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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA**

**REPORT ON THE EIGHTH SESSION
(3 - 7 May 1981)**

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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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.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FUNDPAP	United Nations Trust Fund for Development Planning and Projections
ILO	International Labour Organisation
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PNF	Palestinian National Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period since the seventh session, namely from 24 April 1980 to 3 May 1981. It was adopted by the Commission at the ninth meeting of the session, held on 7 May 1981, in the form as amended during the discussion.

I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

2. The Commission at its ninth meeting decided to recommend the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council;

"The Economic and Social Council,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on its eighth session (E/ECWA/134) and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in chapter IV of the report;

"2. Endorses the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1982-1983 as contained in documents E/ECWA/118 and Add.1-4".

II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE SEVENTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. The Commission has not yet established any subsidiary bodies.

B. Other activities

4. For information on the activities of the Commission, reference should be made to documents E/ECWA/120 and Add.1-3, E/ECWA/127 and E/ECWA/129 and Add.1.

C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

5. In planning and implementing its activities, the secretariat maintained close co-operation with and received assistance from various United Nations specialized agencies and organizations, such as UNIDO, FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).
6. In the field of industry and within the context of the agreement with UNIDO regarding the Joint ECWA/UNIDO Division, the ongoing programme of in-depth country studies continued to be closely co-ordinated with UNIDO, which will provide assistance for the publication of the country studies of Iraq, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. During the period under review, areas of co-operation have been extended to include the development of the petrochemical and capital goods industries. UNIDO will co-sponsor the expert meetings to be organized by the secretariat during 1981 in those areas which will constitute the regional input to the UNIDO Global Consultation Meetings. Discussions have also been held regarding the intensification of co-operation in the area of the transfer of industrial technology and assistance to the least developed countries of the ECWA region.
7. In the field of agriculture and within the context of the agreement with FAO regarding the Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division, areas of co-operation with FAO included integrated regional planning, food security, agricultural resource management and rural institutions. In the area of food security, joint FAO/ECWA missions were undertaken to Yemen and Democratic Yemen, so as to assess the status of the food situation in preparation for possible food security technical co-operation projects. The Commission also received considerable assistance in the preparations for an expert meeting on the conservation, development and management of agricultural resources, to be held in 1981. FAO was further actively involved in the preparations of the annual bulletin "Agriculture and Development".
8. During the period, the Commission continued to receive financial assistance from UNEP for the operation of the secretariat's Environmental Co-ordination Unit.
9. The secretariat worked closely during the year with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs on issues affecting population groups such as disabled persons, women, youth and the aged. The

regional assessment and plan of action for disabled persons (E/ECWA/119) were prepared in close consultation with the Centre and with the secretariat of the International Year for Disabled Persons.

10. The relations with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) were strengthened with the decentralization of two Professional posts to the Commission. The work programmes of both the Commission and Habitat will consequently be implemented in a much more co-ordinated manner.
11. The relationship between the ECWA secretariat and UNFPA continued to be strengthened. The Fund was instrumental in the implementation of the Commission's Population Programme, which to a large extent depends on the Fund for financing. The Commission also executes a number of technical co-operation projects funded by UNFPA.
12. The Commission continued to receive the support of the United Nations Secretariat in the field of long-term planning and modelling. This assistance was made possible by a contribution from the United Nations Trust Fund for Development Planning and Projections (FUNDPAP).
13. The Commission co-operated closely with UNCTAD, which, pursuant to Conference resolution 122 (V) and General Assembly resolution 34/203 concerning the New Substantial Programme of Action in favour of the Least Developed Countries and the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, called upon the Commission to take part in this Programme. The contribution of ECWA covered consultation with the least developed member countries and assistance in the preparation of country presentations, participation in review and other meetings and the briefing of UNCTAD staff involved in the process. Consultations were also held with UNCTAD with respect to the forthcoming ECWA Seminar on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia.
14. Pursuant to Commission resolution 74(VI), the ECWA secretariat carried out a survey to assess and evaluate the state of development finance in the countries of the region. This survey, which was conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, covered eight member countries.
15. In accordance with the agreement concluded with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the secretariat maintained close co-operation and consultation with the Centre in the formulation and implementation of the Commission's programme in this field.
16. In the field of natural resources, close working relations were maintained with United Nations Headquarters, in particular with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (Division of Natural Resources and Energy) and with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis, and Statistical Office). There was also continuous and intensive co-operation and co-ordination with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Contacts were maintained with the secretariat of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

17. In the area of science and technology, the secretariat's relations were further developed with a number of organizations, such as the ILO, UNESCO, UNITAR and UNEP, which took active part in the Seminar on the Arab Brain Drain, held early in 1980. UNCTAD also made fellowships available to the secretariat for the participation of country experts in its in-house training programme in technology transfer. During the year, the secretariat also established close relations with the newly established Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, in preparation for the launching of technical co-operation projects in the Western Asian region. Throughout the implementation of the work programme, the secretariat maintained close links with the Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

18. During the year, the secretariat completed a study on land tenure systems in Yemen, executed on behalf of the World Bank.

19. With the Commission becoming increasingly the executing agency for regional technical co-operation projects, relations with UNDP were considerably strengthened during 1980.

III. EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

20. The eighth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was held at the Sheraton Hotel, Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic, from 3 to 7 May 1981 and its deliberations covered nine meetings.
21. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Commission:^{1/} Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
22. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session as observers: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Secretariat (New York), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, International Labour Organisation, International Monetary Fund, World Food Programme and World Intellectual Property Organization.
23. The following regional and intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers: Arab Labour Organization, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology, League of Arab States, European Economic Community and International Standardization Organization.
24. The Commission adopted the proposals contained in document E/ECWA/130 for the organization of its work and entrusted the Chairman, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, with the arrangements for the schedule of meetings.
25. By virtue of article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, the Commission invited the representatives of France; Germany, Federal Republic of; Hungary; India; the Netherlands; Tunisia; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and the United States of America to participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the eighth session.
26. The delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization expressed a reservation with regard to the invitation extended to the United States of America to attend the session in a consultative capacity.

^{1/} For the names of the participants in the session, see document E/ECWA/INF.28/Rev.1.

27. At its second meeting, the Commission unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Fouad Qaid Mohammad, Minister of Development and Chairman of the Central Planning Organization and Head of the delegation of the Yemen Arab Republic, as Chairman; His Excellency Mr. Salim Yassine, Minister of State for Planning Affairs, and Head of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, and Mr. Ahmad Younis, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, as Vice-Chairmen; and Miss Leyla Hassan Ma'rouf, a member of the delegation of Iraq, as Rapporteur for the session.

28. In accordance with rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission, the officers of the Commission examined the credentials of representatives to the session and found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

29. At its second meeting, the Commission adopted the following agenda, after agreeing to add a new item following item 5 in document E/ECWA/115 under the heading "General debate" and to another proposal by the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization to add two sub-items, under item 6 in the same document, concerning the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people and the census of the Palestinian Arab people:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ECWA/115, E/ECWA/115/Add.1/Rev.1)
4. Organization of work (E/ECWA/130)
5. Invitation of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the eighth session of the Commission (E/ECWA/128/Rev.2)
6. General debate
7. Report on the activities of the Commission
 - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme (E/ECWA/120 and Corr.1, and E/ECWA/120/Add.1-3);
 - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission (E/ECWA/129 and Add.1);
 - (c) Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolution 27(III) on the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people;
 - (d) Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA resolution 28(III) on the census of the Palestinian Arab people;
 - (e) Regional contribution to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (E/ECWA/127)

8. Follow-up action at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:
 - (a) World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (E/ECWA/126);
 - (b) Intergovernmental Meeting on the Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia (E/ECWA/121 and Add.1);
 - (c) Regional Preparatory Expert Group Meeting for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (E/ECWA/116 and Add.1).
9. Programme of work and priorities for 1982-1983 (E/ECWA/118 and Add.1-4)
10. The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account
 - (a) The financial status of the Commission's programmes (E/ECWA/117, E/ECWA/117/Add.2);
 - (b) Statement on, and strengthening of, the Financial Contributions Account (E/ECWA/117/Add.1);
11. International Year of Disabled Persons (E/ECWA/119 and Add.1)
12. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (E/ECWA/122, E/ECWA/122/Add.1 (Parts I and II), E/ECWA/122/Add.2 and 3)
13. Preparation of an institutional model for national centres for the transfer and development of technology (E/ECWA/123 and Add.1)
14. Co-operation among developing countries (E/ECWA/124 and Add.1-3)
15. Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and strengthening of, the regional commissions (E/ECWA/125 and Add.1)
16. Other business
17. Adoption of the Commission's report on its eighth session

C. Account of proceedings

30. The session was inaugurated by His Excellency the Prime Minister, Mr. Abdul Karim El-Eryani, representing His Excellency the President of the Yemen Arab Republic, who welcomed the holding of the eighth session of the Commission at Sana'a. In his statement, he pointed out that, in spite of the wide disparity in levels of income, the firm links among member States had engendered numerous forms of co-operation, which had culminated in the formulation by the Eleventh Arab Summit Conference of a unified Arab development strategy and the allocation of \$ 5000 million for the Arab Development Decade, to benefit in particular the poor Arab countries. He referred to the importance of the international conferences in which the Commission would be participating, and

to the significance of the ECWA work programme for 1982 and 1983. He stressed the need for co-ordination between the activities of the Commission and those of the relevant organs of the League of Arab States, of regional organizations and of Arab funds. He called upon both the market-economy and the socialist developed countries to pay special attention to the question of the negotiations on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. He noted that Yemen regarded the holding of the session on its territory as an opportunity to acquire more knowledge and experience for the formulation of its second development plan, which was currently being prepared. He concluded by saying that the achievements of Yemen to date in the field of progress and development was the end product of only a short period of time, overshadowed by difficult economic circumstances and scarce material resources.

31. The Head of the delegation of Iraq, speaking on behalf of the chairman of the seventh session, Mr. Hassan Ali, the Minister of Commerce of Iraq, made a statement, in which he reviewed the major economic developments of relevance to the work of the Commission that had taken place in the international and the Arab arenas since the seventh session. He referred to the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on international economic co-operation and the failure to reach agreement on the initiation of international economic negotiations. He pointed out, however, that the General Assembly had succeeded in adopting, at its thirty-fifth session, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. He called upon the industrialized countries to undertake a constructive dialogue with the countries of the third world for the establishment of a new international economic order based on justice and equality. He also referred to the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries scheduled for the middle of 1981 and stated that, while that form of co-operation was a basic pillar in the establishment of a new international economic order, it should in no way be considered as a substitute for economic negotiations at the global level. Turning to the Arab scene, he referred to the Eleventh Arab Summit Conference, the results of which included the adoption of a Joint Arab Action Strategy and the Arab Action Charter and the proclamation of the Arab Development Decade, in which special attention was accorded to the least developed member countries in the interest of Arab economic integration. In conclusion, he stressed the need for moving the activities of the Commission from the stage of exposition and examination to that of practical programmes in the service of Arab economic co-operation and integration.

32. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, to the eighth session was read out by his representative. In his message, the Secretary-General thanked the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic for its generous hospitality in acting as host to the eighth session of the Commission. He stated that the solution to the serious economic problems affecting international stability required agreement on clear long-term goals, together with specific and mutually reinforcing measures for the short and the medium-term. That was the challenge that the negotiations which the General Assembly proposed to launch in respect of key issues in the areas of raw materials, trade, energy, and development finance were intended to resolve.

33. The Secretary-General stressed the importance of co-operation among developing countries for improving their position in the system of international economic relations, and in assisting them to diversify their economies and accelerate their development. The countries of the ECWA region were in a unique position to contribute to those goals and to transform the role of ECWA itself in the development process.

34. The Secretary-General pointed out that another major task before the Commission related to its participation in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in the light of evolving needs and developments in the region. The strengthening of the functions of the regional commissions was a recognition of their role as the main general economic and social centres for their respective regions within the United Nations system.

35. Finally, he expressed his confidence that, pending the resolution of a few outstanding issues, the move of ECWA to Baghdad should be initiated very soon and that the relocation of the ECWA headquarters should signal the start of a new chapter in its service to the member States.

36. The representative of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, United Nations Headquarters, pointed out in his statement that the session was taking place at a time of deepening international economic crises. The situation demanded a new mode of co-operation among all groups of countries and an end to the traditional approach of divorcing short-term from long-term solutions and treating sectoral problems in self-contained compartments. There was a need to move towards a system of global management of the world economy, designed to achieve steady and smooth international development.

37. He stated that, while the new International Development Strategy provided an agreed framework for national, regional and international co-operation, the global round of negotiations, which would have provided a means of implementing the major goals and objectives of the Strategy, had not yet been launched, owing to some fundamental differences on political questions at the heart of the world economy. An integrated and universal assault on problems in the areas of trade, raw materials, energy, money and finance was the only way of responding to the needs of the situation. The United Nations system, and the regional commissions in particular, had a major role to play in providing the political substantive impetus to the implementation of the new International Development Strategy. With specific reference to ECWA and the needs of the region, he touched on three aspects of that role.

