



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
GENERAL
E/ESCWA/19/4
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/14
13 May 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Nineteenth Session
Beirut, 7-8 May 1997

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON THE WORK OF ITS TENTH SESSION**

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

E/ESCWA/19/4
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/14

97-0426

United Nations Publication

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1-4	1
<i>Chapter</i>		
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	5-12	1
A. Date and venue of the session	5	1
B. Attendance	6-8	2
C. Election of officers	9	2
D. Adoption of the agenda	10	2
E. Organization of work	11	3
F. Adoption by the Technical Committee of the report on its tenth session	12	4
II. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	13-36	4
A. Opening of the session of the Technical Committee and statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCWA	13-20	4
B. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission	21-35	6
C. Provisional agenda of the nineteenth ministerial session of ESCWA and the appropriate recommendations	36	11
ANNEXES		
I. List of participants		12
II. List of documents submitted to the Technical Committee at its tenth session		17



INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 May 1982, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)^{1/} adopted resolution 114 (IX) on the ECWA medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. In paragraph 4 of that resolution, ECWA recommended to the Economic and Social Council that a Standing Committee for the Programme, composed of all member countries of the Commission, be established as its main subsidiary organ to assist the Commission in discharging its responsibilities in respect of programme planning and review.

2. On 27 July 1984, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1984/80 on the general policy-making structure of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and recalled its resolution 1982/64 of 30 July 1982, by which it established, within the Economic Commission for Western Asia, a Standing Committee for the Programme, and decided to designate it as the Technical Committee and to add to its terms of reference, set out in paragraph 5 of Commission resolution 114 (IX), the consideration of the items of the provisional agenda for the annual session of the Commission, in preparation for the Commission's meeting at the ministerial level.

3. The tenth session of the Technical Committee is being held pursuant to ESCWA resolution 196 (XVII) of 31 May 1994 on the frequency of sessions of the Commission and the Technical Committee, and in particular the following two paragraphs of the resolution, in which the Commission decided:

“1. ... that the meetings of the Technical Committee shall henceforth be linked with the sessions of the Commission, in accordance with previous practice, and that the Technical Committee shall hold its meeting shortly before the Commission session;

“2. ... that Commission sessions shall be held in odd years, starting in 1995, in conformity with the budget session of the United Nations and with the cycle to monitor the progress achieved in the programmes of work of the system.”

4. It was the intention of the secretariat to focus attention on the essential points of the deliberations; consequently, the final report of the session reflects the most important issues raised, briefly summarizing the discussions that took place on each agenda item, without any detailed presentation of the views expressed by individual representatives.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

A. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SESSION

5. The Technical Committee held its tenth session in Beirut on 5 and 6 May 1997. The Committee held four meetings, during which it discussed the agenda items listed in paragraph 10 of the present report and submitted its recommendations to the Commission for consideration at its nineteenth session.

^{1/} The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was redesignated the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) by Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985.

B. ATTENDANCE

6. The session was attended by representatives of the following ESCWA members:^{2/} Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

7. Representatives of the United Nations Secretariat and the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session as observers: Regional Commissions New York Office; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; World Food Programme; International Labour Organization; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and World Health Organization.

8. In addition, representatives of the following regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the session as observers: Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD); Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE); General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries; League of Arab States; Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC); Union of Arab Banks; and World Muslim Congress.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

9. At its 1st meeting, held on 5 May 1997, the Committee elected the following: His Excellency Mr. Walid Nasr, Ambassador and head of the delegation of Lebanon, as Chairman of the tenth session of the Technical Committee; Mr. Hamad M.H. Monawer, head of the delegation of Kuwait, and His Excellency Mr. Hany Riadh Aly, of the delegation of Egypt, as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Zuhdi Labib Tarazi, head of the delegation of Palestine, as Rapporteur.

D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

10. The Technical Committee adopted the following agenda (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/1) for its tenth session:
1. Opening of the Technical Committee session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Organization of work.
 5. Invitation to States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the tenth session of the Technical Committee.
 6. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission:

^{2/} For the names of the session participants, see annex I.

