

# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**

## **REPORT ON THE SIXTH SESSION**

(28 April-2 May 1979)

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL . . . . .	1 - 3	1
II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTH SESSION . . . . .	4 - 6	3
Activities of subsidiary bodies . . . . .	4	3
Other activities . . . . .	5	3
Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations . . . . .	6	3
III. SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION . . . . .	7 - 78	4
Attendance and organization of work . . . . .	7 - 15	4
Agenda . . . . .	16	5
Account of proceedings . . . . .	17 - 70	6
Programme of work and priorities . . . . .	71 - 78	17
IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTH SESSION . . . . .		20

ANNEXES

I. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION . . . . .	29
II. LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTH SESSION . . . . .	34

I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. At its second meeting, on 29 April 1979, the Commission adopted the following resolutions and decided to transmit them for action by the Economic and Social Council:

67 (VI). The headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia <sup>1/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 6 (S-I),

Affirming its resolution 35 (S-II),

Taking note of the note by the Executive Secretary entitled "Report on the headquarters of the Commission" (E/ECWA/78 and Add.1),

Welcoming the offer made by the Iraqi Government to provide temporary offices for the secretariat with effect from 9 September 1979 until the construction of the permanent headquarters buildings is completed,

1. Decides:

(a) That the Economic Commission for Western Asia should commence its move to its permanent headquarters in Baghdad on the expiry of the five-year transitional period in Beirut and with effect from 9 September 1979;

(b) That the Commission should occupy the temporary offices provided by the Government of Iraq until completion of the permanent headquarters buildings in Baghdad;

all of which is to take place in accordance with a time-table to be agreed upon between the Iraqi Government and the United Nations;

2. Decides further to recommend the present resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

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<sup>1/</sup> See chap. III, sect. C, para. 30.

## II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTH SESSION

### Activities of subsidiary bodies

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

### Other activities

5. For information on the activities of the Commission, reference should be made to documents E/ECWA/75, E/ECWA/76 and Corr.1 and E/ECWA/76/Add.1.

### Relations with the specialized agencies and other organizations

6. The Commission continued its co-operation with the specialized agencies and other organizations within the framework of its work programme and the standing agreements.

14. At its first meeting, the Commission unanimously elected His Excellency, Mr. Hassan Ali, Minister of Commerce and head of the delegation of Iraq, as Chairman; His Excellency, Mr. George Houranieh, Minister of the State Planning Commission, Syrian Arab Republic, and His Excellency, Mr. Najmuddin Dajani, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Mohamed Faraj Ajaj, member of the delegation of the Yemen Arab Republic, as Rapporteur for the session.

15. 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.

#### Agenda

16. At its second meeting, the Commission adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the session
  2. Election of officers
  3. Adoption of the agenda
  4. Organization of work
  5. Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the sixth session of the Commission
  6. Report on the headquarters of the Commission
  7. Review of the Commission's resolution 37 (IV)
  8. Report on the activities of the Commission
    - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme
    - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission
  9. The financial status of the Commission's programme and the strengthening of the Financial Contributions Account
    - (a) Report of the Executive Secretary on the financial status of the Commission's programmes since the fifth session
    - (b) Statement on the Financial Contributions Account
  10. Fourth and final review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade
  11. Programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981

20. The increasing outflow of the greater part of the financial surpluses of the oil-producing countries had closely linked the region to the world economy and thus increased its sensitivity to international economic fluctuations. He emphasized that, although joint Arab endeavours were under way in various economic fields, co-operation in two aspects of integration, namely food production and human resources development, called for urgent practical measures. The region was among the world's largest importers of food-stuffs, though it possessed all the assets needed to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. With respect to human resources development, he pointed out that serious attention should be accorded to the planning and organization of manpower migration, with a view to achieving the desired benefits and at the same time safe-guarding the interests of both the exporting and the host countries and avoiding adverse economic repercussions.

21. Despite the significant role of oil in the economies of member countries, the region was facing numerous problems in its efforts to find new forms and patterns of development not based on the depletion of resources. However, the interest shown by the countries of the region in developing alternative sources of energy, diversifying productive capacities and intensifying efforts to deal with the social aspects of development gave greater cause for optimism with regard to the region's ability and determination to meet those challenges during the next decade.

22. Referring to the role of the Commission since its inception five years previously in the development of the region, the Executive Secretary stated that, despite that relatively short period of time, the Commission had been able to play a beneficial role in support of development efforts at the national and regional levels. In that connexion, he referred briefly to some of the major research and related activities carried out by the Commission in various economic and social fields aimed at laying the foundation for the future work of the Commission to be undertaken with the active participation of member countries. To this effect, he suggested that the Commission's work programme be submitted to a group of experts from member States for examination and evaluation prior to their adoption by the Commission.

