel	21.0	101.8	(51.5)	(50.5)	50.3	2.6	52.9
Total	2 361.7	2 956.3	(59.0)	(1.9)	2 897.3	194.6	3 091.9

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

	<i>1992-1993 expenditures</i>	<i>1994-1995 estimates</i>	<i>Source of funds</i>	<i>1996-1997 estimates</i>
			(a) Services in support of:	
	—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
	—	—	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
	—	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
	—	75.3	(c) Operational projects	—
			UNEP	—
Total	—	75.3		—
Total (1) and (2)	2 361.7	3 031.6		3 091.9

* Reproduced from the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1996-1997; part V, Regional cooperation for development; section 19, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (A/50/6 (Sect. 19)).

Table 19.9 **Post requirements**

Programme: Management of natural resources and environment

	<i>Established posts</i>		<i>Temporary posts</i>				<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Regular budget</i>		<i>Regular budget</i>		<i>Extrabudgetary resources</i>			
	<i>1994-1995</i>	<i>1996-1997</i>	<i>1994-1995</i>	<i>1996-1997</i>	<i>1994-1995</i>	<i>1996-1997</i>	<i>1994-1995</i>	<i>1996-1997</i>
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-4/3	8	8	—	—	—	—	8	8
P-2/1	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total	12	12	—	—	—	—	12	12
Other categories								
Local level	8	8	—	—	—	—	8	8
Total	8	8	—	—	—	—	8	8
Grand total	20	20	—	—	—	—	20	20

- 19.16 During the biennium 1994-1995, activities under this subprogramme concentrated on shared water resources, the application of new technologies, especially remote sensing techniques, to water exploration; water quality; energy efficiency; renewable sources of energy; promotion of the establishment of a regional power generation network; the implementation of the Ministerial Arab Declaration on Environment and Development in the region; environment legislation; and the establishment of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region.
- 19.17 During 1996-1997, the subprogramme will focus on the promotion of subregional and regional cooperation in the management of natural resources. In that context, emphasis will continue to be placed on such areas of particular importance to the region as the development of shared water resources, non-conventional water resources and the impact of pricing policies on water demand. In addition, issues relating to water legislation will be addressed for the first time during the biennium. The development of renewable energy resources, improving the efficiency of energy use and rationalization of energy consumption will continue to be major areas of work. An interdisciplinary emphasis will be given to issues related to environment, especially within the context of follow-up on the implementation of Agenda 21. Finally, information and data in the area of natural resources will be expanded to include water statistics.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations. Liaison and cooperation will be maintained with LAS, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, IAEA, OECD, the World Energy Council, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Forum, the OIC Islamic Development Bank; the Institute for Geoscience and Natural Resources, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment and the Centre on Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe.

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2. *Parliamentary services*

- (a) *Parliamentary documentation*. Reports to the Commission on (i) the establishment of a committee on energy and a committee on water; (ii) follow-up action to Agenda 21; and (iii) work of the inter-agency working group on the role of non-governmental organizations active in the water sector;
- (b) *Substantive services*. Substantive contribution to the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region;
- (c) Ad hoc expert group meeting on the development of non-conventional water resources.

3. *Published material*

- (a) *Non-recurrent publications*. (i) Regional approach for efficient use of energy; (ii) regional programme for the development of new and renewable energy resources: assessment and prospects; (iii) development of non-conventional water resources; (iv) water legislation; (v) coordination of national efforts for optimal utilization of shared water resources in the region; (vi) review of the impact of pricing policies on water demand; (vii) water pollution in selected urban areas in the region: case-studies; (viii) survey on incorporating the environmental dimension into development plans; (ix) follow-up study on the trade policy aspects of environmental measures in countries of the region: textile and leather products; (x) foreign investment legislation reflecting environmental concerns in the ESCWA region; and (xi) study on environmentally sound technologies in selected industries;
- (b) *Technical material*. Development and maintenance of databases on energy statistics and water statistics.

4. *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*

Coordination and liaison with UNEP, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, the regional commissions and the Advisory Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

- 19.18 Resources would provide for 12 posts in the Professional category and above and 8 Local level posts.

Consultants and experts

- 19.19 The estimated requirements of \$86,100 relate to consultants to provide expertise in the preparation of specialized studies and reports (\$59,800) and to the convening of expert group meetings (\$26,300).