- (a) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 (regular programme and technical cooperation activities);
 - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission adopted at its eighteenth session on the establishment of a committee on energy and a committee on water resources, and reports and recommendations of the specialized committees established pursuant to previous resolutions on statistics and social development;
 - (i) Resolution 204 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;
 - (ii) Resolution 205 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on water resources in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;
 - (c) Recommendations of the Statistical Committee and the Committee on Social Development;
 - (d) Preparation and follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings;
 - (e) Proposed medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001;
 - (f) Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999;
 - (g) Financial status of the Commission's programmes;
 - (h) The regional role of ESCWA in the coordination of the activities of the United Nations agencies;
 - (i) Report on the Advisory Committee established pursuant to resolution 175 (XV) on the strengthening of the role and performance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.
7. Provisional agenda of the nineteenth ministerial session of ESCWA and the appropriate recommendations.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its tenth session.

E. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

11. The Technical Committee adopted the proposed organization of work (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/L.2).

F. ADOPTION BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REPORT ON ITS TENTH SESSION

12. At its 4th meeting, held on 6 May 1997, the Technical Committee adopted the report on its tenth session, as amended.

II. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

A. OPENING OF THE SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCWA

13. The tenth session of the Technical Committee was opened by His Excellency Mr. Walid Nasr, Ambassador and Director of the Department of International Organizations, Conferences and Cultural Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon, who welcomed the representatives of the member States attending the session and wished them success in their deliberations.

14. In his opening address, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA welcomed the participants and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Lebanese Government for hosting the tenth session of the Technical Committee. He also expressed appreciation to the Government of Jordan and the Government of Iraq for the facilities and generous assistance they had extended to ESCWA during the Commission's stay in their respective countries.

15. At the previous session of the Technical Committee, held in May 1995, the Executive Secretary had defined the following objectives for the secretariat:

- (a) Strengthening ties and contacts with the Governments of member States;
- (b) Increased coordination and cooperation with other international and regional institutions;
- (c) Strengthening the organic link between the ESCWA secretariat and Headquarters in New York;
- (d) Filling all vacant posts to enable the secretariat to carry out its programmes with maximum effectiveness.

16. The genuine efforts of the secretariat to achieve those objectives had been facilitated by the establishment of a number of technical committees in various fields, made up of government experts from the member States, to ensure that ESCWA activities were consistent with the priorities of those States. In that connection, the Executive Secretary, either alone or in the company of the Secretary-General, had visited eight member States, where he had met with high officials; he intended to visit the remaining countries in the near future. He had also begun holding periodic meetings with the heads of delegations of the member States at United Nations Headquarters in New York to keep them abreast of the most important developments taking place at ESCWA. In addition, since 1995, the Advisory Committee, composed of the heads of diplomatic missions of the member States in the host country of the temporary headquarters and a representative of the host country, had held four meetings, at which they had been informed about new developments in respect of ESCWA activities and had presented their observations regarding its programmes. One of the indications of the increasing ties between ESCWA and the authorities concerned in the member States was that the number of requests for the services of regional advisers had risen 40 per cent since 1994.

17. The United Nations Secretariat had recognized and responded positively to the efforts of ESCWA. The Secretary-General had relied on ESCWA and its Executive Secretary to carry out all basic tasks in the region, and had selected ESCWA to lead a special technical mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to report on the losses and damage suffered by Lebanon as a result of the Israeli hostilities of April 1996. In addition, the Executive Secretary had represented the Secretary-General at all conferences held in the region, including the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) Economic Conference held in Cairo and the MENA Economic Summit held in Amman, the Islamic Conference in Jeddah, the World Tourism Organization session in Cairo, and the Islamic Summit Conference in Islamabad. Regarding increased coordination and cooperation with international and regional institutions, ESCWA had continued to engage in joint activities with the various agencies of the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, various Arab funds and other organizations. ESCWA had also concluded several cooperation and coordination agreements with a number of those organizations. In that regard, the Executive Secretary drew attention to the fact that a committee, chaired by ESCWA, had been created to facilitate coordination among regional United Nations organizations operating in the area, and that five meetings had been held for coordination and the exchange of information.