23. With regard to the increasing role of the regional commissions in the execution of technical assistance projects and other activities, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 32/197, the Executive Secretary indicated that following the Executive Secretaries' meeting at Rabat in March 1979, ECWA, together with other regional commissions, was actively pursuing the matter with the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the provisions of that resolution for the benefit of the region.

24. The Secretary of the Commission then read out a message from Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Commission at its sixth session, in which he stated that many of the topics with which the Commission would be concerned at that session were also the preoccupation of the international community as a whole. The world at present was confronted with persistent economic disequilibrium, since little progress had been made towards the establishment of a new international economic order. It was hoped that the north-south dialogue now under way within the United Nations would enable the international community to make a meaningful contribution to the subject. The forthcoming fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade

30. The Commission unanimously adopted a draft resolution concerning the move of the secretariat to its permanent headquarters at Baghdad. (For the full text of the resolution, see chap. I above, draft resolution 67 (VI).) During the discussion of the matter by the heads of delegations, it was proposed that a branch office of ECWA be established on a permanent basis at Beirut and that the proposal be examined and decided upon at the Commission's next session. Reference was also made to the staff and workers employed by the Commission who, for family and financial reasons, might find difficulties in transferring to Baghdad. It was suggested that the Commission, on humanitarian grounds, should make every possible effort to secure employment for them.

#### Reconsideration of the Commission's resolution 37 (IV)

31. At its second meeting, the Commission adopted a draft resolution. (For the complete text, see chap. I above, draft resolution 68 (VI) in which the Commission requested the reconsideration of its resolution 37 (IV), adopted on 28 April 1977, and recommended that the Economic and Social Council suspend the membership of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Commission.) The Sultanate of Oman expressed reservations on the resolution.

32. The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt protested against that recommendation and requested that its note in this connexion (E/ECWA/84) be considered as an official document and that its text be transmitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations. The Executive Secretary informed the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt (E/ECWA/85) that he had received the note and confirmed that it had been distributed as a session document to the members of the Commission and transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York.

#### Report on the activities of the Commission

33. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 8 with a brief review of the progress report on the implementation of the work programme (E/ECWA/75) for the period 1978-1979, which included information on spheres of activity in which the Commission had engaged outside the scope of the work programme. Document E/ECWA/76 and Corr.1 dealt with the follow-up action taken in pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifth and preceding sessions. He drew the attention of the members to the fact that the progress report covered the Commission's activities during a full year instead of the interval between the last and the current session, as had been the case with previous reports, in order to facilitate comparisons with the work programme covering a full biennium. He explained that the report concentrated on subprogramme elements, in order, once again, to facilitate follow-up and comparisons with the work programme. In connexion with the follow-up action on the Commission's resolutions, the Executive Secretary referred to document E/ECWA/76/Add.1, comprising a special report on the practices of transnational corporations in the oil industry in the ECWA region, which had been prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 42 (IV). He also indicated that the survey of economic and social development in the ECWA countries, 1970-1978 (E/ECWA/80), to which the Commission had assigned priority in its work programme in accordance with its resolution 48 (IV), would be submitted to the Commission under agenda item 10.

34. When the discussion of the item commenced, a number of representatives emphasized the need for co-ordination and co-operation between the Commission and

the establishment of subsidiary bodies. He also hoped that the Commission would concentrate on a specific topic at each session.

37. One representative expressed his Government's appreciation for the Commission's collaboration with it in certain activities, particularly those of a statistical nature.

38. In the sphere of science and technology, a number of representatives indicated that there were several proposals regarding the establishment of a regional Arab centre for the transfer and development of technology within the region (an ECWA project and a similar project prepared by the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, in addition to the concept which had been considered within the context of the Euro-Arab dialogue). They indicated that it would be possible, however, to establish a number of specialized centres if these could be well co-ordinated.

39. One representative expressed appreciation for the secretariat's assistance in the preparation of a national paper to be submitted to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. He also commended the secretariat's positive contribution to the task force set up by UNDP in response to the United Nations resolution calling for the funding and implementation of projects for the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people. The same representative expressed his approval of the 1979-1980 allocations for the statistical survey of the Palestinian people but objected that the sums allocated for 1981 were not commensurate with the importance of the study.

40. Another representative referred to the secretariat's technical and advisory services to his Government. He also referred to the Commission's participation in the preparation and servicing of the international conference at which his country's five-year plan had been presented and in the subsequent follow-up and execution of the plan. He noted that ECWA had been selected to supervise the implementation of a UNDP-financed statistical support project in his country. He drew attention to the fact that the responsibilities of the secretariat were growing and mentioned a number of projects whose implementation the secretariat was supervising in various countries of the region. He hoped that the secretariat would keep in touch with future meetings on development projects held by the countries of the region, such as, for example, the project for co-ordinating development programmes and plans in the Arabian peninsula.