Travel

- 19.20 The estimated requirements of \$50,300, reflecting a reduction of \$51,500, relate to travel of staff for consultations with government representatives, collection of data and participation at inter-agency and other meetings of relevance to the subprogramme.

Subprogramme 2 Improvement of the quality of life

Table 19.10 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) Regular budget

Object of expenditure	1992-1993 expenditures	1994-1995 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1996-1997 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	2 766.3	3 512.0	—	—	3 512.0	237.4	3 749.4
Consultants and experts	118.9	121.8	(11.4)	(9.3)	110.4	5.8	116.2
Travel	40.2	83.2	—	—	83.2	4.3	87.5
Contractual services	9.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2 934.4	3 717.0	(11.4)	(0.3)	3 705.6	247.5	3 953.1

(2) Extrabudgetary resources

	1992-1993 expenditures	1994-1995 estimates	Source of funds	1996-1997 estimates
	—	—	(a) Services in support of:	—
	—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
	—	—	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
	—	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
	—	—	(c) Operational projects	—
	196.5	94.5	UNDP	141.0
	460.3	329.3	UNFPA	205.0
	—	—	UNESCO	25.0
	—	65.0	UNIFEM	68.0
	200.3	82.6	ESCWA Trust Fund	—
	—	203.1	Other multilateral sources	139.0
	—	76.0	Bilateral sources	32.5
Total	857.1	850.5		610.5
Total (1) and (2)	3 791.5	4 567.5		4 563.6

Table 19.11 **Post requirements**

Programme: Improvement of the quality of life

Professional category and above	Established posts		Temporary posts				Total	
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources			
	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	3	3	—	—	1	—	4	3
P-4/3	8	8	—	—	—	—	8	8
P-2/1	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Total	15	15	—	—	1	—	16	15

/...

Other categories								
Local level	12	12	—	—	1	—	13	12
Total	12	12	—	—	1	—	13	12
Grand total	27	27	—	—	2	—	29	27

- 19.21 In 1994-1995, the main activities of this subprogramme concerned preparations for major international conferences and related issues. In that context, issues relating to poverty in selected economic and social aspects constituted the core theme for the subprogramme. Other issues of importance related to the integration of youth and the disabled.
- 19.22 In 1996-1997, in the area of statistics, poverty measurement and gender statistics will be given special emphasis. A new activity will be introduced dealing with the conceptualization of a region-specific/gender-specific index on the status of Arab women in order to monitor change and propose action-oriented policies. The subprogramme will also focus on issues related to human development, population policies, community development through field projects promoting community participation of men and women in the villages and integrating community-based rehabilitation of the disabled, provision of adequate shelter and the problems of urbanization, and the development of entrepreneurship in support of human development through productive employment and the promotion of small and medium-size enterprises.
- 19.23 In the area of women and development, there will be a shift from operational projects to developing an information system, undertaking more research and studies, and convening meetings and seminars to raise awareness, as well as to discuss findings of research and to recommend policies and action plans. Particular attention will be given to implementation of the recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Activities

1. *International cooperation*

External relations. Liaison and coordination will be maintained with the following organizations: LAS and its affiliated bodies, such as the Arab Labour Organization, the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs, the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing and Reconstruction and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Demographic Association and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations, the Arab Women's Centre for Training and Research Tunis, the Bureau for Urban Management Programmes and the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe.

2. *Parliamentary services*

- (a) *Substantive services.* Substantive servicing of the meeting of the Committee on Social Development;
- (b) *Ad hoc expert group meetings.* (i) Population policies: exchange of national experiences; (ii) cultural dimension of development: towards a practical approach; (iii) secondary cities and sustainable urban development; (iv) techno-entrepreneurship and business incubators; (v) the 2000 round of population and housing censuses, 1997; and (vi) poverty measurement.

3. *Published material*

- (a) *Recurrent publications.* (i) *Population Bulletin*, Nos. 43 and 44 (2); (ii) demographic and related socio-economic data sheets; (iii) population estimates and projections; (iv) social survey of the ESCWA region; (v) news bulletin on human settlements in the Arab world (four); and (vi) compendium of social statistics and indicators;

/...