18. The Executive Secretary stated that ESCWA had strengthened its link with United Nations Headquarters in New York through dialogue with the Secretary-General and the heads of United Nations departments, programmes and funds on various issues of importance to the Organization. In addition, there had been an improvement in liaison and coordination among the executive secretaries of the five regional commissions, who had begun meeting on a regular basis within the framework of the Senior Officials Meeting; the positions of those commissions were being coordinated through a network which allowed for continuous communication among them, operating through the Regional Commissions New York Office. He added that the Secretary-General had chosen the Executive Secretary of ESCWA to be a member of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development, which met periodically in New York to discuss development issues relating to the African Continent.

19. In spite of the freeze on appointments in the United Nations owing to the Organization-wide financial crisis, ESCWA had obtained a limited exemption for the filling of some vacancies; the vacancy rate in the Commission would decline from 34 per cent to 16 per cent after the implementation of the United Nations directives regarding a 6.4 per cent reduction in posts, which would entail a savings of US\$ 2.3 million for 1996 and 1997. The United Nations was currently passing through a critical phase that required a re-examination of its role, its organizational structure and the role of its organs and its various programmes in order to keep it abreast with world changes. The ESCWA region was also passing through a difficult period and required support and assistance as well as helpful criticism and guidance from its member States, without which there would be no effective interaction between the secretariat and the member States.

20. The Chairman of the session thanked the members of the delegations for electing him Chairman of the tenth session of the Technical Committee and commended the Chairman and other officers of the previous session on their excellent efforts in conducting the affairs of the Committee.

B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION*
(Agenda item 6)

21. Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary submitted the following documents to the Technical Committee:

(a) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4 (Part I)/Rev.1);

(b) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: report on the establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.1);

(c) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: report on the first session of the Committee on Water Resources (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.2);

(d) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: report to the Commission on follow-up action for Agenda 21 (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.3/Rev.1);

(e) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: report on Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1996-1997: summary (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.4);

(f) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: report on the activities of the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia: phase II (1992-1996) (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.5);

(g) Progress achieved during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: report on the work of the Statistical Committee at its second session (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.6);

(h) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: report on facilitation of border-crossing formalities and agreements for transport of goods and persons (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.7);

(i) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part II));

(j) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission adopted at its eighteenth session: resolution 204 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/5);

* Annex II contains a list of all documents submitted to the Technical Committee at its tenth session.

(k) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission adopted at its eighteenth session: resolution 205 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on water resources in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/5/Add.1);

(l) Recommendations of the Statistical Committee and the Committee on Social Development (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/6);

(m) Preparation and follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/7);

(n) Proposed medium-term plan for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001 (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/8);

(o) Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999 (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/9 and Corr.1);

(p) Financial status of the Commission's programmes (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/10 and Corr.1);

(q) The regional role of ESCWA in the coordination of the activities of the United Nations agencies (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/11 and Corr.1);

(r) Report on the Advisory Committee established pursuant to resolution 175 (XV) on the strengthening of the role and performance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/12).

22. During the discussion of the progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, under agenda item 6 (a), a representative of the secretariat noted the following:

(a) Its achievements in implementing the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997;

(b) The Commission's concern over the high rate of vacancies and its commitment to lowering that rate to the levels prevailing in the various departments of the United Nations after the granting of an exemption by the Secretariat for the filling of such vacancies;

(c) A suggestion, in the light of the large number of activities planned by the secretariat within the draft programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999 in comparison with the biennium 1996-1997, that the number of activities for 1998-1999 be reduced by 40 per cent to allow the Commission to concentrate on a limited number of high-priority activities;

(d) The calling of attention by the Technical Committee to the importance of integrating the theoretical/analytical side with the practical side of the Commission's work, with special emphasis on the importance of attending to the practical aspects of that work without detriment to the theoretical aspects; as well as the need to take advantage of the expertise available in the member countries when providing advisory services to them and of the services offered by the consultants of the secretariat.