38. The first related to the mandate of the Commission following the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/197. One of the most significant features of that resolution was the enunciation of the role of the Commission as the main general economic and social development centre for the region. An essential element of the role of ECWA in this respect was the support that it could provide to regional economic and technical co-operation with a view to the

achievement of self-reliance. The development perspective for the ECWA region in the 1980s presented both a special set of problems and a unique set of opportunities which had been emphasized by the Executive Secretary and which, if supported by the Governments of the region, would contribute to the global efforts to achieve collective self-reliance. The need was to develop a capacity in the Commission to extend such support in a flexible and anticipatory manner to areas of immediate relevance and to go beyond the identification of capacities and requirements to the operational phase. Another element in the role of the Commission was its contribution to global policy-making in central intergovernmental bodies and the planning and programming process of the organizations.

39. The second major aspect of the role of the Commission concerned the review of the implementation of the new International Development Strategy, which was to be carried out by the General Assembly in 1984. The prior process of regional scrutiny could provide the necessary political impetus for the adjustment or intensification of policy measures. In that connexion, he added that it might not be too early to give preliminary consideration to an analytical framework for such a review and the modalities for carrying it out.

40. The third aspect of the role of the Commission related to the operational activities of the United Nations system. The experience of the Commission would facilitate the involvement of Governments of the region in the identification of UNDP intercountry programmes and contribute to the efforts of the Director-General in providing over-all orientation to such operational activities.

41. The Executive Secretary, in his introductory statement, expressed gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Yemen Arab Republic for his patronage of the session and to His Excellency the Prime Minister for his address at the opening ceremony. He commended the response of the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic in acting as host to the session in pressing and unforeseen circumstances.

42. He went on to review the most outstanding problems and challenges facing the development process in the region and its most urgent priorities. He referred to the over-all objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and of the means for its implementation in the economic and social fields. He touched upon the Charter of National Economic Action and the Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Action adopted by the Eleventh Arab Summit Conference and those obligations and principles which they contained concerning joint Arab economic action. He made special mention of the Charters' insistence on the necessity of isolating joint Arab economic action from unforeseen Arab political disagreement and on national development planning.

43. He then went on to give a summary of the orientations and principles of development in the region during the 1980s. He stated that efforts should be directed firstly towards the elaboration of development policies and planning models, so as to lead to the maximal exploitation of natural resources and the control of their utilization in such a way as to meet the basic needs of the individual. Secondly, they should be directed towards the establishment of development on the firm foundation of the mobilization of national and regional resources, so as to ensure that the national and regional economy should not be left in an exposed position, that its dependence on external variables, particularly in the field of food security, should be reduced, and that efforts should be made to eliminate the imbalance in the structure of external trade. Thirdly, such efforts should be directed towards the elaboration of plans and programmes for the rationalization of the use of oil energy and the search for new and renewable sources of energy. Fourthly, efforts should involve the granting of increased and accelerated priority to the development of human resources and their involvement in the planning and implementation of the development process. Fifthly, they should deal with the regulation of the movement of workers between the countries of the region, particularly from the non-oil countries to the oil-producing countries, in the light of its repercussions on development in both countries of origin and countries of reception and of its connexion with the brain drain from within the region. Sixthly, efforts should be made to draw up appropriate policies and programmes and to provide increased opportunities for the integration of women in development. Seventhly, efforts should be directed towards the elaboration of plans and practical programmes which would place development in the region on the basis of complementarity, economic and social integration and increased collective self-reliance among countries of the region and other Arab countries and would consequently reinforce their negotiating capability in international trade and in dealing with transnational corporations. The Executive Secretary pointed out that, within this framework of developmental and financial integration, the least developed countries should occupy a special place. The Commission therefore awaited the results of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in the late summer of 1981.

44. The Executive Secretary stated that the work programme and priorities for the biennium 1982-1983 and the Medium-Term Plan for 1984-1989 reflected these orientations in the studies, meetings, symposia, training courses, offers of technical assistance, publications, advisory services and the preparatory work for international conferences which they incorporated.

45. He commended the participation of the countries of the region in the various fields of international co-operation within the United Nations system and with the countries of the developing world in general, and for the support they were lending to the voluntary funds which had a part to play in the implementation of numerous social and humanitarian projects at the national, regional and international levels.

1. General debate (Agenda item 6)

46. Under this agenda item, a number of representatives of ECWA member countries and observers for international and regional organizations, economic communities and countries, participating in the work of the session in a consultative capacity, made statements.

47. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic insisted that the question of economic co-operation and integration in the region and the course of development within it could not be discussed apart from the past and present political, economic and social circumstances of the Arab region. Accordingly, the adherence of Egypt to the Camp David agreement and the Washington treaty had rendered co-operation with that country within the Commission politically impossible, economically harmful and juridically untenable. The speaker recalled the ECWA resolutions concerning the membership of Egypt in the Commission, particularly resolution 68(VI) of 1979 and affirmed his country's opposition to the participation of Egypt in the work of the eighth session.

48. The delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization endorsed the position of the Syrian delegation on this question and asked that its strong reservation on and opposition to the participation of Egypt in the work of the Commission be recorded.

49. The delegation of Iraq also objected to the presence of the Egyptian delegation at the meetings of the Commission. The position of his country was founded on the conviction that the continued membership of Egypt in the Commission was inconsistent with the Commission's goal of promoting economic integration and co-operation among its member countries.

50. The representative of Egypt objected to the statement of the Syrian delegation calling for the exclusion of Egypt from the work of the Commission and asked that the objections and reservations of the Egyptian delegation concerning all recommendations challenging the membership of Egypt or its right to participate in the work of the Commission be recorded. He pointed out that any such recommendation would constitute a violation of the substance of Economic and Social Council decision 49/1979; any measure taken by the Commission in this regard would be outside its area of competence. He insisted that common Arab economic action should be kept insulated from fleeting disagreements among the Arab States. The representative of Egypt then proceeded to review some of the features of the Egyptian development plan and to describe some facets of the on-going co-operation with the other countries of the region.

51. The representative of Democratic Yemen then made a statement in which he referred to his country's need for assistance commensurate with the many and major socio-economic problems confronting it. He reviewed the development efforts deployed in his country during the past decade and its aspirations for the present decade. Democratic Yemen was manifestly interested in all projects involving co-ordination and integration with the States of the region in general and with the Yemen Arab Republic in particular.

52. The representatives of the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the League of Arab States, the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology, the European Economic Community and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made statements, in which they expressed their readiness to support development efforts in the member countries of the Commission and to co-operate with the Commission to that end and some of them referred to the existing co-ordination arrangements and the need to strengthen them.

53. During the general debate, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic introduced a draft resolution (E/ECWA/VIII/L.1) concerning the membership of Egypt in the Commission. This draft was not pressed to the vote. On the same subject, the following declaration was received from the delegations of Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen*:

The States signatories to the present declaration,

Guided by the aims and purposes for which the Economic Commission for Western Asia was established,

Recalling Commission resolution 68(VI), adopted in 1979,

Condemning the persistent increase in the collusion of the Government of Egypt in various fields with the expansionist Zionist enemy seeking hegemony over the region, in disregard of the threat which such collusion poses to the future economic development of the States and peoples of the entire Arab region,

1. Reaffirm their opposition to the presence of the delegation of the Egyptian Government during the work of sessions and meetings of the Commission;
2. Declare their opinion that the Government of Egypt should be excluded from any resolution or project endorsed by the Commission, and that no resolution or project aimed at the consolidation and strengthening of co-operation and economic integration among the ECWA countries should include the Government of Egypt or Egyptian institutions which are dealing with the Zionist enemy; and,
3. Request the Executive Secretary of the Commission to communicate the contents of this declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the President of the Economic and Social Council and to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

* During the final meeting the representative of Lebanon associated his delegation with the declaration.

54. The delegation of Egypt submitted the statement which appears below:

The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt regards the declaration submitted on the subject of Egypt's membership in the Economic Commission for Western Asia as devoid of any legal basis, as a blatant infringement of the Commission's terms of reference and as a challenge to Economic and Social Council resolution 49/1979, which states that Egypt's membership in the Commission shall remain unchanged.

The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt warns that such a declaration creates an atmosphere of hostility and tension among the members, that it constitutes a dangerous precedent for the work of organizations and commissions of the United Nations and that its adoption is not in the interest of any of the member States, since it could become a two-edged weapon. Egypt's membership in the Commission is final and irrevocable, since it is based on objective criteria for which there is ample geographical, historical, economic and cultural justification, and these criteria have not changed.

Since there is no legal or substantive basis on which Egypt's membership could be called in question, its delegation condemns and protests against that irresponsible declaration, which it considers as without value or foundation. The Egyptian delegation requests the secretariat to convey this protest to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the President of the Economic and Social Council and to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and to consider it as an official document of the eighth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

2. Report on the activities of the Commission (Agenda item 7)

55. In introducing this item of the agenda, the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the participants to documents E/ECWA/120 and Corr.1, E/ECWA/120/Add.1 and 2, E/ECWA/129 and Add.1 and E/ECWA/127. With respect to sub-item (a), the Executive Secretary stated that the secretariat considered it appropriate to change the format of its reporting on the progress made in the implementation of the 1980-1981 work programme, differentiating between its programme of research studies and meetings (E/ECWA/120) and its technical co-operation activities (E/ECWA/120/Add.2). The secretariat further intended to develop its progress-reporting in such a manner to provide an opportunity for highlighting and bringing to the attention of the member States important programme issues. It had also decided to bring to the attention of member States those activities of the 1980-1981 work programme which were considered obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective (E/ECWA/120/Add.1) and were thus terminated.

56. With respect to the technical co-operation activities of the Commission, the Executive Secretary stated that, although the scope of such activities was expanding, the secretariat was of the opinion that the possibilities of financing regional technical co-operation projects by various funding agencies of the United Nations were limited. The Commission might wish to consider the need for raising funds for technical co-operation projects described in document E/ECWA/117/Add.2, submitted to the session under agenda item 10.

57. As regards follow-up activities related to the resolutions adopted by the Commission (sub-item (b)), he referred particularly to the activities carried out with respect to Commission's resolution 27(III) on the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people and resolution 28(III) on the census of the Palestinian Arab people, topics which had been established as sub-items (c) and (d) under this item at the request of the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

58. With regard to the Commission's contribution to the preparation for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (sub-item (e)), the Executive Secretary drew attention to the considerable international concern on this question, reflected in the resolutions which had led to the call for the convening of a conference in Paris during the month of September 1981 for the purpose of finalizing, adopting and supporting the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s in favour of the least developed countries. He stressed the need for the international community to help those countries to narrow the gap not only between them and the developed countries but also between them and the other developing countries. Reference was made to the preparations for the Paris Conference and to the contribution of the ECWA secretariat thereto, particularly in collaboration with the secretariat of UNCTAD in the preparation of the country papers for Democratic Yemen and Yemen. A review was also made of the other fields in which the Commission had made a special effort in favour of its members in the least developed category, and reference was made to the increasing importance which, in its work programme for 1982-1983, it was attaching to activities aimed at increasing its assistance and services to those countries.

59. During the discussion of this item, the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization referred to the importance of the study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people. He expressed concern that the study had not been completed during the past five years. He urged that serious measures be taken to bring the study to completion. The Commission adopted unanimously a draft resolution on the subject.

60. With respect to the census of the Palestinian Arab people, the representative of the PLO stated that, despite the efforts made so far by the secretariat, no tangible results had yet emerged. He called for the intensification of these efforts and the provision of the necessary resources for the completion of that project within a specified period of time. The Commission unanimously adopted a draft resolution on the subject.

61. In the clarifications submitted by the secretariat on this item, it was indicated that follow-up reports on activities relating to resolutions 27(III), 28(III) and the subsequent resolutions of the Commission on the subject were submitted annually to the Commission at its regular sessions.