- (b) *Non-recurrent publications.* (i) Assessment of the role of non-governmental organizations active in the water sector; (ii) appropriate national population measures and programmes for sustainable development in the region; (iii) assessment of the population situation in the region in 1997 and future trends; (iv) manual/guideline on formulation of population policies; (v) critical assessment of the UNDP *Human Development Report (2)*; (vi) selected technical studies on sustainable human development (2); (vii) annotated bibliography of research on sustainable human development; (viii) development of a status-of-women index, including feminization of poverty; (ix) annotated bibliography on Arab women and the family: a critical assessment; (x) policies and measures: inventory of non-governmental organizations and directory of national machineries; (xi) study on secondary cities and sustainable urban development; (xii) community participation in urban development in the region; (xiii) accessibility for the disabled in the urban environment in the region; (xiv) youth in the urban environment in the region; and (xv) report on business incubators in the region;
- (c) *Technical material.* Development and maintenance of databases on social statistics and human settlements on gender statistics and indicators, and on labour force statistics.

4. *Operational activities*

- (a) *Advisory services.* Formulation and evaluation of national population policies; support to ESCWA member States in preparing national human development reports; human settlement development; support to national institutions on organizing workshops/courses on starting one's own business; and development of gender statistics, civil registration statistics and vital statistics;
- (b) *Group training.* Workshops on the integration of population variables into the development planning process; on community development; and on gender statistics;
- (c) *Field projects.* Integrating community-based rehabilitation of the disabled; establishing a training centre on the use of computers for blind girls at Amman; community development services; and promotion and establishment of business incubators in selected ESCWA countries.

5. *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*

Activities will be coordinated with the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, UNFPA, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Population, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNRISD, UNIFEM, UNV, INSTRAW, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Rural Development.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

- 19.24 Resources would provide for 15 posts in the Professional category and above and 12 Local level posts.

Consultants and experts

- 19.25 The estimated requirements of \$110,400, reflecting a reduction of \$11,400, relate to consultants to provide expertise in the preparation of a number of studies and reports (\$54,500) and for convening expert group meetings (\$55,900).

Travel

- 19.26 The estimated requirements of \$83,200 relate to travel of staff for consultations with Governments, collection of data and participation at inter-agency and other meetings of relevance to the subprogramme.

Subprogramme 3 Economic development and cooperation

Table 19.12 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>1992-1993 expenditures</i>	<i>1994-1995 appropriations</i>	<i>Resource growth</i>		<i>Total before recosting</i>	<i>Recosting</i>	<i>1996-1997 estimates</i>
			<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>			
Posts	4 593.2	5 449.8	(119.1)	(2.1)	5 330.7	393.7	5 724.4
Consultants and experts	172.4	319.1	27.0	8.4	346.1	19.5	365.6
Travel	109.1	138.0	—	—	138.0	7.6	145.6
Contractual services	9.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4 883.7	5 906.9	(92.1)	(1.5)	5 814.8	420.8	6 235.6

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

	<i>1992-1993 expenditures</i>	<i>1994-1995 estimates</i>	<i>Source of funds</i>	<i>1996-1997 estimates</i>
			(a) Services in support of:	
	—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
	—	—	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
	—	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
	54.2	20.8	(c) Operational projects	
	—	135.3	UNDP	30.0
	—	—	Other multilateral sources	40.0
	—	—	Bilateral sources	10.0
Total	54.2	156.1		80.0
Total (1) and (2)	4 937.9	6 063.0		6 315.6

Table 19.13 Post requirements

Programme: Economic development and cooperation

	Established posts		Temporary posts				Total	
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources			
	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	6	6	—	—	—	—	6	6
P-4/3	13	13	—	—	—	—	13	13
P-2/1	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Total	23	23	—	—	—	—	23	23
Other categories								
Local level	21	18	—	—	—	—	21	18
Total	21	18	—	—	—	—	21	18
Grand total	44	41	—	—	—	—	44	41

- 19.27 The main focus of work during the biennium 1994-1995 was on promoting regional cooperation and integration in selected areas in the fields of food and agriculture, international trade, industry, energy, transport and statistics.
- 19.28 In the biennium 1996-1997, special emphasis will be placed on promoting regional cooperation among member States of ESCWA in areas of national legislation dealing with foreign investment and the development of trading companies; establishing gas and electricity networks; facilitation of transport links; food security through long-range planning and coordination; and integration of agricultural development plans and policies at the regional and subregional levels. The *Journal of Development* will be published for the first time to provide a forum for the interaction of multidisciplinary thinking on the problems confronting the region.
- 19.29 The secretariat will also continue to assist member States in the establishment of support institutions and services to industry; strengthen linkages of research and development institutions with production and service sectors; promote joint ventures in manufacturing and cooperation in the utilization and application of science and technology for development; and expand and develop statistical databases, in particular, on economics, industry, finance and national accounts. New work will be initiated on developing science and technology indicators and special attention will be paid to the promotion of the 1993 system of national accounts.

