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MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1980-1983

Identification of activities that have been completed or are
obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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Section 14. Economic Commission for Western Asia

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Section 14. Economic Commission for Western Asia

Table 1. Summary of the activities which are considered to be obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective in the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981

Budget section and programme	Criteria and/or reasons used in this identification
<p>14. <u>Economic Commission for Western Asia</u> <u>Programme: Food and Agriculture</u> <u>Subprogramme 1: Integrated regional planning</u> <u>Programme element:</u></p> <p>1.1 Monitoring and appraisal of agricultural development, policies and plans</p> <p><u>Output:</u> (ii) Study and suggestions for harmonization of agricultural plans, to be discussed at the 1981 session of the FAO Near East Agricultural Planning Commission, first quarter to third quarter 1981.</p> <p>1.2 Regional agricultural planning and adjustment studies</p> <p><u>Output:</u> (ii) Three sector studies relating to the Gulf States and one subsectoral study on integrated livestock planning, to be followed by intensive in-service working sessions to discuss suggested strategies, targets and policies and to promote identified project possibilities, first quarter of 1980 to fourth quarter of 1981.</p>	<p>Similar efforts undertaken by FAO and ECWA in the past have not led to any practical results (ineffective activity).</p> <p>Effective implementation of sector studies proved to be impossible. Efforts of past exercises remained too academic and did not have any practical implications. However, a link with ongoing planning efforts did not come about (ineffective activity).</p>

Table 1 (continued)

Budget section and programmes	Criteria and/or reasons used in this identification
<p>Subprogramme 3. Agricultural and rural institutions</p> <p><u>Programme element:</u></p> <p>3.2 Appraisal of marketing systems and policies</p> <p><u>Output:</u></p> <p>(i) Studies and expert reports to be discussed at an expert-group meeting on marketing agricultural produce, leading to the proposed establishment of a permanent working group on rationalization of agricultural marketing operations and policies;</p> <p>(iii) Two expert reports on institutional design and operation of a marketing organization and on rationalization of marketing systems for a selected commodity group, first quarter of 1980 to fourth quarter of 1981.</p> <p><u>Programme:</u> Development issues and policies</p> <p>Subprogramme 3. Plan harmonization and regional co-operation</p> <p><u>Programme element:</u></p> <p>3.1 Plan harmonization and regional co-operation in development planning</p>	<p>Overlapping with FAO efforts in the field of marketing in the Near East (duplication of activities).</p> <p>The activity is considered to be of low priority in relation of the resource requirements for other high-priority activities (activity of low priority in relation to resources).</p>

Table 1 (continued)

Budget section and programmes	Criteria and/or reasons used in this identification
<p><u>Output:</u> A paper on plan harmonization and regional development strategy will be completed by the end of 1980 and submitted to a committee of high-level experts meeting in 1981. Guidelines aimed at achieving plan harmonization will be developed in consultation with this group.</p> <p><u>Programme: Human settlements</u> <u>Subprogramme 1. Human settlement planning</u> <u>Programme element:</u></p> <p>1.6 Evaluation and assessment of subregional research and demonstration centres in human settlements technology</p> <p><u>Output:</u> Evaluation reports, January 1980 to December 1981.</p> <p><u>Programme: International trade</u> <u>Subprogramme 1: Trade expansion and diversification</u> <u>Programme element:</u></p> <p>1.3 External policies and planning</p> <p><u>Output:</u> A research publication, to be completed in 1980, on trade régimes, exchange and payments policies and export policies in countries of Western Asia.</p>	<p>This programme element constituted a follow-up to the co-operative project between three research centres in the region aiming at raising the standards of shelter and amenity through demonstration projects. That project was to be financed from UNEP funds. UNEP was, however, not able to finance that project because of the low priority attached to this activity (activity of low priority in relation to resources).</p> <p>This programme element has been terminated because of the reallocation of resources within this programme to strengthen other high-priority elements in the programme (activity of low priority in relation to resources).</p>

Table 1 (continued)

Budget section and programmes	Criteria and/or reasons used in this identification
<p>Programme: <u>Labour management and employment</u></p> <p>Subprogramme 1: Employment promotion and manpower development</p> <p><u>Programme element:</u></p> <p>1.2 Problems and prospects of labour movements in the ECWA region</p> <p><u>Output:</u> Working papers and a regional meeting in 1981 at which the significance and structure of the labour movements among ECWA countries, the socio-economic implications of the labour movement in the region, and national policies will be discussed.</p>	<p>This activity was terminated in order to avoid duplication and to promote the rational use of resources. UNFPA authorized recently the holding of a similar meeting under a population programme (P.E.2.1 output iv, a seminar on international migration with special emphasis on the Arab world) (duplication of activities).</p>
<p>Programme: <u>Natural resources and energy</u></p> <p>Subprogramme 2: Mineral resources development</p> <p><u>Programme element:</u></p> <p>2.1 Assessment of feasibility of uranium extraction from phosphate rocks in the ECWA region. Expected starting and completion dates: January 1980 and December 1981</p> <p><u>Output:</u> A preliminary assessment of the technological and economic feasibility of uranium extraction from phosphate deposits in the ECWA region, the proceedings of which will be published.</p>	<p>The programme element was terminated due to: (i) difficulties in obtaining data on this sensitive subject, (ii) programme element requiring a relatively large amount of resources and (iii) identification of programme elements of higher priority within the programme (activity of marginal usefulness and of low priority in relation to resources).</p>