62. Document E/ECWA/129 gave an account of the latest efforts of the secretariat in this connexion. As for resources, arrangements had been made to allot funds from the ECWA Trust Fund and the study and recently been entrusted to a well-known consultancy firm for implementation. In all these efforts, the secretariat had maintained close contacts with the PLO.
63. As for the census of the Palestinian Arab people, it was indicated that the resolution of the Commission requested the secretariat to contact UNFPA for the funding of the project, and UNFPA had responded favourably by making the sum of \$ 200,000 available for the preparatory phase of the project.
64. The secretariat indicated further that contacts had been established with member States in order to ascertain the dates of their censuses and to study the possibility of utilizing the results of those censuses in carrying out the census of the Palestinian Arab people. Those contacts had also helped in identifying the statistical tables considered necessary for undertaking the census. Since the collection of data from various countries with different census dates needed to be carried out within a well-designed technical and theoretical framework, contact had been made with various Arab experts and the International Demographic Centre in the Middle East. In view of these considerations, the secretariat did not expect to achieve any results prior to mid-1983 and expected the member States to make the necessary data available to it.
65. The representative of UNFPA stated that, pursuant to ECWA resolution 28(III) entitled "Census of the Palestinian Arab people", ECWA had prepared a draft project in 1977-1978. Following negotiations between UNFPA, ECWA and the Palestinian National Fund (PNF), it was agreed to conduct first a feasibility study. That study was now being implemented, and UNFPA was awaiting the report on it. A second project, intended to assist in the strengthening of the Central Statistical Office of PNF had been submitted by PNF directly to UNFPA in mid-1980. Studies proposed under this project for developing a better data base on the Palestinian people had been conducted in the Syrian Arab Republic. It had not been possible for PNF to conduct similar studies in other countries. UNFPA was ready to undertake similar studies in other countries of the region, subject to their agreement.
66. One representative referred to the efforts which his country had made in favour of the least developed countries at the international, regional and country levels through its contribution to the preparations for the Paris Conference, the fundamental role it had played in the establishment of the Arab Strategy for the 1980s, which was clearly designed to favour the least developed member States, and the considerable volume of loans and grants which it had provided for those countries.
67. The representatives of the two least developed member countries of the Commission spoke highly of the assistance that had been provided by the secretariat, not only in connexion with preparations for the Paris Conference but also in the various fields of the Commission's work. The Commission unanimously adopted a draft resolution on the subject.

3. Follow-up action at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings (Agenda item 8)

68. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item, which had been placed on the agenda for the first time at the seventh session of the Commission. The purpose was to provide a brief review of the regional meetings of the Commission and the international meetings of the United Nations that had a bearing on the future activities of the Commission. The Commission had decided at its seventh session to include this item on the agenda of all its future regular sessions. The purpose was to enable the Commission to keep the member States informed of the results of these conferences and meetings and their bearing on the priority activities of the Commission, to monitor those results and assess their effects and to propose appropriate follow-up action thereon.

(a) World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

69. The secretariat submitted document E/ECWA/126 on this subject. The document included information on the Regional Preparatory Meeting held at Damascus, and the efforts of the secretariat to place the subject of Palestinian women on the agenda of the World Conference in response to the provisions of the Regional Plan of Action formulated by the Commission for the purpose of integrating women within the development process in the region. It was noted in the document that the delegation from the secretariat of the Commission that had attended the World Conference held at Copenhagen, had participated effectively in its deliberations and had contributed to the drafting of the World Plan of Action and the recommendation calling for assistance to Lebanese women in general, and the women of southern Lebanon in particular. The delegation of ECWA had also organized a press conference on the problems of Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories. The secretariat pointed out that it was monitoring the World Programme of Action and the Regional Programme of Action for Western Asia which had been adopted at the Copenhagen Conference. It had also prepared national and regional projects, which it had submitted to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. Those projects had been prepared in accordance with the preferences of the member States and an assessment of what was needed to promote the advancement of women in the region.

70. A number of representatives referred to the action taken by their countries in the context of national development policy to implement the World Plan of Action in the spirit of the Copenhagen decisions. One representative referred to the services and the opportunities made available to women to improve their situation in his country. Generally speaking, women in that country enjoyed equal opportunity in employment and other activities. Another representative pointed out that women still needed to secure civil and political rights, alongside their economic, social and cultural rights.

71. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made a statement concerning the efforts of the Centre to follow-up the results of the 1980 Copenhagen Conference.

(b) Intergovernmental Meeting on the Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia

72. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/121, containing a brief survey of the developments which had taken place with respect to the establishment of an integrated transport system for Western Asia. It submitted a summary of the final report of the Intergovernmental Meeting, contained in document E/ECWA/121/Add.1, and stated that it had followed up the recommendations of the Meeting by sending missions to member States in order to elicit their observations on those recommendations, some of which were reflected in the Commission's work programme for the periods 1980-1981 and 1982-1983. The full implementation of those recommendations would require the mobilization of resources from outside the regular budget to be allocated primarily to such priority areas as the development of national maritime fleets, the commissioning of a comprehensive survey of training needs in the field of transport and communications in the region, the initiation of a comparative study of railway and road transport applicable to a specific country as a special case, and the production of maps for purposes of tourism and transport. The secretariat pointed out that the document in question met the objective of the resolution adopted at the sixth session requesting the Executive Secretary to submit his recommendations and proposals for follow-up action on this subject.

73. In the discussion that ensued, one representative referred to those recommendations which could be implemented in the near future, that is to say within a period of three to five years, once they were agreed upon by the countries concerned. Among such recommendations were the creation of a transport planning unit within each country, to co-ordinate the planning of different modes of transport, the improvement of data collection through the use of a standardized format and the improvement of the ease of identification of geographical and administrative names in each country through the preparation of a glossary of such information in Arabic, English and French. This representative then referred to the recommendations for long-term implementation, such as the drawing up of a comprehensive plan for the co-ordination of transport matters among the countries of the region, the training of cadres and the initiation of specialized studies of the various modes of transport. He expressed the opinion that it was necessary to conclude new agreements on transport among the countries of the region which would be in keeping with existing international agreements, to introduce international specifications for transport and to complete the Hijaz railway and the network of lines connecting the countries of the region, to revive the Gulf Ports Federation, to say nothing of those recommendations which had a bearing on land and water transport and those having reference to roads and bridges.

74. One representative enquired about the extent to which transport studies prepared by the specialized organizations associated with the League of Arab States had been utilized and about co-ordination between the secretariat and the League with the object of eliminating duplication.

75. One representative criticized the field survey undertaken by the Commission's experts for its limitations and for the character of its recommendations in general. He mentioned surveys recently undertaken in his own country, which had provided data of which the Commission might take advantage in making specific recommendations capable of being implemented.

76. The secretariat responded to the observations of representatives by reiterating its readiness to co-ordinate its activities with all Arab organizations. It made it clear that the field survey which had been conducted by the Commission in the transport field had covered all countries in the region and had concentrated on regional aspects, leaving detailed internal studies to the countries themselves. New or supplementary information had been delayed and had been received at a time when the study had already been completed.

(c) Regional Preparatory Expert Group Meeting for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

77. The secretariat submitted document E/ECWA/116 containing a brief review of the work which it had carried out in preparation for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, due to be held at Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 21 August 1981. In this context, studies had been prepared on four new and renewable sources of energy in the region, namely solar, wind, biomass and geothermal energy. The secretariat had also begun the implementation of a programme for the above-mentioned Conference and had provided member States with the maximum amount of technical assistance. The preparatory work also included the holding of a regional expert group meeting on new and renewable sources of energy, which the Commission had convened at Beirut from 12 to 16 January 1981. At that meeting, the Commission's regional report due to be submitted to the Nairobi Conference, as well as recommendations adopted at the national, regional and global levels, had been discussed.

78. During the debate, some representatives referred to the importance not only of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy but also of the preparatory activities at the national, regional and global levels. One representative mentioned that his Government had set up a national energy commission, which had prepared a paper for transmission to the secretariat of the Conference towards the end of 1980. He also indicated that the Secretary-General of the Conference had held consultations with the responsible authorities in his country and that his Government had helped to cover some of the expenses in connexion with the preparations for the Conference, including the travel costs of the representatives of the least developed countries. His country had participated in the Commission's Regional Preparatory Expert Group Meeting held at Beirut. He pointed out that the recommendations at the national level contained in the regional report emanating from that Meeting deserved close consideration, especially in connexion with the promotion of research in the

field of new and renewable sources of energy. With regard to recommendations at the regional level, the representative indicated that, in the view of his country, the inter-Arab advisory body on the transfer of technology in the field of new and renewable sources of energy should not be established in a too hasty manner. He expressed support for the recommendation calling for the implementation of co-operative and joint projects for research into renewable energy technologies and stressed the importance of the adoption by the Conference of realistic and practicable recommendations and resolutions. In conclusion, he asserted that the industrialized countries should be primarily responsible for the greater part of the contributions in the event of institutional arrangements being made to further the aims of that Conference. Another representative said that the question of the potential exploitation and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy was extremely important for those countries of the region which were dependent on oil, since those countries were amply endowed with renewable sources of energy, especially solar and wind energy. With regard to the rational exploitation of oil, he requested the secretariat to urge other countries which were using conventional forms of energy to do their utmost to make available new and renewable energy technologies, in order to facilitate their utilization in the developing countries in general and in the oil-producing countries in particular.

79. At the conclusion of the discussion on this agenda item, the secretariat reaffirmed the great importance which it attached to the subject of energy in the region. It stated that the Commission's expert consultant in this field had visited one of the member States at its request, to study the possibility of exploiting biomass energy in rural areas. Another visit had been made to the same country by the co-ordinator of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, in order to conduct discussions with officials on the objective and concerns of that Conference.

4. Programme of work and priorities for 1982-1983 (Agenda item 9)

80. In compliance with the directives of the United Nations Secretariat, the ECWA secretariat submitted its programme of work and priorities for 1982-1983 for the first time in a set of documents instead of in a single one. The main document (E/ECWA/118) contained proposals for a programme of research, studies and meetings for the 1982-1983 biennium. Document E/ECWA/118/Add.1 contained proposals concerning possible regional advisory services and document E/ECWA/118/Add.2 contained proposals concerning a publication programme for the same period; this was the first time such proposals had been included. Document E/ECWA/118/Add.3 contained a schedule of proposed conferences and expert group meetings and, finally, document E/ECWA/118/Add.4 contained a brief summary of the method employed in the preparation of the programme of work and priorities.

81. The secretariat explained that, contrary to what the Commission desired, no noticeable increase had taken place in the appropriation in the regular budget for the 1982-1983 biennium. That was due to the zero-growth policy adopted by the United Nations. Any additional project would require extrabudgetary financial support from member States or from other sources. The secretariat noted that the

proposals contained in the programme of work and priorities were founded on the premise that the Commission would be located at Baghdad and that no marked increase in its present manning table was envisaged. The Commission had not yet reached the potential of the other regional commissions of the United Nations and was, consequently, in great need of the support of its members for securing the additional resources which it so badly needed.

82. In the explanations provided by the secretariat, it was indicated that its proposals concerning regional advisory services had not yet been reviewed by the Secretariat's Budget Division in New York. The expansion of the publications programme would require some reduction in the number of copies printed, so as to make possible the publication of new periodicals. The secretariat noted that its proposals concerning conferences and expert group meetings meant that some would be financed from the regular budget and others from extrabudgetary sources. It has been decided that all meetings would take place at the headquarters of the Commission, in the absence of any offers from member countries to act as host to them. The secretariat then raised the subject of the activities that had been terminated in compliance with General Assembly resolution 35/209. Further activities of that nature had not been included in the proposed budget for the 1982-1983 biennium. The secretariat concluded by requesting the Commission to assist in identifying such activities.

83. In the ensuing discussion, one representative made a number of comments concerning the programme of work and priorities and called upon the Commission to take the necessary measures for establishing the regional centre for the transfer and development of technology, assisting existing national centres engaged in that activity and contributing to the establishment of such centres in countries that lacked them. The secretariat could do that by preparing an institutional model of such national centres, by identifying the nature of their activities, by surveying the activities of existing centres and by proposing ways of promoting co-ordination between them. The secretariat should also expand the services of the ECWA Statistics Unit to bring it into line with the needs of the region. There was a real need for effective co-ordination between the Commission and Arab, international and regional organizations involved in agricultural, industrial, oil, energy and technological activities, particularly the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The same representative expressed his satisfaction with the Commission's discontinuation of some of its less important activities and its avoidance of duplication. He suggested modifications in the programme of work and priorities that would serve to increase the allocations for advisory services, particularly in the foodstuffs and textile industries. There was a need for giving high priority to specialized studies in support of the activities of the member States in the area of food security and for identifying national and regional projects for strengthening economic co-operation in food security matters. The experience of countries that had made considerable progress in agricultural planning should be shared with others. The same representative proposed that international trade programme planning should be revised and greater consideration be given to the study of the external trade problems of the capital-importing countries. He concluded by asserting that there was a critical need for strengthening the Financial Contributions Account with contributions from the member States, particularly those with capital surpluses, and from Arab funds.