41. One representative asked the secretariat to elaborate the results of the Commission's participation in international conferences and seminars and the resolutions adopted by them and to clarify the extent of their impact on the progress of development in the region. He also indicated that research and studies in some fields were being completed more speedily than in others and referred to the obstacles to the implementation of some projects, such as inadequate travel allocations and the reluctance of some countries to provide data. He hoped that the member States would contribute to the solution of those problems. He further requested the secretariat to clarify the follow-up to Commission resolution 59 (V) by identifying the stages completed, the measures taken and details of the progress achieved.

42. One representative made a number of observations on the study on the practices of transnational corporations in the oil industry in the ECWA region



desertification was progressing at a highly accelerated rate and that this was leading to negative and serious consequences. The most obvious of those consequences was the increasing dependence of the States of the region on imports for meeting their essential requirements of food-stuffs. He supported the proposal for organizing a regional meeting in 1980 to follow up the United Nations Conference on Desertification and proposed that the secretariat prepare a detailed document embodying the following: (a) a survey of the institutions and organizations in the ECWA region involved in the scientific and the operational aspects of desertification; (b) a survey of the studies and projects related to desertification conducted in the region by national, regional and international institutions; (c) the proposal of formulas for the co-ordination of the activities of the variety of national, regional and international organizations and institutions so as to promote integration and equilibrium among them; (d) the identification of the gaps necessitating the adoption of new measures for ensuring integration and for dealing with the phenomenon of desertification from all angles, against a clear view of priorities; (e) the proposal of suitable indicators for predicting desertification and appropriate locations for experimenting with, investigating and evaluating those indicators; (f) the proposal of suitable programmes within the scope of an operational plan with clear objectives; and (g) the assignment of priority to regional projects.

67. One representative noted that his country had adopted a plan for combating desertification a long time previously and that it possessed a Desert Institute from whose facilities member States could benefit. He proposed the appointment of a committee of experts from the member States to determine the methods of implementing a plan for combating desertification.

68. Another representative asserted that the proposed plan of action should focus upon specific subjects that should be developed into projects for submission to the regional meeting planned for 1980.

#### Other business

##### Date and place of meeting of the next session

69. The Commission unanimously agreed to hold its seventh session at Baghdad at a date to be agreed upon in due time.

##### Adoption of the report

70. At its sixth meeting, on 2 May 1979, the Commission adopted the draft report on its sixth session, as amended during its discussion, for submission to the Economic and Social Council (see para. 3 above).

#### Programme of work and priorities

71. The basic responsibilities of ECWA in 1978-1979 will continue to be carried out during 1980-1981. Thus, 13 substantive programmes plus the programme on transnational corporations are to be undertaken by the Commission during the 1980-1981 budget period.

Thus, while it is considered that the zero growth approach would be applicable to an organization which had been functioning for many years and which already had at its disposal the appropriate "tools" and resources, it may be difficult to apply the established criteria and principles to a very new organization like ECWA, which in many of its programmes hardly has any base at all. It is in this context that the proposed programme budget 1980-1981 has been formulated and requests for new established posts have been incorporated.

76. The 1980-1981 budget proposals do not fully reflect the additional requirements resulting from the decentralization of activities to the regional commissions within the over-all restructuring process.

#### Travel

77. A considerable increase in staff travel has been proposed. The need for staff travel has to be evaluated against the following factors. The Commission was established only in 1974 and it is therefore obvious that close contacts with member States are particularly needed at the take-off stage of the organization. In this connexion, it should be borne in mind that the Commission has as yet no subsidiary bodies. Thus, staff travel will be for the time being the only contact point at the substantive level with member States. Because of resource constraints, the other contact point, namely meetings in the form of ad hoc expert groups, could also not be utilized to a greater extent. That situation is, however, expected to change gradually during the programme budget period 1980-1981. It should further be borne in mind that the resources available for official travel during 1978-1979 were, in relation to cost of travel in the ECWA region, minimal. In this connexion, it should be pointed out that the daily subsistence allowances in most countries of the ECWA region are among the highest in the world. The available resource levels for travel consequently did not constitute a meaningful base for a satisfactory level of implementation in most programmes.

#### Consultants

78. The total amount requested for consultants is \$119,500, representing a modest increase over the 1978-1979 allocation of \$103,100. All requests for consultants under the various programmes pertain to the provision of some specialized components in the different programme elements.