23. With regard to the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region*, a representative of the secretariat drew attention to the improvement observed in the economic growth rate of the member States for the first time in 10 years, owing primarily to the rise in oil prices. It had manifested itself in improved balances of payments and lower government budget deficits. In most of the member States, the implementation of economic reforms had helped improve economic performance to varying degrees. Nevertheless, attention must be called to the continued rise in unemployment rates and the consequent aggravation of social problems. In addition, various representatives voiced the following:

(a) A request to the secretariat to accord greater importance in the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region* to economic and social developments in Palestine and to take into consideration the grave implications of the policies and practices being implemented by the Israeli occupying authorities for the situation as a whole;

(b) The need: to cite data sources in all studies, in particular the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region*; to verify the information contained in paragraph 83 of the "Report on Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1996-1997: summary" (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.4) and to delete everything in paragraph 83 after the middle of the last line [referring to the last line of the Arabic text and the corresponding text in English]; to rewrite paragraph 90 of that report; and to rely, in respect of any data, on the official statistical offices to ensure the accuracy of such data;

(c) The importance of strengthening coordination and cooperation among the ESCWA member States to enhance their competitiveness in the light of international and regional developments;

(d) The need to strengthen efforts to eliminate obstacles to trade, the flow of capital and the movement of labour among the ESCWA member States;

(e) The urgent need to broaden the range of social issues presented in the *Survey of Economic and Social Development in the ESCWA Region*, with particular attention given to educational issues;

(f) The need to exercise care in the use of terms pertaining to women's issues, and hence to correct a number of terms and sentences contained in paragraphs 88, 89 and 90 of the "Report on Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1996-1997: summary" (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.4);

(g) The advisability of carrying out in-depth studies on the causes of the decline in the level of effective participation of women in the development process and on impediments to the implementation of the recommendations that had issued from the Fourth World Conference on Women and those contained in the Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the year 2005, adopted by the member States at the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for that Conference, convened by ESCWA in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and held in Amman from 6 to 10 November 1994.

24. On the topic of international economic changes and arrangements, emphasis was placed on the importance of conducting practical studies on possible areas of coordination and cooperation among the ESCWA member States to allow the countries in the region to take advantage of international changes and developments, in particular the agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and bilateral agreements

within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In view of the importance of international trade for the economies of the member States, it was proposed that a committee on foreign trade should be created.

25. In connection with the issue of privatization, the following points were highlighted:

(a) The need to approach the issue of privatization from a more comprehensive social and economic perspective, and to carry out a study on the philosophy of the private sector and its role within that context;

(b) The need to recognize the importance of the role of money markets, small and medium-sized enterprises and business incubators in development and to monitor WTO agreements and other international agreements.

26. Regarding the specialized committees of ESCWA, namely the Statistical Committee, the Committee on Social Development, the Committee on Energy and the Committee on Water Resources:

(a) The session participants were provided with information regarding the reports and recommendations of those Committees;

(b) The particular importance of water issues in the ESCWA region during the current period was stressed, and a recommendation was made by the Committee on Water Resources to hold the sessions of that Committee on a yearly basis rather than every two years, subject to the approval of the ministerial session.

27. In a discussion regarding agenda item 6 (a), it was requested that the sixth line on page 15 [of the Arabic text and the corresponding text in English] of the "Report of the Executive Secretary on follow-up action for Agenda 21" (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.3) be deleted.

28. During the discussion of the Executive Secretary's report on the activities of the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.5), under agenda item 6 (a), the representatives of the ESCWA member States recommended the following:

(a) Continuing activities connected with the transport sector and according that sector top priority in the secretariat's programme of work, despite its inability to implement the recommendations for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1985-1994) in the ESCWA region owing to a lack of human and financial resources, and mobilizing extrabudgetary resources to finance programmes in the area of transport;

(b) Establishing a committee on transport in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

29. Under agenda item 6 (d), the Technical Committee was provided with information on the follow-up of the recommendations of world conferences.