84. In the context of the transfer and development of technology, another representative spoke of the need to create a technological capability and industries in the countries of the region, instead of merely importing technology. He said that the process required planning, creative ability, close co-operation among member States and the availability of the necessary resources. The establishment of national technological centres might be the proper way to achieve that aim. Another representative said that the rigorous manner in which the Secretariat of the United Nations was following the principle of zero-growth should not be applied to a recently established commission such as ECWA, which, in comparison with the other regional commissions, had not yet reached its full strength as far as staffing was concerned. He proposed that the principal projects appearing in the work programme should be summarized, in order to facilitate their review by the representatives of member States. He requested the secretariat to issue, before the conclusion of the session, a brief document listing current and proposed publications. He stressed the need to avoid duplication between such publications and those issued by the League of Arab States. He proposed that, in the documents submitted at future sessions, the item concerning the progress report on the implementation of the current work programme should be combined with the item concerning the new work programme, in order to give members a comprehensive picture of the way in which the Commission's activities and services were progressing. With regard to the elements of the previous programme which had been cancelled as being obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, he expressed doubt regarding the usefulness of the adoption of the programme by the member States and inquired what would be done with the appropriations allocated thereto. He drew the attention of the Commission to the disadvantages of deferring the implementation of the programme and carrying it forward from year to year. He called upon the Commission to direct its endeavours towards the solution of urgent problems instead of engaging in review activities and surveys which were normally undertaken by specialized organizations. He commended the scientific approach which was being followed by the Commission's Statistics Unit. He called for the classification of activities, in accordance with their respective fields, into academic, advisory and training activities and activities relating to meetings, and for studies submitted in the field of external trade to be given a practical orientation and linked to training programmes and seminars that could be of benefit to the countries of the region in the development of their commercial cadres and institutions. With regard to industrial development programmes, he indicated the need to concentrate on feasibility studies and reports on the establishment of industries and joint ventures at the regional level, and to place emphasis on industrial training and assistance to help national enterprises to overcome the obstacles and problems impeding their development and expansion. He expressed his Government's willingness to contribute towards the promotion of social development programmes, in view of their importance to his country. He noted that some of the statistical programmes that the Commission was intending to undertake had already been initiated by other regional organizations and, in particular, by the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States. He therefore recommended that, in that field, the Commission should direct its attention towards aspects which were likely to help to develop statistical organizations and methods in member States, such as the standardization of methods of statistical measurement and assistance to improve statistical capabilities. He called for the early completion of the programme elements concerning transnational corporations which had still not been implemented

85. In reply to comments and queries by delegations concerning the programme of work and priorities for 1982-1983, members of the secretariat made a number of observations. They pointed out that the Secretariat of the United Nations had given the Commission preferential treatment by allowing it a limited amount of growth in permanent posts and appropriations for meetings, as had already been indicated. With regard to the request for the preparation of a summary of the Commission's budget proposals, the secretariat promised to prepare a brief statement on important programme proposals which it had not been possible to include in the proposals of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly. It was mentioned that, when drafting reports on the progress achieved in the implementation of the work programme, the secretariat would endeavour to include therein the necessary reference to the adopted work programmes, in order to facilitate the evaluation of actual as against scheduled output. It was preferable to terminate some activities on the grounds of their obsolescence, in accordance with agreed criteria, rather than to continue them when there was no prospect of their yielding tangible results. Resources which became available as a result of such termination would, in most cases, be redistributed within the same field. Members of the secretariat also explained that a number of factors affecting the implementation of the work programme were beyond their control and that the secretariat would continue its endeavours to limit, as far as possible, the carrying forward of programme elements. They said that they were in agreement with the proposal to include analytical studies of important issues and problems in the Commission's work programmes. They believed that such studies had been included in many of the programmes, although, in some cases, it had been possible to undertake only the necessary survey work, in view of the shortage of available resources. It should be borne in mind, however, that such surveys were often a prerequisite for the analytical studies. The form in which the programme of work and priorities was submitted was dictated by the changing requirements of the General Assembly of the United Nations aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the programming process. The resources available for the international trade programme were extremely limited and that programme was therefore confined to a study of the most important issues relating to trade in the region. The secretariat would endeavour to make that programme more responsive to the needs of the region. It was acknowledged that there had been a delay in the completion of some elements of the programme on transnational corporations, but that was largely attributable to the difficulty encountered in finding the necessary staff and experts. The continuity of some elements of the industry programme was due to the nature of the Commission's work, since ECWA was required to undertake ongoing and periodic studies to analyse and monitor the existing situation and developments in member States. It was explained that the question of the development of regional joint ventures in the industrial sector had been accorded priority in the Commission's work programme. The results so far achieved in that field had been encouraging. The secretariat once again reiterated its intention to maintain contact and co-ordinate its activities with specialized regional organizations. Reference was made to the difficulties that were still facing the secretariat with regard to the acquisition of the country information needed for its work, and member States were requested to provide all possible assistance in that respect.

5. The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account (Agenda item 10)

86. The Executive Secretary introduced this item and the documents (E/ECWA/117 and Add.1 and 2) covering the two sub-items. Document E/ECWA/117 presented the financial status of the Commission for 1980 by sources of finance, the most important source being the allocations under the regular budget of the United Nations as approved by the General Assembly. Resources were also made available from extrabudgetary sources for the implementation of a number of activities, as detailed in document E/ECWA/117/Add.2. He specifically referred to the contributions of UNFPA and UNDP towards the implementation of a number of programmes and projects in the region. In addition, extrabudgetary resources had been made available to the Commission by the Governments of France, Lebanon and the Netherlands.

87. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the status of the Financial Contributions Account, as presented in document E/ECWA/117/Add.1, and indicated that the meagre balance would be depleted during 1981 by expenditures on programme elements specified in the document. He urged member countries to strengthen the Account, in order to enable the Commission to carry out its work programme and to meet the growing needs of its members in various fields, in accordance with the provisions of Commission resolution 79(VII). He added that the zero-growth policy followed by the United Nations further intensified the need for increasing financial contributions to the Commission. Referring to the Trust Fund for ECWA Regional Activities, he indicated that it was created for the purpose of rendering advisory services to the least developed countries. Apart from the initial allocations by Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, other member countries had yet to make their contributions. It was necessary also to strengthen the Fund in order to increase assistance to the least developed countries.

88. In the discussion that ensued, one representative stated that the sum of \$ 14,137,500 allocated for the 1982-1983 work programme was lower than the allocations made for 1980-1981 work programme of \$ 14,451,000. That reduction was attributable to the non-recurrent expenses envisaged during the latter period, such as the move of the Commission from Beirut to Baghdad. Nevertheless, his delegation believed that the decrease in the allocation represented an attempt to adhere to the concept of zero-growth proposed by the United Nations Secretariat. As for extrabudgetary sources within the United Nations system, it was evident that these had also reduced their contributions in 1981, as compared to 1980, by approximately 25 per cent. His delegation wanted to know the underlying reasons for that substantial decrease.

89. With respect to the Financial Contributions Account, the same delegation noted with much regret that that fund would be exhausted in 1981. Its Government, which had been the first to contribute an amount of \$ 300,000, urged other members to consider seriously strengthening this Account which had significantly contributed to the financing of 21 projects since its inception, in addition to enabling the secretariat to have access to additional resources. Member States, some of which had contributed large sums to international funds, were now called upon to contribute towards the strengthening of the Account, to enable the Commission to carry out its work in a sound and effective way that would serve the cause of economic integration in the Arab world.

90. In the clarifications provided by the secretariat on the points raised, it was stated that the drop in the allocations for 1982-1983 as compared to those for the current biennium was attributable to (a) the inclusion in the allocations for the current biennium of non-recurrent expenditures related to the Commission's move to Baghdad, (b) the instructions of the Secretary-General on adherence to the zero-growth policy in the preparation of the budget, which in fact implied no real increase in resources, (c) the preparation of the budget for 1982-1983 at the exchange rates prevailing in previous years, which would subsequently be adjusted by the projected rate of inflation during the biennium. Accordingly, the budget figure of \$ 14,137,500 was not the final figure and would be adjusted by the appropriate factor for inflation. The reduction in extrabudgetary resources was based primarily on the estimates prepared in 1981. Additional resources were anticipated during the 1982-1983 period. Moreover, the 14 per cent of the overhead charges for projects decentralized to ECWA would be determined accurately once allocations had been ascertained.

91. It was added that some of the contributions from that source had been in respect of specific projects, and resources ceased to exist once the projects were completed. Extrabudgetary resources were also subject to financial and political considerations which their respective donors had to observe.

92. The secretariat also elaborated on the procedural aspects governing the preparation and approval of the United Nations budget, with a view to assisting the delegations of member countries to co-ordinate their views with those of their delegations to various policy-making bodies of the United Nations concerned with budgetary issues, and thus to maximize their support for meeting the financial requirements of ECWA.

6. The International Year of Disabled Persons (Agenda item 11)

93. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item and called attention to the efforts made by members of the Commission in preparation for the International Year for Disabled Persons and to the participation of the secretariat of the Commission in regional and national activities in that connexion. He then touched upon the background to the preparation of the regional seminar for the elaboration of policies in relation to disabled persons, which was to have been held under the auspices of the Commission at Baghdad in the autumn of 1980, pursuant to resolution 87(VII) of the Commission, for the exchange of experiences and to consider the most effective ways to implement and follow-up the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons. He also mentioned the reasons which had prevented it from being held at the scheduled time. For that reason, the secretariat had prepared document E/ECWA/119 concerning the attainment of these objectives, under the title "Disabled persons in the ECWA region: features and dimensions of the problem and a regional plan of action" for discussion and adoption, for the purpose of laying down the broad outlines of the plan of action for the region and of its participation as a region in the International Year for Disabled Persons and in order that it should be one of the documents to be submitted to the international seminar to be held in July 1981 in Argentina on technological co-operation among developing countries and technical assistance for disabled persons.

94. The secretariat then presented a brief survey of the contents of the document, in which it touched upon the features of the problem and the dimensions of the challenge it presents in the Western Asian region and upon the elements of regional action in this field. It pointed out that a comprehensive and effective confrontation of the problem required political determination, involvement with it within a developmental context and a mass awareness of its dimensions. The representative of the secretariat for the International Year of Disabled Persons made a statement on the activities of the Year and the plans for the remainder of the Year. She drew the attention of the Commission to the draft long-term programme for disabled persons, to be presented to the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. She described the aims and status of the Trust Fund for Disabled Persons, established in connexion with the International Year. She stressed the importance of continued action, after the conclusion of the Year, in the fields of disability prevention and rehabilitation.

95. A number of representatives and observers then made statements in succession, and dealt with various aspects of the problem of disability. A number of representatives called for the adoption of the plan of action contained in document E/ECWA/119. They indicated the increasing interest of their countries in this problem and drew attention to the various activities and services available in their territories for the benefit of disabled persons, as well as to various deficiencies in this field. A number of representatives of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and regional organizations described their present and projected activities related to the provision of services to disabled persons and the efforts they had made within the framework of the International Year of Disabled Persons.

96. One representative expressed the opinion that the States concerned should take steps to unify their legislation with respect to disabled persons, to concentrate on the principle of disability prevention by devoting attention to legislative, cultural, vocational, environmental and other requirements and services, to take action to establish special associations for the care and rehabilitation of disabled persons, to observe the principle of the centralization of planning, guidance and follow-up in that field, to exploit the capabilities of disabled persons and to encourage bodies and enterprises involved in the manufacture of aids for the handicapped. He mentioned the necessity of broadening the concept of disability, providing statistical data on disabled persons and establish research centres specializing in conducting field studies and comparative studies on the problems of disabled persons. He called upon the countries of the region to identify, within the framework of the above-mentioned plan of action, specific points to which they should adhere, while paying sufficient attention to following up implementation in the field. He referred to legislation promulgated in his own country for the benefit of disabled persons and to services available to them.

97. Another representative stated that, in spite of the recent nature of the developmental experience in his country, disabled persons benefited from the increasing concern for their welfare. One representative mentioned the causes of disability in his country and said that, in view of the dimensions of the problem in comparison to available capabilities, there was a great need for support

for current efforts in the provision of services to disabled persons, in particular those of international bodies and organizations. In that connexion, he identified the kind of assistance required. One representative called for an increase in public awareness of the problems of disability, for the conduct of research and statistical studies in the member States, for the standardization of census forms and for the participation of disabled persons themselves in the formulation of legislation pertaining to them.

98. Some speakers stated that the interest of their countries in the International Year of Disabled Persons was reflected in the setting up of national committees to participate in international endeavours, in the importance that they attached to regional co-operation in the field of disability prevention and the rehabilitation of disabled persons and in their appreciation of the Commission's efforts in this field.

7. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (Agenda item 12)

99. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item with a brief reference to the preoccupations of the international community, during the initial years of the establishment of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, with the development of the developing countries and the efforts in the 1970s which culminated in the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. At its thirty-fifth session, the United Nations had adopted the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, as submitted to the session (E/ECWA/122/Add.2). This comprehensive document is based on the results of various international forums and specialized studies prepared in this connexion since the mid-1970s. It provides the principal set of guidelines for the orientation of development activities and the major instrument for the implementation of development policies world-wide for the decade of the 1980s. It derives its significance from the position it occupies in the over-all effort to establish a new international economic order. Although the Strategy reflects, to some extent, compromises which are inevitable, it largely reflects the views and aspirations of the developing countries. It was pointed out, however, that while it had been adopted by the international community as a whole, the differences between the developed and developing countries continued to be acute in respect of most of the issues relating to the world economy and to the effects of international economic relations on the development of the developing countries.