Activities*I. International cooperation*

External relations. Relations will be maintained with the Arab Monetary Fund; LAS, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce and other relevant professional associations and non-governmental organizations, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization, the Islamic Foundation for Science and Technology and Development, the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, OIC, the Arab Railways Union, the Near East/North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association, the Agricultural Food and Marketing Association for the Near East and North Africa, the Arab Centre for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the International Centre for Agricultural and Research Development in Dry Areas, the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development in the Near East, the Arab Federation for Food Industries and the International Statistical Institute.

/...

2. *Parliamentary services*

- (a) *Parliamentary documentation*. Five reports to the Commission: (i) survey of the economic and social developments in the region: summary (2); (ii) existing border crossing formalities and agreements for the transport of goods and persons; (iii) follow-up action on the implementation of the second phase of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1992-1996) in the region; (iv) report to the Statistical Committee and the Commission on the following topics: ESCWA statistical activities during the biennium 1996-1997; activities during the biennium 1998-1999; the regional household survey project; implementation of the 1993 system of national accounts; and recommendations adopted by seminars and workshops convened during the biennium 1996-1997;
- (b) *Substantive services*. Second session of the Statistical Committee;
- (c) *Ad hoc expert group meetings*. (i) Prospects for a regional and interregional electricity network; (ii) prospects for establishing a regional gas network; (iii) prospects for the development of trading companies in the region; (iv) promotion of research and development capabilities in the region: local technological inputs; (v) border crossing formalities and agreements for transport of goods and services; (vi) intra- and interregional transport links and infrastructure; (vii) promoting regional coordination and integration in food and agriculture; (viii) implementation of the 1993 system of national accounts; and (ix) industrial surveys and the requirements of the 1993 system of national accounts.

3. *Published material*

- (a) *Fifteen recurrent publications*. (i) Survey of economic and social developments in the region (2); (ii) *Journal of Development*; (iii) *ESCWA Transport Bulletin*, Nos. 7 and 8; (iv) *Statistical Abstract of the region*, Nos. 16 and 17; (v) *Bulletin of National Accounts*, Nos. 16 and 17; (vi) *External Trade Bulletin of the region*, No. 8; (vii) *Bulletin on Prices and Index Numbers in the region*, Nos. 14 and 15; (viii) *Bulletin of Industrial Statistics in the Arab Countries*, No. 3; and (ix) *Agriculture and Development in Western Asia Bulletin*, Nos. 18 and 19;
- (b) *Non-recurrent publications*. (i) Technical and economic aspects of the establishment of a regional electricity network and prospects for interregional connections; (ii) proposal for the establishment of a mechanism for a regional gas network; (iii) proposal for a *modus operandi* of the regional gas network; (iv) assessment of trade practices and international trading companies and identification of prospects for the development of trading companies in the ESCWA region; (v) compendium of national legislation governing foreign direct investment in the region: an authoritative English version; (vi) assessment of research and development capabilities in the region: local technological inputs; (vii) survey and assessment of sources of information in industry in the region; (viii) biotechnology perspectives in agricultural development; (ix) science and technology indicators; (x) regional guidelines for transport agreements and conventions; (xi) assessment of intra- and interregional transport links and transport infrastructures; (xii) assessment of existing border crossing formalities and agreements for transport of goods and persons; (xiii) policy and project proposals for the development of a multimodal transport system in the region; (xiv) promotion of regional coordination and integration in food and agriculture; (xv) commodity-specific policy analysis matrix for two selected ESCWA countries (2); (xvi) long-term perspectives on food and agriculture production in the region; and (xvii) work towards the establishment of an ESCWA information system, including an assessment of the status of statistics in ESCWA member States;
- (c) *Technical material*. Development and maintenance of databases on economic statistics, industrial statistics, financial statistics and on national accounts.

4. *Operational activities*

- (a) *Advisory services*. Technical advice to ESCWA member States in the transport sector;
- (b) *Field projects*. Promotion of identified engineering infrastructure projects.

/...

5. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Coordination and harmonization of activities and liaison will be maintained with the Statistical Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, UNIDO, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNEP, UNCTAD, the regional commissions, the Regional Office for Science and Technology for the Arab States (UNESCO), ILO, the World Bank, the Administrative Committee on Coordination/Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and its inter-agency working groups, and the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

- 19.30 Resources would provide for 23 posts in the Professional category and above and 18 Local level posts. Three Local level posts are proposed to be redeployed from this subprogramme to executive direction and management to support the Secretary of the Commission in carrying out his expanded responsibilities in the area of monitoring multidisciplinary task forces (two posts) and to programme support to strengthen the Technical Cooperation Division in carrying out its expanded mandates and functions in supporting regional advisory services (one post).

Consultants and experts

- 19.31 The estimated requirements of \$346,100, reflecting an increase of \$27,000, relate to consultants to provide expertise in the preparation of specialized studies and reports in a number of areas covered by the subprogramme (\$116,400) and the convening of expert group meetings (\$229,700). The proposed increase would be required for the latter.

Travel

- 19.32 The estimated requirements of \$138,000 would provide for consultations with Governments and intergovernmental organizations, data collection and participation at inter-agency and other meetings.

Subprogramme 4 Regional development and global changes

Table 19.14 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) Regular budget

Object of expenditure	1992-1993 expenditures	1994-1995 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1996-1997 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	1 512.8	1 890.1	—	—	1 890.1	123.5	2 013.6
Consultants and experts	73.2	101.3	11.0	10.8	112.3	6.1	118.4
Travel	49.6	28.5	—	—	28.5	1.5	30.0
Total	1 635.6	2 019.9	11.0	0.5	2 030.9	131.1	2 162.0

/...

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

	1992-1993 expendi- tures	1994-1995 estimates	Source of funds	1996-1997 estimates
			(a) Services in support of:	
	—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
	—	—	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
	—	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
	—	—	(c) Operational projects	
			Other multilateral sources	20.0
Total	—	—		20.0
Total (1) and (2)	1 635.6	2 019.9		2 182.0

Table 19.15 **Post requirements***Programme: Regional development and global changes*

	Established posts		Temporary posts				Total	
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
P-4/3	5	5	—	—	—	—	5	5
Total	8	8	—	—	—	—	8	8
Other categories								
Local level	4	4	—	—	—	—	4	4
Total	4	4	—	—	—	—	4	4
Grand total	12	12	—	—	—	—	12	12

- 19.33 The activities of the subprogramme during the biennium 1996-1997 will aim at strengthening the capacities of decision makers in the member States by providing recommendations and alternative policy options for dealing more effectively with the current economic challenges and anticipated constraints and obstacles in order to design appropriate sets of macroeconomic policies. This subprogramme will consist of activities clustered around two main issues: (a) the new international trade agreement (Uruguay Round) in selected areas (agriculture, industry and trade) and resulting economic adjustment requirements; and (b) the challenge that faces the region in economic reform policies, in particular the privatization process.

Activities*1. International cooperation*

External relations. Coordination of activities with LAS and other regional organizations active in the area covered by the new international trade agreement (Uruguay Round) and ISO and of interest to member States of the region.

/...

2. *Parliamentary services*

Ad hoc expert group meetings. (i) Privatization efforts: governance and institutional aspects; (ii) challenges and opportunities of the new international trade agreement (Uruguay Round): post-Uruguay preparations and adjustments; (iii) the impact of the new international trade agreement (Uruguay Round) and the quality standards of industrial products (ISO 9000) on selected industries (e.g. agro-food, textile and leather industries); and (iv) eradication of poverty in Western Asia: towards a plan of action.

3. *Published material*

Non-recurrent publications. (i) Impact of privatization on electric power generation in ESCWA member States; (ii) inter-linkages between macroeconomic policies, poverty and sustainable development in selected ESCWA countries: a study of coordinated policies; (iii) case-studies on governance and institutional aspects as related to privatization (2); (iv) challenges and opportunities of the new international trade agreement (Uruguay Round): post-Uruguay preparations and adjustments in selected sectors; (v) social consequences of structural adjustment policies (RB/XB); (vi) eradicating poverty in Western Asia; and (vii) entrepreneurial and managerial skills under conditions of uncertainty.

4. *Operational activities*

Advisory services. Advisory services to member States on issues related to the new international trade agreement (Uruguay Round) and ISO 9000.

5. *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*

Collaboration and liaison with UNCTAD, the regional commissions and the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

- 19.34 Resources would provide for eight posts in the Professional category and above and four Local level posts.