30. Concerning the Commission's medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, discussed under agenda item 6 (e), the Technical Committee recommended that the medium-term plan should be approved, calling attention to the need for a precise definition of programme objectives and activities.

31. During the discussion, under agenda item 6 (f), of the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999, the representatives of the member States expressed their appreciation of the efforts of

ESCWA in establishing that programme, which was consistent with the general framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. They recommended that the programme should be approved, account being taken of the following:

(a) The need for the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999 and future programmes of work to include information on the background, the objectives, the means of and timetables for execution, and, when possible, the cost of the subprogrammes and their activities;

(b) The need to take the population factor into account when dealing with sustainable development issues, including those relating to natural resources;

(c) The need to accord priority to the provision of both scientific and practical advice to member States to help them take full advantage of regional and international developments, in particular the WTO agreements.

32. The participating delegations were apprised of the note by the Executive Secretary, under agenda item 6 (g), on the financial status of the Commission's programmes for the biennium 1994-1995 (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/10 and Corr.1).

33. The report of the Executive Secretary on the regional role of ESCWA in the coordination of the activities of the United Nations agencies (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/11 and Corr.1) was presented under agenda item 6 (h). The report noted the importance of coordination as one of the basic themes stressed by the General Assembly. The report stated that there existed a committee, headed by the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme, for coordination among United Nations organizations at the national level, in addition to a committee for regional coordination among United Nations organizations, headed by the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, the purpose of which was to provide advisory services and to define a number of activities to be implemented jointly by those organizations.

34. Examined under agenda item 6 (i) was the report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the Advisory Committee (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/12). The Committee, composed of the heads of diplomatic missions of the member States accredited in the host country of the Commission and a representative of the host country, had been created to assist the Executive Secretary in examining issues relating to the work of the secretariat. In an effort to improve cooperation and consultation between member States and the secretariat, the Committee had held a number of meetings at which issues of importance to the member States, primarily those pertaining to water and the World Trade Organization, had been discussed.

35. The heads of the delegations held a meeting and discussed in detail the mission and mandate of the Technical Committee. They charged the secretariat with the preparation of a comprehensive report to review the terms of reference of the Technical Committee and to indicate ways of strengthening its role in such a way as to increase the participation of the authorities concerned in the member States in the drafting of the Commission's plans and programmes and the monitoring of their execution. The secretariat was requested to send the report to the member States within a year of the session to obtain their comments and opinions, with a view to their presentation to the Commission at its twentieth session so that it might take such measures as it deemed appropriate.

C. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE NINETEENTH MINISTERIAL SESSION OF
ESCWA AND THE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS
(Agenda item 7)

36. Under this item, the Executive Secretary presented to the Technical Committee the provisional agenda of the nineteenth ministerial session of ESCWA (E/ESCWA/19/L.1), and the Committee approved it in its existing form.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBERS

Bahrain

Mr. Abdul Razak Zain Al Abedin
Director of Foreign Trade
Ministry of Commerce

Mr. Abdulla Mohamed Saad Al-Romahi
Counsellor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ebrahim Juma Al-Doy
Counsellor
Embassy of Bahrain in the
Syrian Arab Republic

Egypt

H.E. Mr. Adel Abd El Moneim El Khedry
Ambassador
Embassy of Egypt in Lebanon

H.E. Mr. Hany Riadh Aly
Ambassador
Embassy of Egypt in Jordan

Mr. Ahmed Maher-Abbas
Counsellor
Embassy of Egypt in Lebanon

Mr. Farid Munib
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohamed Negm
Diplomatic Attaché
Embassy of Egypt in Lebanon