100. The Executive Secretary added that, in the context of the preparatory work carried out by organizations of the United Nations in this connexion, the Commission had decided, in its resolution 76(VI), to set up an Intergovernmental Committee of Development Experts for the purpose of preparing a report on the views of the ECWA region on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The secretariat had prepared a working paper, which was discussed and adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee in 1979 as part of its final report. The report was subsequently submitted to the Commission at its

seventh session and was examined by a sub-committee established by the Commission for this purpose. Pursuant to the report of the sub-committee, the secretariat, after a comprehensive review of the matter, issued an amended document embodying the development strategy of the ECWA region for the Third United Nations Development Decade (E/ECWA/122/Add.1, Parts I and II), which was distributed to the Governments of member States. While the draft strategy was under consideration, the secretariat also prepared, at the request of the Committee for Development Planning, a paper on the problems and prospects of the ECWA region in the 1980s (E/ECWA/122/Add.3).

101. The content and orientation of the International Development Strategy and those of the regional development strategy were in agreement with the spirit of the Joint Arab Economic Action Strategy and the National Economic Action Charter which were adopted at the Eleventh Arab Summit Conference, held at Amman on 26 November 1980. It should be noted, however, that the differences between the developed and the developing countries regarding the global rounds of negotiations continue to have a strong bearing on the situation in the ECWA region with respect to such issues as the world inflationary situation, the size of official development assistance, international trade, energy, the international monetary system and the various quantitative targets stipulated in the Strategy in various fields.

102. During the discussion, one representative indicated that the Commission, like the other regional commissions, was called upon to assist member States in attaining their national development objectives and to formulate attainable regional development goals. He emphasized the role of the Commission in following up the implementation of the regional strategy and suggested that concrete steps be taken in this regard. Such steps might include the organization of regional seminars, workshops and conferences to analyse various issues, and the convening of an annual seminar to discuss the implementation of the quantitative and qualitative development objectives in the countries of the region. He further suggested that the secretariat should prepare a report based on the outcome of these discussions and that that report should be sent to the Secretariat of the United Nations. He noticed that the finance and banking sector had not been studied in the strategy and priorities in the field of housing and human settlements had not been identified. He also inquired about the concrete steps that should be taken to secure the external assistance needed for some of the areas reviewed in the strategy.

103. Another representative indicated that the implementation of the strategy required intensive efforts on the part of the member States, as well as the support of regional and international organizations. To ensure the success of the strategy, he suggested that a review be undertaken of consumption patterns in the region. These patterns encouraged the massive importation of products, which in turn created economic and social imbalances and were in conflict with the development goals of the member countries. He also called upon these countries to control the internal and the external factors responsible for the upward trend in inflation rates and to ensure the stability of the development process in the region. He further requested member States to examine closely the issue of public debt and to attempt to rationalize the use and securing of loans on favourable terms and fair conditions.

104. At the conclusion of the discussion of this agenda item, the secretariat agreed that there was a need for continuous follow-up action on development efforts in the countries of the region, as well as for the preparation of periodic progress reports on the subject for submission to the Secretariat of the United Nations, as well as to the Commission. In addition, regional conferences, seminars and workshops should be held to analyse and assess the attainment of the quantitative and qualitative development goals. The secretariat explained that priorities in the area of housing and human settlements had not been explicitly stated in the document under consideration. However, it was clear that those priorities related to the elimination or alleviation of problems pertaining to the housing situation in the region. Furthermore, the development strategy for the region had not dealt with the finance and banking sector because it had focused on the development of the commodity-producing sectors, and on infrastructure in the member countries. The secretariat expressed its desire to study this sector in the future because of its importance to the development process in the region. The non-inclusion of the financial and banking sector among the sectors enjoying priority had been rectified in the Medium-Term Plan for 1984-1989, which stressed the need for the adoption of measures in connexion with financial and monetary issues, in order to help member countries to formulate policies and adopt appropriate measures at the country and regional levels and to help to strengthen the vital role of national and regional financial institutions in the development and reform of the international monetary and financial system.

8. Preparation of an institutional model for national centres for the transfer and development of technology (Agenda item 13)

105. The secretariat introduced agenda item 13, together with document E/ECWA/123 and the note by the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/123/Add.1). It called attention to the proposal made by one member State in the course of the Commission's seventh session concerning Arab co-operation in the field of the transfer and development of technology, which called upon the secretariat to participate in the establishment of national centres in this field and to support similar centres already in existence in the Arab countries. It indicated that the Government of that State had transmitted a note verbale to the secretariat requesting the preparation of an institutional model for the structure and activities of national centres for the transfer and development of technology and the inclusion of this item in the provisional agenda for the Commission's eighth session.

106. In response to this request, a draft institutional model had been prepared setting out the general objectives of such centres and the tasks which they should undertake in providing assistance in the elaboration of national technology policies, the unpackaging of technology, the negotiation of contracts and agreements on the transfer of technology and the creation of national technology capability, the collection and dissemination of technological information, the improvement of training methods and the strengthening of co-operation at the national and Arab levels. The draft set out the various aspects of the institutional organization of such centres, including those vital, substantive institutional linkages which they must have with the various other bodies concerned, having regard to the special circumstances of each country.

107. In the ensuing discussion, one representative requested an explanation of the reasons behind the dispatch with which this item had been submitted without there having been adequate preparation for it by way of contacts among member States. He also requested the secretariat to provide an explanation of the difference between the present draft and the previous project concerning the establishment of an Arab regional centre for the transfer and development of technology, which had previously been studied and transmitted to the secretariat of the League of Arab States.

108. The representatives of a number of States expressed the opinion that the proposed draft should be submitted to member States for exhaustive study before any decision was taken concerning its approval. One representative said that the proposed national centre should have the character of a high-level government body functioning as a central agency entrusted with the task of preparing policies and strategies in the field of the transfer and development of technology.

109. Another representative made observations on the draft and proposed the changing of the title of such centres from "national centres for the transfer and development of technology" to "national centres for the building up and development of technological capacities". He also expressed the view that it would be useful to give a precise definition of the term "technology". With reference to the organizational chart contained in the same document, he expressed the view that the divisions should not be linked directly with the regional and international institutions, and proposed that such linkages should be established through the Director-General of the centre. He further emphasized the necessity of Arab co-ordination and co-operation in the development of technological capabilities and capacities and of the secretariat's support for national centres operating in this field and its participation in the establishment of such centres in those Arab countries lacking them.

110. One representative referred to the many negative consequences of the method followed in the transfer of technology in the countries of the region, in that it involved dependence on the importation of technology, including machinery and equipment, and dependence on the services of foreign experts. He drew attention to the danger of such a method, which perpetuated technological dependency and neglected the importance of developing the technological capacity of the developing countries. He added that the draft submitted by the secretariat was a step on the road to co-ordination and co-operation between the countries of the region.

111. The secretariat replied to the observations made on this item by stating that it had undertaken the preparation of the institutional model for national centres for the transfer and development of technology and had included the item in the Commission's agenda in response to a request made by one of the member States in a note verbale. The proposed model concerned the establishment of national centres for the transfer and development of technology and was different from the Arab regional centre for which the secretariat had prepared a feasibility study in co-operation with the Arab countries and regional organizations. The establishment of such national centres was no substitute

for the Arab regional centre, for they, like other national institutions in various fields, would serve countries primarily within the framework of national policies. In that connexion, some Arab countries had actually begun to establish their national centres. The secretariat concluded its response by stating that the proposed draft was a flexible model which could be used by member States as a guide to establishing national centres. For that reason, the model contained many details throwing light on the objectives and functions and on the methods of their establishment.

9. Co-operation among developing countries (Agenda item 14)

112. The secretariat introduced this agenda item and referred to the decision of the Commission at its seventh session to make the subject of co-operation among developing countries a permanent item on the agenda of all its sessions. The secretariat had therefore prepared document E/ECWA/124, covering the various activities it had undertaken during 1980. It touched upon the importance accorded to this subject in the activities and programmes of other United Nations organs, in particular those of UNDP, which had, in co-operation with the Commission, organized a meeting on technical co-operation among Arab States during 1980. The results of this meeting were presented in document E/ECWA/124/Add.1. The conclusions and decisions, contained in document E/ECWA/124/Add.2, represented the contribution of the Arab world to the High-Level Meeting on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, organized by UNDP during May and June 1980. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the resolution concerning the report on the state of transport and communications among developing countries (E/ECWA/124/Add.3).

113. One representative considered that economic co-operation among developing countries was one of the basic factors in the establishment of an international order based upon justice and equality. He stated that his own country accorded great importance to the subject and considered it to be a corner-stone of its foreign policy. In practical terms, that fact found expression in the agreements which it had concluded with a number of developing countries and in the financial assistance that it had provided to those countries. In that connexion, he drew attention to the proposal of his country to establish a long-term international fund to help developing countries to deal with the effects of inflation. He pointed out that economic co-operation among developing countries could not be a substitute for global economic negotiations or for the North-South dialogue. It should rather be considered as a factor increasing the negotiating power of the developing countries vis-à-vis the industrialized countries in international forums. He mentioned the appeal his country had made for the establishment of a federation of commodity producers on the OPEC model, which would strengthen the negotiating power of developing countries and their position with regard to the transnational corporations. He mentioned the proposal to establish a secretariat for the Group of 77 and expressed the view that the subject should be studied with great care. In addition to that, he proposed the establishment of liaison machinery at the national level to maintain communication with the Chairman of the Group of 77.

114. Another representative stressed the necessity of pressing on with the expansion of co-operation among developing countries. He stated that his own country, at present engaged in preparing its development plan, could benefit from the experiences of other developing countries in various fields.

10. Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and the strengthening of, the regional commissions (Agenda item 15)

115. In introducing this item of the agenda, the Executive Secretary pointed out the importance of the subject for ECWA and the other regional commissions. He indicated that the issue had involved years of preparations and planning before the regional commissions were considered appropriate organizations for operational activities in their respective regions. The subject had been referred, over a period of three years, to an ad hoc committee, whose deliberations had culminated in proposals for the introduction of changes in the structure of the United Nations system. This had resulted in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197, which called for, inter alia, the creation of the post of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the assumption by the regional commissions of increased responsibility for operational activities in their respective regions. He indicated that, while this was a welcome development, it was not sufficient in itself. It was necessary to intensify co-operation with member countries in order to contribute satisfactorily to the implementation of resolution 32/197. Document E/ECWA/125 described the follow-up action taken pursuant to Commission resolution 80(VII) and the progress achieved. As a result, a total of seven Professional and two General Service posts had been decentralized to the secretariat during the period 1979-1981 in the fields of transport, development issues and policies, development finance, programme planning and co-ordination, social development and human settlements. Additional areas in which a redistribution of tasks and responsibilities between the Commission and Headquarters could also be studied had been identified. In that connexion, the secretariat believed that the present responsibilities of the Commission should be further strengthened in the areas of development planning, transport, science and technology, statistics, cartography, trade, information and documentation services, and population activities. In all those areas, a number of activities now being carried out by United Nations Headquarters could be better undertaken by the Commission. This was because the regional commissions were living with the realities of the situation in their regions, supported by their experience and full familiarity with the problems and needs of their member countries.

116. He added that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should extend its consideration of the distribution of tasks and responsibilities to cover the above areas also, and he urged member countries to follow seriously the deliberations of that Committee. He fully endorsed the observations and suggestions of the Secretary-General regarding the role of the regional commissions, as contained in the document before the Commission.

117. In the discussion that followed, one representative indicated that it was regrettable that ECWA had not participated in the eleventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly on international economic co-operation, despite the fact that the Assembly had called on the regional commissions to participate. With respect to co-operation at the regional level, ECWA had been able to establish joint divisions/units with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, FAO, UNEP and UNIDO. It was difficult to understand why such a joint division/unit had not been established with UNCTAD, which was engaged in a number of activities similar to the ones carried out by the Commission. Concerning the contribution of ECWA to policies at the international level, he indicated that ECWA had not done much to analyse recent developments and to provide assistance to member countries in specific areas that lent themselves to negotiations. As for regional economic co-operation, he commended the efforts of the secretariat in strengthening working relationships with specialized regional Arab organizations. He called upon the secretariat to intensify further its efforts aimed at strengthening co-operation and Arab economic integration.

118. In the explanations subsequently presented, the Executive Secretary indicated that duties were often assigned to the regional commissions without commensurate resources being provided. The secretariat often received invitations to attend meetings at the regional and international levels, but the shortage of travel funds meant that its participation in such meetings was not always possible. As for the joint unit with UNCTAD, he indicated that the secretariat had held discussions with UNCTAD for setting up such a unit, but neither ECWA nor UNCTAD had adequate resources available for that purpose at present.

11. Other business (Agenda item 16)

(a) Relocation of the offices of the Commission to Baghdad

119. Under this item of the agenda, the representative of the Republic of Iraq made a statement on the latest developments relating to the transfer of the Commission's headquarters from Beirut to Baghdad.

120. He said that, having discussed the matter with senior officials of the United Nations, in particular Mr. H. Debatin, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Administration, Finance and Management, he had ascertained that there were only a few marginal obstacles which would not stand in the way of the Commission's relocation during the coming three months at the very latest. He indicated that the Government of the Republic of Iraq had met all the basic requirements incumbent upon it in that respect and he requested the secretariat to provide his Government, before the beginning of the month of September 1981, with an official list giving the approximate number of children of the staff who would be moving to Baghdad.