Consultants and experts

- 19.35 The estimated requirements of \$112,300, reflecting an increase of \$11,000, relate to consultants to provide expertise and/or specialized inputs in the preparation of a number of studies (\$47,900) and to the convening of ad hoc expert group meetings (\$64,400).

Travel

- 19.36 The estimated requirements of \$28,500 relate to travel of staff for consultations, collection of information and participation at meetings relevant to the subprogramme.

Subprogramme 5 Special programmes and issues

Table 19.16 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	1992-1993 expenditures	1994-1995 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1996-1997 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	1 163.7	1 439.5	—	—	1 439.5	95.5	1 535.0
Consultants and experts	30.7	52.7	—	—	52.7	2.7	55.4
Travel	25.4	19.9	—	—	19.9	1.0	20.9
Total	1 219.8	1 512.1	—	—	1 512.1	99.2	1 611.3

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

	1992-1993 expenditures	1994-1995 estimates	Source of funds	1996-1997 estimates
	—	—	(a) Services in support of:	
	—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
	—	—	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
	74.1	20.0	(b) Substantive activities	
			ESCWA Trust Fund	—
	—	—	(c) Operational projects	
	—	—	UNICEF	20.0
	—	11.9	UNIFEM	20.0
	—	161.4	Bilateral sources	92.5
Total	74.1	193.3		132.5
Total (1) and (2)	1 293.9	1 705.4		1 743.8

Table 19.17 **Post requirements**

Programme: Special programmes and issues

	Established posts		Temporary posts				Total	
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources			
	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-4/3	4	4	—	—	—	—	4	4
Total	6	6	—	—	—	—	6	6
Other categories								
Local level	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Total	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Grand total	9	9	—	—	—	—	9	9

/...

- 19.37 Support to national efforts for rehabilitation of the agriculture, transport and human settlement sectors was rendered to Lebanon during the biennium 1994-1995, in an effort to contribute towards the rehabilitation of that country and to assist it in the process of reconstruction. Similar support was rendered for the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Efforts were also made in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to promote small and medium-size entrepreneurship within the context of rehabilitation and alleviation of poverty by assisting people in starting their own business. Support was also provided to the least developed member country in the region, Yemen, in the framework of the new Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.
- 19.38 During the biennium 1996-1997, this subprogramme will focus on two main areas: the assessment of the impact of peace on selected sectors, especially agriculture, industry, finance and services; and the promotion of the agriculture sector, small enterprises and managerial skills in the occupied Palestinian territories and Palestinian cities and villages. Another important area of activity relates to the prospects for networking among the non-governmental organizations, as local institutions for continuity and change, in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations. Liaison and consultations with LAS and its specialized agencies, such as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, with the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations and other regional organizations and bilateral donors in implementing joint activities.

2. Parliamentary services

Ad hoc expert group meetings. (i) Prospects of networking among non-governmental organizations in the occupied Palestinian territories and under the Palestinian National Authority; and (ii) impact of the peace process on selected sectors.

3. Published material

- (a) *Recurrent publication.* Review of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;
- (b) *Non-recurrent publications.* (i) Impact of the peace process on selected sectors; (ii) assessment of regional financial institutions within the context of the peace process; (iii) new emerging urbanization trends in relation to recent regional changes: input into the Arab Regional Population Conference; (iv) exploratory study on Arab cultural identity within the peace perspective; (v) assessment of the role of non-governmental organizations and prospects for networking among them in the occupied Palestinian territories and under the Palestinian National Authority: case-studies; (vi) the situation of Palestinian cities and villages and prospects for development; and (vii) rehabilitation of the agriculture sector in the occupied Palestinian territories: preparation of two project documents in priority areas (two issues).

4. Operational activities

- (a) *Advisory services.* Provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian National Authority, Yemen and other ESCWA member States with special needs;
- (b) *Field project.* Project to establish technology business incubators in the West Bank and Gaza.

5. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Joint country-specific activities will be coordinated with UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and ILO.

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Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

- 19.39 Resources would provide for six posts in the Professional category and above and three Local level posts.

Consultants and experts

- 19.40 The estimated requirements of \$52,700 relate to consultants to provide expertise and/or inputs in the preparation of a number of studies and reports (\$24,200) and to the convening of ad hoc expert group meetings (\$28,500).

Travel

- 19.41 The estimated requirements of \$19,900 relate to travel of staff for consultations, collection of information and participation at meetings of relevance to the subprogramme.