Iraq

H.E. Mr. Nouri I. Taha Al-Wayes
Ambassador
Embassy of Iraq in Jordan

Mr. Faisal Said Meidi
Embassy of Iraq in Jordan

Jordan

Mr. Salem Odeh Ghawi
Assistant Secretary-General
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Abdel Karim Mahasneh
Director, Multilateral Cooperation
Department
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Yousef M. Abdelghani
Third Secretary
Embassy of Jordan in Lebanon

Kuwait

Mr. Hamad M. H. Monawer
Assistant Under-Secretary
for Planning Affairs
Assistant Under-Secretary
for Technical Cooperation
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Mubarak Salmeen Mubarak Salmeen
Director, Department of Organizations
Ministry of Planning

Kuwait (continued)

Mr. Hassan Mohammad Merza
Head, Funds and Development Studies
Section/Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Munther Badr Al-Issa
Consultant
Embassy of Kuwait in Lebanon

Lebanon

H.E. Mr. Zafer El-Hassan
Secretary-General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Walid Nasr
Director of Department of International
Organizations, Conferences and Cultural
Relations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Sleiman Rassi
Counsellor
Director of International Organizations
Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Adel Choueiry
General Director of the Ministry
Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Bassam Jaber
Engineer, General Director
Ministry of Hydraulic and Electrical
Resources

Ms. Ne'mat Kana'an
General Director
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Nouhad Baroudi
Secretary-General
Council for Development and
Reconstruction

Mr. Hilmi Ghandour
Adviser to the Minister
Ministry of Economy and Trade

Mr. Toufik Shanbour
Director of External Affairs
Central Bank of Lebanon

Mr. Habib Khawaja
Director of Social Development
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Georges Nehmeh
Director of Social Services
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Ahmad Bassam Naja
Director, Department of Investigations
Directorate of Central Statistics

Mr. Salim Fahim Nakat
Head of Department
Ministry of Hydraulic and Electrical
Resources

Mr. Hussein Haydar
Chief, Department of Development Services
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Girgis El Khouri
Chief, Department of Commercial Studies
and Industrial Development
Ministry of Industry and Oil

Mr. Sami Assi
Director, Department of Technical Affairs
and Industrial Services
Ministry of Industry and Oil

Mr. Mohammad Toufik Sadek
Director, Administration Department
Ministry of Transport

Lebanon (continued)

Mr. Ghassan Siblani
Coordinator of United Nations Activities
in the Council
Council for Development and
Reconstruction

Mr. Georges Mansour
Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Adnan Ghazzawi
Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Edmond Samaha
Engineer, Assistant General Director
of Housing
Ministry of Housing and Cooperatives

Ms. Nancy Khoury
Ministry of Environment

Ms. Hala Fakhoury
Coordinator of International Projects
Ministry of Environment

Ms. Salwa Baasiri
National Commission for Women's Rights

Oman

Mr. Ali Mahboob Al-Raisi
Director General, Social Statistics
Ministry of Development

Mr. Mohammed Ben Yahya Al-Shabibi
Director, Arab and International Economic
Organizations Department
Ministry of National Economy

Palestine

Mr. Zuhdi Labib Tarazi
Director General
International Affairs and Organizations
Palestine Liberation Organization

Mr. Omar Shaka'a
Director, Political Department,
Palestine Liberation Organization

Ms. Ghania Hifzy Malhis
Head, National Center for Economic Studies

Qatar

Mr. Ali Hassan Al-Khalaf
Director, Economic Affairs Department
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Trade

Mr. Yousef Ahmad Al-Emadi
Head, Industrial Studies and
Planning Section
Ministry of Energy and Industry

Mr. Ahmed Saleh Al-Mohannadi
Head, International Relations Section
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Trade

Mr. Zayed Saeed Al-Khayareen
Third Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Faisal Ahmed Al-Sada
Head, Social Development Department
Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs

Mr. Yaaqob Abdullah Mohamed Al-Haj
Assistant Director, Department of
Agricultural and Water Research
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Agriculture

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Toufik Ismail
Deputy Minister of State, Planning Affairs
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Sami Glaiel
Ambassador, Director of Economic
Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Syrian Arab Republic (continued)