121. He called upon the secretariat of the Commission to expedite the assignment of capable and responsible staff to the liaison office at Baghdad, which had recently been unoccupied, in order to supervise the final stages of the transfer operation.

122. He called upon the United Nations to abide by its agreement with the Government of Iraq to transfer the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to Baghdad within a period ending no later than the end of August 1981.

123. The Executive Secretary affirmed that the matter did not rest with him alone, since it required decisions by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He pointed out that the secretariat of the Commission had been and still was co-operating with the Secretariat of the United Nations so as to ensure that the transfer operation could take place as soon as possible. He expressed willingness to provide the Government of Iraq with data concerning the schooling aspect and also with any other information which it might require.

124. He stated that, after the conclusion of the session, he would be assigning more than one official to the Baghdad liaison Office.

(b) Date and place of the ninth session

125. The Commission unanimously agreed to hold its ninth session at Baghdad, the Commission's permanent headquarters, at the time stipulated by the Commission's provisional rules of procedure.

D. Programme of Work and Priorities 1982-1983

1. The following assumptions underly the 1982-1983 budget proposals:
 - (a) The Commission will be located in Baghdad, Iraq;
 - (b) The Commission will be occupying the temporary premises provided by the Government of Iraq throughout the biennium; and
 - (c) The Commission will move to its permanent headquarters during the biennium 1980-1981.
2. The proposals for the regular budget 1982-1983 with respect to studies, research and meetings (E/ECWA/118) relate to 99 professional posts and 149 local-level posts. These proposals reflect:
 - (a) An increase in the establishment as compared to the 1980-1981 programme of work and priorities 1982-1983 of one local-level post in statistics;
 - (b) Redeployment of three professional and one local-level posts between programmes;
 - (c) Reclassification of one post;
 - (d) Establishment of three professional posts and seven local-level posts from extrabudgetary resources;
 - (e) The decentralization of one P-3 post from United Nations Headquarters to programme 110 (Executive direction and management) of the Commission.
 - (a) New post
540 (Statistics) One L-L
 - (b) Redeployed posts
Redeployments affecting the following programmes are proposed:
One P-4 from 340 (International trade) to 210 (Development issues and Policies);
One P-3 from 210 (Development issues and policies) to 340 (International Trade);
One P-3 from 460 (Natural resources) to 520 (Science and technology);
One local-level post from 440 (Labour, management and employment) to 540 (Statistics).

(c) Reclassifications

The following post is proposed for reclassification:

Programme 540 (Statistics)

P-5 post to D-1.

(d) Extrabudgetary posts

Posts to be established from extrabudgetary resources fall under the following programmes:

110 (Executive direction and management)	One L-L
540 (Statistics)	One P-2/1 and one L-L
780 (Library and documentation services)	One P-4
790 (Management of technical co-operation activities)	One P-2/1 and two L-L
800 (Administration and common services)	three L-L

(e) Decentralized posts

It is expected that one professional post will be decentralized to the Commission under the following programme:

110 (Executive direction and management)	One P-3
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3. Publications Programme:

The secretariat considered it appropriate to submit its proposed publications programme (E/ECWA/118/Add.2), so that the necessary legislative authority may be obtained and that the programme may become increasingly responsive to the needs of member states. These proposals constitute a considerable expansion of the current programme in terms of the number of recurrent publications. While in the course of the present biennium (1980-1981), the secretariat will issue six recurrent publications covering the programmes on development issues and policies and statistics, the publications programme proposed for 1982-1983 will increase the number of recurrent publications to ten. Recurrent series in food and agriculture, industrial development and natural resources will be added to the existing ones. The expansion of its publications programme will imply some reduction in the number of copies published, but the secretariat deems this justified if it allows for the launching of new publications. Budgetary provision for the publications programme has been maintained at the 1980-1981 levels, adjusted for inflation.

4. Conferences, meetings and expert-groups:

The secretariat's proposed programme budget E/ECWA/118 contains proposals for 22 conferences, meetings and expert groups (E/ECWA/118/Add.3). Of these, 15 are expert groups and 7 are intergovernmental meetings. Five ad hoc expert groups will be financed under the proposed programme budget 1982-1983. Temporary assistance for six intergovernmental meetings is included under the proposed programme budget. The remaining expert groups and intergovernmental meetings are expected to be financed from extrabudgetary resources. With the exception of 3 meetings to be financed by UNFPA, the extrabudgetary resources allocations for these meetings are only indicative and tentative, since such allocations will be subject to the agreement of funding organizations or Governments contributing towards the implementation of the Commission's work programme.

5. Studies and Research:

From a substantive point of view, the 1982-1983 programme of work and priorities (E/ECWA/118) constitute a continued trend of indepth studies of various technical and socio-economic problems and issues with increased emphasis on identification of intercountry and subregional cooperative schemes.

6. Food and Agriculture:

In the field of food and Agriculture, the thrust of the programme is to strengthen activities that are of practical significance to national Governments and regional intergovernmental organizations. Compared to the previous biennium, there is a further shift away from academic-type activities and activities which have failed to stimulate any practical response owing to the fact that mechanisms to absorb their outputs are not yet operational at the national and regional levels, e.g. perspective studies and adjustment studies based on sophisticated techniques and efforts towards agricultural plan harmonization. Apart from giving continued attention to the provision of objective information on the agricultural situation, developments, trends and policy changes, efforts in the field of planning assistance will be geared towards solving identified planning problems and improving the planning process in ECWA countries. Activities to promote intercountry co-operation with a view to improving regional food security and securing greater efficiency in the conservation and management of agricultural resources will continue, as a number of

specific lines of action are pursued. Finally, there is added emphasis on rural development activities, since the prevailing weaknesses in agricultural services and rural institutions having been perceived as a major reason for the poor implementation of agricultural development programmes. Activities are also to be undertaken within the framework of the Plan of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, 1979.

7. Development Planning:

In the area of development planning the major changes introduced in 1982-1983 programme of work concerns the introduction of activities pertaining to the least-developed countries. Other activities included constitute a continuation of activities initiated during the current biennium.

8. Human Settlement:

The activities in the field of human settlement constitute mainly a continuation of activities initiated during 1980-1981. New activities to be commenced pertain to housing finance and city management.

9. Industrial Development:

Most of the resources required (80 per cent) under the programme of industrial development will be deployed for completion of activities commenced in the 1980-1981 biennium (coordination of industrialization policies, plans and programmes, engineering industries, appraisal of industrial potential and regional industrial planning). New activities introduced pertain to the development of fertilizer and agro-based industries.

10. International Trade:

In the field of international trade, activities included constitute follow-up work to the baseline studies undertaken during the 1980-1981 biennium. In this connexion, emphasis will focus on identification of intra-regional trade and regional integration opportunities.

11. Labour, Management and Employment:

In the field of labour, management and employment, the programme is largely composed of new activities which concern the optimum utilization of available manpower and the development of required skills.

12. Natural Resources:

Resources requested for activities in the field of natural resources pertain foremost to new activities in the area of energy, mineral and water resources development. In the area of energy, energy planning, economics of oil and gas transport, and skilled manpower development in oil and gas sector, and electric power development constitute elements introduced for the first time. In the area of water resources, activities pertaining to regional seas have been introduced.

13. Population Activities:

Population activities included in the 1982-1983 programme constitute a continuation and completion of activities initiated during 1980-1981.

14. Public Finance:

In the area of public finance, major new activities to be commenced during the biennium relate to public enterprises and financial resource availabilities in the ECWA region.

15. Science and Technology:

In the area of science and technology six interdependent programme elements, three of which have been initiated during the 1980-1981 biennium, have been included. While emphasis in the first three programme elements is placed on problems concerned with dependence on foreign supplies of technology to meet the need for expanding and improving production systems, the focus of the other three programme elements is on the set of problems associated with the movement, education and training of high-level scientific and technological manpower. However, the two sets of issues are not independent. They constitute an integrated structure and represent the essence of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology. In addition, they all fall within the eight major programme areas selected by the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development at its second session.

16. Social Development:

The included activities in the area of social development are intended to contribute to national efforts and regional co-operation for a more adequate recognition of social components as an integral part of over-all development policies, plans and programmes. It will also provide certain technical inputs for (a) promoting social

development based on a need-oriented approach; (b) developing innovative and self-reliant measures and resources for improving social welfare; (c) increasing the active participation of specific social groups in the development process; (d) preventing social disfunctioning as a result of unbalanced economic growth; (e) improving the quality of performance of personnel engaged in social planning, policy analysis, social action and the evaluation of social progress.

17. Statistics:

In the area of statistics the envisaged activities on the one hand are designed to strengthen statistical systems of member States and pertain to research on statistical methodology and improvement of data collection procedures and methods. On the other hand, the planned activities relate to assisting member States in adopting United Nations standards and classifications in national accounts, price statistics and international income comparisons.

18. Transport, Communications and Tourism:

In the area of transport, communications and tourism, fifty per cent of the planned activities will deal with programme elements commenced in the 1980-1981 biennium (training needs, multinational shipping enterprises, railway networks, low-cost roads and tourism development). New activities included concern inter-country and regional transport projects; transport harmonization and road maintenance.

19. Programme of Transnational Corporations:

All the planned activities included in the programme of transnational corporations are new, extending the programme's coverage to different types of corporations (manufacturing banks). In addition, increased emphasis is being placed on the operations and practices of transnational corporations.

20. Regional and Sub-regional Advisory Services:

The programme of regional and sub-regional advisory services (E/ECWA/118/Add.1) is carried out in close co-operation with the respective substantive programmes. Regional Advisors receive support from the over-all activities of those programmes, and provide assistance to them on an ad hoc basis. The major objective of this programme is to assist member countries, at their request, in tackling specific development issues, particularly in relation to sectoral planning and

manpower training and in promoting co-operation among countries of the region. These services, which involve extensive travelling on advisory missions, are related to supplement the following substantive ECWA programmes: development issues and policies; industrial development; development finance and administration; social development; statistics; and transport, communications and tourism. The programme of regional and sub-regional advisory services encompasses six subprogrammes involving eight regional advisers. It constitutes a continuation of the 1980-1981 programme of advisory services. No new advisory services are thus envisaged.

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

88(VIII). The economic and social situation and potential of
the Palestinian Arab people*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 27(III) of 1976 providing for the preparation of a study on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people.

Referring to the note of the Executive Secretary^{1/} containing an explanation of the stages of implementation of the study,

Taking into account the observations of the Palestinian delegation on the notes referred to above,

1. Stresses the need to complete that study as soon as possible, in view of its importance;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a progress report on the preparation of the study to the Commission at its next session;
3. Affirms that the study will cover the economic and social situation of the Palestinian Arab people wherever they may be.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

89(VIII). Census of the Palestinian Arab people**

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 28(III) of 1976 providing for the implementation of a project for a census of the Palestinian Arab people,

Referring to the note of the Executive Secretary^{1/} containing an account of the census operation,

* See para.59 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

** See para.60 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1/ E/ECWA/129.

1. Stresses the need to implement that project, in view of its extreme importance and to give it priority in the Commission's work programme;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue the measures needed to complete the census;
3. Urges member States which have conducted a census to submit to the Commission the results of the census covering the Palestinians in its territory, and calls upon member States which have not yet conducted such a census to provide the Commission with any information available to them concerning the Palestinians in their territories;
4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its next session a progress report on the work on that project;
5. Requests the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to continue its support to the project of the census of the Palestinian Arab people.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

90(VIII). Expansion of the regional advisory services provided by the Economic Commission for Western Asia in connexion with the agro-industries and international trade*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the review of the programme of work and priorities for 1982-1983, submitted by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Noting with appreciation the endeavours of the Commission's secretariat in the field of the regional advisory services which it has undertaken during the past years,

Recognizing the importance of advisory services in helping member States to solve many of the problems and bottlenecks encountered in their developmental efforts in various economic and social spheres,

Noting with regret that the financial and human resources allocated to regional advisory services in the work programme for 1982-1983 are inadequate to meet the pressing needs of the countries of the region at the national and regional levels in some vital fields, especially the development and rationalization of the agro-industries in general, the food and textile industries in particular and also questions of international trade which have a definite impact on various aspects of economic activity,

* See paras.82-84 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1. Recommends the establishment of advisory services in the field of the agro-industries and textiles industries in order to complement effectively the services provided by international agencies specialized in this field;
2. Further recommends the allocation of the funds needed to provide advisory services in the field of international trade and the balances of payments, to promote exports and to rationalize imports in the interest of comprehensive economic and social development;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to establish the necessary contacts with the United Nations Development Programme and with the other international authorities and bodies concerned, in order to secure the financial resources needed for the provision of the advisory services referred to;
4. Calls upon the member States to make the necessary efforts to support the activity of the Executive Secretary aimed at providing the requisite advisory services;
5. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its ninth session a report on the measures taken in this connexion.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

91(VIII). Disabled persons*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 87(VII) of 23 April 1980 concerning the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979,

Noting with appreciation the activities organized in connexion with the International Year of Disabled Persons by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the region of Western Asia,

Conscious of the importance of continuing and strengthening the initiatives and activities of the International Year of Disabled Persons,

* See paras.93-98 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

Referring to the note of the Executive Secretary on the International Year of Disabled Persons^{1/},

Taking into consideration the document entitled "Disabled Persons in the ECWA region: Features and dimensions of the problem and a regional plan of action"^{2/},

1. Supports the regional plan of action mentioned above ^{2/};
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit that document ^{2/} to the secretariat of the International Year of Disabled Persons as a regional contribution to the long-term programme of action for disabled persons to be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;
3. Urges States members of the Commission to elaborate and implement long-term programmes of action concerning disablement;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to strengthen the work of the Commission in the field of the prevention of disablement and the training of disabled persons, within the framework of the Commission's social development programme and within the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue and to follow-up the initiatives and activities of the International Year of Disabled Persons and, in particular, to implement the long-term programme of action for disabled persons.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

^{1/} E/ECWA/119/Add.1

^{2/} E/ECWA/119.