Table 1 (continued)

Budget section and programmes	Criteria and/or reasons used in this identification
<p>Programme: <u>Social development and humanitarian affairs</u></p> <p>Subprogramme 1: Monitoring review of the social situation in the ECWA region</p> <p><u>Programme element:</u></p> <p>1.1 Social indicators of development</p> <p><u>Output:</u></p> <p>(ii) An expert group meeting on social indicators for development planning and a comparative study on the levels of living in selected ECWA countries.</p>	<p>This activity was terminated in order to avoid duplication of efforts following the centralization of statistical activities under the statistics programme (duplication of activities).</p>

Table 2. Estimated resources related to the activities which are considered to be obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective

Budget section and programme	Number of Programme elements Output		Estimated related resources: Professional work-months		
			<u>1980-1981</u>		Total
			RB	XB	
14. <u>Economic Commission for Western Asia</u>					
Programme: <u>Food and agriculture</u>					
Subprogramme 1: <u>Integrated regional planning</u>					
Programme element:					
1.1 Monitoring and appraisal of agricultural development, policies and plans	-	1	8	6	14 <u>a/</u>
1.2 Regional agricultural planning and adjustment studies	-	2	12	8	20 <u>a/</u>
Subprogramme 3: <u>Agricultural and rural institutions</u>					
Programme element:					
3.2 Appraisal of marketing systems and policies	-	2	6	6	12 <u>a/</u>
Programme: <u>Development issues and policies</u>					
Subprogramme 3. <u>Plan harmonization and regional co-operation</u>					
Programme element:					
3.1 Plan harmonization and regional co-operation in development planning	-	1	24	-	24 <u>b/</u>

/...

Table 2 (continued)

Budget section and programme	Estimated related resources:				
	Number of		Professional work-months		
	Programme elements	Output	1980-1981		Total
			RB	XB	
Programme: <u>Human settlements</u> Subprogramme 1: Human settlement planning Programme element:					
1.6 Evaluation and assessment of subregional research and demonstration centres in human settlements technology	1	1	24	-	24 <u>c/</u>
Programme: <u>International trade</u> Subprogramme 1: Trade expansion and diversification Programme element:					
1.3 External sector policies and planning	1	1	9	-	9 <u>d/</u>
Programme: <u>Labour management and employment</u> Subprogramme 1: Employment promotion and manpower development Programme element:					
1.2 Problems and prospects of labour movements in the ECWA region	1	1	4	-	4 <u>e/</u>
Programme: <u>Natural resources and energy</u> Subprogramme 2: Mineral resources development Programme element:					
2.1 Assessment of feasibility of uranium extraction from phosphate rocks in the ECWA region	1	1	24	-	24

Table 2 (continued)

Budget section and programme	Estimated related resources:				
	Number of		Professional work-months		
	Programme elements	Output	1980-1981		Total
			RB	XB	
Programme: <u>Social development and humanitarian affairs</u>					
Subprogramme 1: Monitoring review of the social situation in the ECWA region					
Programme element:					
1.1 Social indicators of development	-	1	9	-	9 <u>g/</u>
TOTAL	4	11	120	20	140

a/ These resources were redeployed within the programme under the remaining outputs 1.1 (i) and 1.2 (iii) which have been reformulated. This proposal as well as all the other proposals referred to in the foot-notes (b) to (g) will be reported to the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its eighth session to be held in April 1981.

b/ These resources remain in the same programme element and will be used for the preparation of papers on regional development strategy for the Third Development Decade.

c/ In practice, no release of the resources can be expected as the post is vacant. If recruitment were made to fill in the post in the course of the biennium, whatever resources available would be redeployed to programme elements 1.2 and 1.4 within the same programme.

d/ These resources were redeployed to programme elements 1.1 and 1.2 within the programme.

e/ Resources will remain in the same programme element and will be used for the preparation of studies and reports to be submitted to related meetings under population programme, programme element 2.1 (iv).

f/ During the current work programme (1980-1981) these resources will be redeployed within the programme among the remaining programme elements 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4. However, for the 1982-1983 biennium they will be proposed for redeployment to science and technology programme.

g/ These resources were redeployed within the subprogramme to programme elements 1.1 and 1.2.