Mr. Ahmad Hassan
Deputy Director, Scientific and
Technical Cooperation
State Planning Commission

Mr. Ibrahim Ali
Director
Central Bureau of Statistics

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Abdul Aziz
Al-Suwaidi
Director, Central Statistical Department
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Rihan Mubarak Fayez
Director, Planning Directorate
Ministry of Planning

Yemen

H.E. Mr. Mutahar Abdullah Al-Saeedi
Vice-Minister Planning and Development
Ministry of Planning and Development

Mr. Ahmed Hamood Qalama
Director, Agreements and Contracts
Department
Ministry of Planning and Development

Mr. Abdul Ilah Kaid Abdullah
Consultant
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Gamal Yaqoob Abdul Mageed
Director, Organization of the Islamic
Conference (Chief, ESCWA Section)
Ministry of Planning and Development

B. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT, BODIES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

***Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations***

Mr. Amor Ben Romdhane
FAO Representative, Lebanon

International Labour Organization

Mr. Nabil Khoury
Director, Multidisciplinary Advisory
Team for Arab States
Beirut

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mr. Hafid Alaoui
UNHCR Representative, Lebanon

Regional Commissions New York Office

Ms. Sulafa I. Al-Bassam
Chief

United Nations Children's Fund

Mr. Thomas Ekvall
UNICEF Representative, Lebanon

United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Ross S. Mountain
Resident Representative/Resident
Coordinator, Lebanon

World Food Programme

Mr. Miled Mustapha
WFP Representative, Lebanon

World Health Organization

Mr. Abdel Hay Mechbal
WHO Representative, Lebanon

C. GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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

Mr. Nuri Rohuma
Assistant Director General

***Centre for Environment and Development for the
Arab Region and Europe***

Mr. Osama A. Hamad
Programme Officer

***General Union of Chambers of Commerce,
Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries***

Mr. Elias T. Ghantous
Assistant Secretary-General

League of Arab States

Mr. Bassem Haidar
Chief, Studies Section
Arab Centre for Legal and Judicial Research

***Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting
Countries***

Mr. Abdul Muhsin T. Muzaffar
Director, Information and Library
Department

Union of Arab Banks

Mr. Ali Zineddine
Manager, Public Relations

World Muslim Congress

Mr. Sufyan Tell
Consultant

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE AT ITS TENTH SESSION**

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/L.1	3	Provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/L.1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/L.2	4	Proposed organization of work
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/3	5	Invitation to States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the tenth session of the Technical Committee
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4 (Part I)/Rev.1	6 (a)	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
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.1	(i)	Report on the establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.2	(ii)	Report on the first session of the Committee on Water Resources
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.3/Rev.1	(iii)	Report to the Commission on follow-up action for Agenda 21
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.4	(iv)	Report on Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1996-1997: summary
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.5	(v)	Report on the activities of the Transport and Communications Decade in Western Asia: phase II (1992-1996)
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.6	(vi)	Report on the work of the Statistical Committee at its second session

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.7	(vii)	Report on facilitation of border-crossing formalities and agreements for transport of goods and persons
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part II)		Technical cooperation activities
	6 (b)	Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission adopted at its eighteenth session
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/5	(i)	Resolution 204 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/5/Add.1	(ii)	Resolution 205 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on water resources in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/6	6 (c)	Recommendations of the Statistical Committee and the Committee on Social Development
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/7	6 (d)	Preparation and follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/8	6 (e)	Proposed medium-term plan for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/9	6 (f)	Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/10 and Corr.1	6 (g)	Financial status of the Commission's programmes
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/11 and Corr.1	6 (h)	The regional role of ESCWA in the coordination of the activities of the United Nations agencies

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/12	6 (i)	Report on the Advisory Committee established pursuant to resolution 175 (XV) on the strengthening of the role and performance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/13	7	Not used
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/14	9	Report of the Technical Committee on the work of its tenth session