92(VIII). Development of an integrated transport system*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 73(VI) concerning regional co-operation in the field of transport, which requested the Executive Secretary to submit his recommendations and proposals on this subject in the light of the outcome of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia,

Reaffirming the importance of developing transport and communications links at the regional level, in order to serve the social and economic development of the countries of Western Asia,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the secretariat in the field of transportation and communication,^{1/}

Taking into consideration the detailed statements made by delegations,

1. Calls upon member States to give the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia the attention that they deserve, within the framework of their plans for the development of the transport sector;
2. Takes note of the recommendations of the United Nations High-Level Meeting on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries concerning co-operation in the field of transport;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to strengthen co-operation among developing countries in the field of transport at the regional level;
4. Calls upon member States to support the efforts of the secretariat in implementing the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

* See paras.72-76 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ECWA/121.

93(VIII). International Development Strategy for the
Third United Nations Development Decade*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 56(V) on its long-term goals and regional development strategy and resolution 76(VI) on the establishment of an intergovernmental committee of development experts from the member States of ECWA for the purpose of preparing a report on the views of the ECWA region on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling also its deliberations during the seventh session of the Commission concerning the regional development strategy for the 1980s,

Noting with appreciation the follow-up action of the Executive Secretary in support of the development strategy for the ECWA region,^{1/}

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 35/56, in which the Assembly adopted the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, annexed to that resolution,

1. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to facilitate the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade by offering assistance to the member States in the following tasks:

- (a) The assessment of the implication of the effects of the International Development Strategy to the ECWA region, having due regard to the priorities established by the regional development strategy;
- (b) The translation of the general objectives and aspirations of the International Development Strategy, as well as the general policy measures adopted in connexion therewith, into specific national goals and targets that conform to the needs and circumstances prevailing at the regional and the subregional levels;

* See paras.99-104 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ECWA/122.

- (c) The undertaking of a periodic review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Strategy in the region, with due consideration for the possibility of adjusting general policy measures in the light of evolving needs and recent developments at the national and the regional levels;

2. Also calls upon the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the subject to the Commission at its ninth session.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

94(VIII). United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 33/148 of 20 December 1978 and 34/190 of 18 December 1979 on the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 35/204 of 16 December 1980, which in paragraph 2 "urges all member States to promote heightened awareness of the importance of the Conference and to intensify its preparation at the national, subregional and regional levels in order to ensure its success", and in paragraph 5 "urges all concerned organs, organization and bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to strengthen their participation and to continue to extend their fullest contribution to the preparatory process for the Conference, as well as co-operation and support to the Secretary-General of the Conference in this process",

Recognizing the importance of harnessing new and renewable sources of energy for the development of member States,

Noting with appreciation the success of the Regional Preparatory Expert Group Meeting for the Conference, organized by the secretariat of the Commission at Beirut from 12 to 16 January 1981,

* See paras.77-79 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

Bearing in mind the ECWA regional report to the Conference,^{1/}

1. Takes note of the recommendations of the Regional Preparatory Expert Group Meeting contained in the ECWA regional report to the Conference;
2. Urges all member States to be represented at the highest possible technical level at the Conference;
3. Further urges member States to ensure that the recommendations of the Regional Meeting are fully reflected in any programme of action stemming from the Conference;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure that appropriate additional resources are allocated to the secretariat of the Commission for the proper implementation at the regional level of any programme of action stemming from the Conference, as well as for any other functions in the field of new and renewable sources of energy which may be entrusted to it in the aftermath of the Conference.

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6 May 1981

95(VIII). Transfer of the offices of the Commission to Baghdad*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 78(VII) on the relocation of the offices of the Commission to Baghdad,

Taking note of the reference made in the message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the eighth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to the fact that much progress has been made in preparing the way for the transfer of the headquarters of the Commission to Baghdad and that the move to Baghdad should be initiated as soon as the few outstanding issues are solved,

Expressing its sincere appreciation to the Government of Iraq for all that it has done and is doing in order to complete as soon as possible the construction and establishment of the facilities needed for the Commission's relocation to its permanent headquarters in Baghdad,

^{1/} E/ECWA/116.

* See paras. 119-124 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

- (a) To provide, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the eighth session of the Commission, a sufficient number of staff for the Commission's liaison office in Baghdad to enable it, in collaboration with the Government of Iraq, to reach solutions to the few outstanding issues;
- (b) To continue to pay special attention to all the issues and questions affecting the standard of efficiency and performance of the secretariat staff, in order to initiate the relocation of the Commission's secretariat to Baghdad at a date not later than the end of August 1981 and to provide appropriate means and favourable terms of employment to enable the Commission's secretariat to make available its services for member States with the highest degree of efficiency

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6 May 1981

96(VIII). The strengthening of statistical work in the ECWA region*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Appreciating the efforts deployed for strengthening statistical work in the secretariat and commending the secretariat for the services it has rendered in this connexion,

Mindful that the refinement and enhancement of the statistical capabilities of the countries of the region would improve considerably the provision of the sound statistical data required for the implementation of development policies and executive measures in the countries of the region,

Recognizing that the secretariat could play an effective role through its Statistical Unit in assisting the development of national statistical organizations and the training of their staff and in contributing to the enhancement and standardization of statistical concepts and methods at the regional level,

Recognizing further that the needs of the member States for consultative and other statistical services provided by the secretariat are increasing continuously,

Notwithstanding the high value placed by the Commission on the efforts deployed by the Executive Secretary during the past years to expand the statistical activities of the secretariat and to enhance the effectiveness of the apparatus of the Statistical Unit,

Recommends that the Statistical Unit should be strengthened and its capabilities expanded, to enable it to meet the increasing needs of the member States for statistical data, staff training and advisory services.

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6 May 1981

* See paras.83-84 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

97(VIII). Co-operation between the Economic Commission for Western Asia and specialized Arab and regional organizations with a view to the co-ordination of their joint projects*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having noted that some of the studies and activities included in the programme of work and priorities for 1982-1983 are duplicated by Arab and regional organizations,

Considering the waste of human abilities and financial resources caused by such duplication,

Realizing the importance of co-operation between the Commission and the above-mentioned organizations,

1. Recommends that the secretariat of the Commission should hold prior consultations with the specialized Arab and regional organizations jointly concerned before preparing draft proposals for studies and activities in its short and medium-term work programmes and should collaborate with them, in order to avoid the repetition of these studies and activities;
2. Further recommends that the secretariat should co-operate with specialized Arab and regional organizations in the undertaking of studies and activities of a joint nature;
3. Appeals to specialized Arab and regional organizations to co-operate with the Economic Commission for Western Asia, with a view to implementing the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present resolution;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to put into effect the contents of the recommendations contained in the present resolution;
5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to submit an annual report on the practical steps taken with a view to achieving closer co-operation between the Commission and specialized Arab and regional organizations.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

* See paras. 112-113 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

98(VIII). Work programme for 1982-1983*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered the draft work programme for 1982-1983 covering the various activities of the Commission,1/

Having incorporated therein the amendments proposed by member States,

Having taken note of General Assembly resolution 35/209, which terminates activities appearing in the work programme for 1980-1981 which are considered to be obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective,2/

Recognizing that the work programme requires the approval of the allocation of the resources required for the undertaking of the activities appearing therein,

1. Adopts the work programme for 1982-1983, as amended;
2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to endeavour to obtain the resources needed for activities not included in the work programme submitted to the General Assembly;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its ninth session a report on the measures taken in this connexion.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

* See paras.82-85 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1/ E/ECWA/118 and Add.1.

2/ E/ECWA/120/Add.1.

99(VIII). Mobilization of resources for the implementation
of the work programme of the Economic Commission
for Western Asia*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 33(III), in which it decided to establish the Voluntary Fund of the Economic Commission for Western Asia for the extrabudgetary financing of the Commission's work programmes,

Further recalling its resolutions 45(IV) and 79(VII), in which it urged member States to make voluntary contributions towards the general financing of the Commission's programmes,

Expressing its gratitude to those member States and Arab financing institutions which have contributed to the Financial Contributions Account since its inception,

Further expressing its gratitude to the Governments of France and the Netherlands for the generous contributions that they have made during the past biennium in support of the Commission's activities,

Noting with satisfaction the considerable importance of voluntary contributions for the implementation of the Commission's work programmes,^{1/}

Recognizing the need to mobilize further resources, in order that the Financial Contributions Account may continue to play its effective role,

1. Decides to give the opportunity, during the annual sessions of the Commission, to member States and to non-member States participating in the capacity of observers to make contributions for general or specific purposes towards the implementation and development of the Commission's programmes;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit, six months before each annual session, general or specific programme proposals for the purpose of collecting contributions for the financing of such programmes;
3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its ninth session a report on the measures taken in this connexion.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

* See paras.80-82, 86 and 88 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ECWA/117/Add.1.

100(VIII). A programme of action in favour of the least developed member countries*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 16(II) on a programme of action in favour of the least developed countries in the region, which, in its paragraph 2, urged the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to provide additional services and activities to promote the process of economic and social development in those countries,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 34/210 regarding special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries, and resolution S-11/4 on measures to meet the critical situation in the least developed countries,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolutions 34/203 and 35/205 on the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to finalize, adopt and support the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of these countries, in which the General Assembly urged all United Nations organs, organizations and bodies, including the regional commissions, to contribute to the success of the Conference,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade related to the least developed countries,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Executive Secretary to assist the least developed member countries of the Commission in their preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,^{1/}

1. Urges the Executive Secretary to ensure that the needs of the least developed countries in the region are adequately reflected in the Substantial New Programme of Action at the regional level;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to intensify the Commission's activities with regard to the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the regional level, in the light of the results of the Conference;

3. Requests also the Executive Secretary to consult with the Secretary-General on the decentralization to the Commission of activities in favour of the least developed countries;

* See paras.66-67 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ECWA/127.

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its ninth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

101(VIII). Publications programme of ECWA*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Bearing in mind that the Commission, in the course of its regular activities, produces studies and reports in the economic and social field which are of particular interest to governmental, technical and academic circles in the countries of the region,

Affirming the need for these studies and reports to be made available as publications, especially in Arabic,

Emphasizing the great importance attached to technical co-operation among developing countries and regions following the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which renders even more necessary the wide distribution of the publications of the Commission,

Emphasizing further the desirability of publications and documents being prepared and distributed at the lowest possible cost and in the maximum numbers,

1. Adopts the publications programme for 1982-1983;^{1/}
2. Urges the secretariat to expand as widely as possible the publishing and distribution of the results of its work.

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6 May 1981

* See para.82 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ECWA/118/Add.2.

102(VIII). Technical co-operation projects in statistics*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 41(IV), in paragraph 2(d) of which statistics related to the economic and social activities of the Arab States were considered to be one of the priorities to be adopted in the implementation of projects,

Recognizing the need for improving the continuing household survey capabilities of member States, as well as for a system for the reasonably accurate comparison of inter-country differences in production, income and purchasing power of currencies,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the support given to the Regional Project Household Survey Services in Western Asia;1/
2. Urges member States to participate fully in the regional statistical projects executed by the Commission.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

* See paras.82-83 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1/ E/ECWA/120/Add.2, paras.31-35.

103(VIII). Follow-up action on the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Recalling also the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, adopted on 31 August 1979 by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and in particular paragraph 93 of that Programme of Action, which entrusted to the regional commissions the role of team leadership in the co-ordination of science and technology co-operation programmes,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 on the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which, inter alia, endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,

Emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen and develop the scientific and technological capacities of member States to enable them to apply science and technology more effectively to their development,

Recognizing that concerted and sustained efforts must be made by all sections of the international community, in order to assist in strengthening the endogenous scientific and technological capacities of developing countries,

Further recognizing the central role of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in taking effective and co-ordinated action, including the preparation of an operational plan, for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,

* See paras. 106-109 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

Taking note of the progress report on the implementation of the work programme,^{1/} and in particular the section thereof dealing with follow-up action to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to enable the secretariat of the Commission to assume adequately the increasing responsibilities entrusted to it by the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development;
2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to make arrangements to secure the necessary resources from within and outside the United Nations system, in order to discharge effectively the additional responsibilities mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

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^{1/} E/ECWA/120.

104(VIII). A regional programme of technical assistance to member countries in development finance*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 74(VI), which urged the Executive Secretary to complete the assessment and evaluation of the state of development finance and administration in the countries of the region and to submit his findings and proposals to member States of the Commission for their consideration and action,

Further recalling paragraph 3 of the same resolution, which requested the Executive Secretary to convey to the United Nations Development Programme the Commission's desire to participate actively in the sponsoring and financing of a programme designed to improve the state of development finance and administration in the ECWA region,

Noting with appreciation the follow-up efforts made by the Executive Secretary in this regard, including the preparation of the survey report on the technical assistance needs of member countries in financial management,^{1/}

Conscious of the rapidly expanding role of the public sector in promoting economic and social development in the countries of the region and of the growing need for the up-grading of the technical capabilities of public personnel for the effective mobilization and allocation of financial resources aimed at achieving development objectives during the 1980s,

Taking cognizance of the necessity of resource mobilization for the achievement of the growth rate and the level of domestic savings specified in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

1. Recommends that Governments of member countries intensify their efforts in strengthening the training and advisory capacities of their national institutions in various aspects of development finance;

* See para.85 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} E/ECWA/129, paras. 2 and 3.

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to follow up the recommendations embodied in the survey report and to study, in consultation with member countries, the possibilities of establishing a regional facility aimed at meeting the training and advisory needs of member countries in development finance (at the high and middle-management levels) and to ensure that such a facility complements national efforts and is closely co-ordinated with related Arab regional institutions;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, in the light of the results of the study referred to in paragraph 2 above, to include proposals in the United Nations Development Programme inter-country programme for the programming cycle 1982-1986;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its ninth session on the action taken in this connexion.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

105(VIII). Defining and strengthening the functions of the Commission within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, and in particular section IV of the annex thereto relating to structures for regional and interregional co-operation,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and 34/206 of 19 December 1979 and Commission resolution 69(VI) concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, as well as Commission resolution 80(VII) on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Taking note of General Assembly decision 35/440 of 16 December 1980, in which the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to "invite the regional commissions to consider further at their plenary sessions in 1981 the implications for their role and functions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 32/202",

Taking further note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions",^{1/} and in particular the observations contained in paragraphs 13 to 20 and 76 to 79 thereof, and also of the secretariat's report,^{2/} which further assesses the implications of the decentralization of economic and social activities to ECWA,

Affirming the responsibility of the regional commissions for exercising team leadership for co-operation and co-ordination at the regional level and for the promotion of regional co-operation,

Emphasizing that the necessary authority should be delegated to the regional commissions to discharge effectively their enhanced responsibilities and that adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made available to them for their activities,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme in support of the role of the Commission as executing agency for operational activities,

* See para. 115 above for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

^{1/} A/35/546.

^{2/} E/ECWA/125.

1. Endorses the views expressed in the secretariat's report, particularly concerning those priority areas identified as a result of expanded responsibilities regarding the role and functions of the Commission within the process of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system;

2. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to request the General Assembly, having due regard to the observations contained in the Secretary-General's report and taking into account the role of the regional commissions as the main economic and social developing centres in their regions as well as the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, to provide for the effective participation of the regional commissions, within their respective regions and in the context of their inputs into the over-all policy-making processes of the competent global organs of the United Nations, and without prejudice to the respective functions of those organs, in:

- (a) The formulation of the objectives of global programmes in the execution of which the regional commissions are expected to participate;
- (b) The preparations for negotiations at the global and the regional levels, taking due account of the pressing needs of the developing countries members of the regional commissions and in accordance with established United Nations practices in these matters;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue consultations with heads of organizations of the United Nations system maintaining regional programmes, with a view to investigating the possibility of setting up appropriate interagency arrangements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197;

4. Calls also upon the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to provide as expeditiously as possible the resources required for carrying out the activities identified by the ECWA secretariat and resulting from the increased responsibilities of the Commission in the light of General Assembly resolution 32/197;

5. Requests further the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in deciding on arrangements for the planning and co-ordination of global and regional programmes, including the distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the global and regional bodies, to take fully into account the priorities established for their respective regions by the regional commissions at their intergovernmental sessions;

6. Requests further the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Intensify and expand his efforts to promote regional co-operation and integration;

(b) Pursue consultations with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions, with a view to strengthening economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the interregional level;

7. Calls also upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its ninth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

106(VIII). Establishment of national centres for the transfer of technology and the establishment and development of technological capabilities*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling resolution 87(IV) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, of 30 May 1976, which, inter alia, recommended "the establishment of appropriate institutional machinery, including a national centre for the development and transfer of technology, with urgent attention being paid to defining the role and functions of such a centre, including the principal linkages which need to be established with other national bodies or institutions",

Recalling also the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development adopted on 31 August 1979 by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which, inter alia, called for "the establishment of a national capacity for assessment, selection, acquisition and adaptation of foreign technology and expertise, taking fully into account prevailing economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions",

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 on the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which, inter alia, endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,

Bearing in mind the request of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to the secretariat of the Commission to prepare an institutional model for national centres for the transfer and development of technology,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the draft institutional model for national centres for the transfer of technology and the establishment and development of technological capabilities;1/
2. Urges all member States to take the necessary action for establishing national centres for the transfer of technology and the establishment of technological capabilities, or any appropriate institutional organs;
3. Recommends member States to take the draft institutional model into consideration in setting up such national centres or organs;
4. Invites the organizations and agencies concerned in the United Nations system to co-operate with the secretariat of the Commission and to support effectively its efforts in rendering to member States, upon request, every possible assistance in this regard.

8th meeting
6 May 1981

* See paras.105-111 for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

1/ E/ECWA/123.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/115	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/115/Rev.1	Agenda
E/ECWA/115/Add.1 and Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECWA/116 and Corr.1	Regional Preparatory Expert Group Meeting for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy
E/ECWA/116/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/117	The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account: note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/117/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : statement on, and the strengthening of, the Financial Contributions Account
E/ECWA/117/Add.2	The financial status of the Commission's programmes: extrabudgetary resources supporting the Commission's programmes
E/ECWA/118	Programme of work and Priorities for 1982-1983
E/ECWA/118/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : regional advisory services
E/ECWA/118/Add.2	<u>Idem</u> : publications programme
E/ECWA/118/Add.3	<u>Idem</u> : conferences, meetings and expert groups
E/ECWA/118/Add.4	<u>Idem</u> : note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/118/Add.5	<u>Idem</u> : list of recurrent publications in the programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981
E/ECWA/119	International Year of Disabled Persons - Disabled Persons in the ECWA Region: Features and Dimensions of the Problem and a Regional Plan of Action
E/ECWA/119/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/120 and Corr.1	Progress Report on the implementation of the work programme
E/ECWA/120/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : identification of activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective
E/ECWA/120/Add.2	<u>Idem</u> : technical co-operation activities
E/ECWA/120/Add.3	<u>Idem</u> : note of the Executive Secretary

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/121	Intergovernmental Meeting on the Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia
E/ECWA/121/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : final report of ECWA's intergovernmental meeting on the development of an integrated transport system for Western Asia
E/ECWA/122	International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade Note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/122/Add.1 (Part I)	Development Strategy for the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in the Third United Nations Development Decade
E/ECWA/122/Add.1 (Part II)	<u>Idem</u> : note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/122/Add.2	The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade - Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
E/ECWA/122/Add.3	Development Problems and Prospects of the ECWA Region in the 1980s
E/ECWA/123	Draft Institutional Model for National Centres for the Transfer and Development of Technology
E/ECWA/123/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/124	Co-operation among developing countries
E/ECWA/124/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : recommendations for a programme of technical co-operation among Arab States
E/ECWA/124/Add.2	<u>Idem</u> : review of technical co-operation among developing countries
E/ECWA/124/Add.3	<u>Idem</u> : transport and communications among developing countries
E/ECWA/125	Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and the strengthening of, the regional commissions
E/ECWA/125/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : development and international economic co-operation
E/ECWA/126	The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (Copenhagen, 13-30 July 1980): note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/127	Regional contribution to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: note by the Executive Secretary

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/128 and Rev.1	Invitation to States Members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the activities of the eighth session of the Commission: note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/128/Rev.2	Invitation of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the activities of the eighth session of the Commission
E/ECWA/129	Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission: note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/129/Add.1	Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission
E/ECWA/130	Organization of work: note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/131	Communication from the Delegation of Egypt: note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/132	Communication from the Delegation of Egypt: note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/133	Communication from the Delegation of Egypt: note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/VIII/L.1-20	Draft Resolutions
E/ECWA/VIII/L.21	Draft Report on the Eighth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia
E/ECWA/INF.27	Notes for the Information of Participants
E/ECWA/INF.28	Provisional List of Participants
E/ECWA/INF.28/Rev.1	List of Participants
E/ECWA/INF.29	Provisional List of Documents
E/ECWA/INF.29/Rev.1	List of Documents

Annex II

PUBLICATIONS AND PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS ISSUED DURING
THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

I. PUBLICATIONS

- Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia, 1980
- Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA region, 1980
- Proceedings: Seminar on the Arab Brain Drain
- Statistical Abstract of the ECWA region, 1980
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- Population Bulletin of ECWA, No. 18 (June 1980) and No. 19 (December 1980)
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Non-Arabic Literature
- Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development
in Western Asia
- Regional Programme of Action for Western Asia for the Second Half
of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,
1981-1985

II. PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/DPD/2	Survey Report on the Technical Assistance Needs of Selected ECWA Countries in Financial Management Economic and Social Survey of Western Asia, 1980 Draft macro-economic model for the Yemen Arab Republic A macro-econometric planning model of the Syrian Arab Republic Development Problems and Prospects of the ECWA Region in the 1980s Evolution of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia Main Obstacles to and Benefits from Closer Economic Co-operation in Western Asia
E/ECWA/NR/WG.1/2	Comprehensive Report on ECWA's Preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy
E/ECWA/NR/WG.1/4	Geothermal Energy in the Arab World
E/ECWA/NR/WG.1/4/1	Assessment of Water Resources Situation in the ECWA Region
E/ECWA/NR/WG.1/5	Geothermal Report
E/ECWA/NR/WG.1/7	The ECWA Regional Report for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy Arab Energy Prospects to 2000
E/ECWA/NR/SEM.3/2	L'Engineering Etranger et la Problématique Technologique au Maroc
E/ECWA/NR/SEM.3/3	Technology Policies and Social Economic Development in Iraq
E/ECWA/NR/SEM.3/6	Technology Policies in the Civil and Military Sectors in Egypt Some Aspects of the Status of Computer Technology in Selected Countries of ECWA Region

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E/ECWA/POP/WG.13/23

Title

Estimates and Projections of Total Population with special reference to the Arab World

Issues in Economics of International Development

Resources and Development in the Arab World

Determinants and Consequences of the Arab Brain Drain

Croissance des Grandes Villes Arabes et Migrations Rurales

Further thoughts on the Definitions of Economic Activity and Employment Status

A Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in the ECWA Region

Social Factors Affecting the Co-operative Movement in Selected Countries of the ECWA Region

Rural Housing Conditions and Policies in the ECWA Region

Exploratory Study on the Drug Abuse Problem among the Youth in Lebanon

Settlements of the Bedouins Population in Selected Middle Eastern Countries and Related Problems of Sedentarization

The Current Situation and Prospects of Integrated Rural Development in Five Selected Countries of the ECWA Region

Human Settlement Problems and Social Dimensions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Current Situation of Training in Five Countries of ECWA Region

Assessment of the Situation and Needs of Disabled Persons in the Region of Western Asia

Initial proposals for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics

Short-Term Course on Construction Statistics

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/ID/WG.4/14	Establishment of Power Cables Manufacturing Industry in the ECWA Region
E/ECWA/ID/WG.4/16	Technology Transfer and Development pertaining to Capital goods
E/ECWA/ID/WG.4/17	Development of Capital goods and Heavy Engineering Industries in Syrian Arab Republic
E/ECWA/ID/WG.4/18	Industrialization and Industrial Policy in the ECWA Region
	The Viability of Establishing a Regional Telecommunication Industry in the ECWA Region:
	Vol. I. Basic Economic and Technological Considerations
	Vol.II. Prefeasibility Study on the Telephone Exchange
	Food Security Policy Issues in Yemen Subregion
	Crop Sharing and Land Tenancy Practices in the Yemen Arab Republic - Report No. 1
E/ECWA/TRANS.3	Final Report of ECWA's Intergovernmental Meeting on the Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia

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Annex II

PUBLICATIONS AND PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS ISSUED DURING
THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

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