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Identify the tasks which could be assumed by the Commission as a result of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and to indicate the financial and manpower implications of those tasks;

(b) Intensify his efforts, in consultation with Arab and international organizations, regional bodies and member States, for the preparation of a detailed study on the modalities and possibilities for the establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission, as called for in Commission resolution 63 (V);

(c) Continue his efforts to obtain the required resources for the secretariat and to make the necessary arrangements to strengthen its capability to meet the new challenges posed by the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197;

(d) Streamline the existing administrative structure of the secretariat so as to reduce the extent of the additional resources required as a result of added responsibilities arising out of decentralization,

(e) Submit a report to the Commission at its seventh session on the progress made and measures to be adopted.

5th meeting  
1 May 1979

70 (VI). Co-operation among developing countries

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and Commission resolution 46 (IV) of 28 April 1977 on co-operation among developing countries, as well as Commission resolutions 47 (IV) of 28 April and 54 (V) of 5 October 1978 on regional co-operation and co-ordination,

Further recalling General Assembly resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system, in particular its provisions relating to the definition of priorities, and 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on new dimensions in technical co-operation, especially the aspects of this resolution relating to technical co-operation among developing countries, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development,

Further recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, endorsed in General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978 on the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate, to promote and support the implementation of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries by intensifying his efforts to:

(a) Develop, co-ordinate and service the regional information system;

(b) Monitor and review, on a continuing basis at the regional level, progress in such co-operation with which the United Nations system is associated;

(c) Place increasing emphasis on such co-operation in the research and analytical work of the Commission in various sectors, especially in the context of the formulation and review of international development strategies for the 1980s,

(d) Assist developing countries of the region, together with subregional economic and other functional groupings, upon their request, in identifying and exploiting increased opportunities for effective co-operation through, inter alia, the preparation of intensified programmes of co-operation as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1978/74, including the formulation of intercountry projects;

(e) Collaborate with the other regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of joint projects to promote co-operation between countries in two or more regions through interregional action programmes;

(f) Attract and channel additional financial and other forms of contributions to assist economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, including the supply of financial resources to facilitate the participation of the least developed countries and the expansion of fellowships and trainee programmes;

6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary, in co-operation, where feasible, with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions, to consult the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, with a view to reviewing present practices for determining the utilization of regional indicative planning figures, in order to involve developing countries, through their respective regional commissions, in the collective setting of priorities for this purpose;

7. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take urgent steps to provide adequate resources and other support to enable the Commission's secretariat to undertake these activities effectively and to help to achieve the objective referred to in the present resolution;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventh session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

5th meeting  
1 May 1979

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its eighth session a report on the progress achieved in the campaign against desertification.

5th meeting  
1 May 1979

72 (VI). Assistance to member countries in the field of external trade policies and planning

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling Commission resolution 57 (V), which, in paragraph 1, recommended the establishment of the necessary project at the regional level to assist member countries to increase their capabilities in the field of external trade planning and policies to meet their economic and social development requirements,

Considering the urgent need of member countries for such assistance, especially in the light of the experience gained through the multilateral trade negotiations and the forthcoming deliberations at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Aware of the positive results of consultations which have taken place between representatives of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, on the one hand, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, on the other hand, for the purpose of implementing resolution 57 (V),

1. Recommends the establishment, on an urgent basis, of a regional project to help member countries to increase their capabilities in the field of external trade policy and planning services;
2. Urges Governments of member States to give all possible and necessary support to this project;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to follow up the consultations referred to above, with a view to ensuring the early implementation of this project;
4. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to provide the financial support needed to enable the Executive Secretary to take the action referred to in paragraph 1 above.

5th meeting  
1 May 1979

1. Commends the action taken by the Iraqi Fund for External Development and the positive response of the Netherlands Government with regard to financing the regional project for public finance and administration (PROPFAD) for 1979;

2. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Commission to complete the assessment and evaluation of the state of development finance and administration in the countries of the region as soon as possible and to present his findings and proposals to the member States of the Commission for their consideration and action, as deemed appropriate;

3. Requests 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;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit a detailed report on this subject to the Commission at its seventh regular session.

5th meeting  
1 May 1979

75 (VI). Cartographic development and co-operation  
in the ECWA region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 62 (V), requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit a report on the need to establish a cartographic unit within the framework of the ECWA secretariat,

Noting with appreciation the Executive Secretary's report on the subject (E/ECWA/76 and Corr.1),

Recognizing the need for increased cartographic activities in the ECWA region for the efficient planning of development projects,

Further recognizing the Commission's role in establishing and strengthening national surveying and mapping programmes and promoting co-operation in this field at the regional, subregional and interregional levels,

1. Recommends the establishment of a cartographic unit within the structure of the ECWA secretariat;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to secure resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and other sources, so as to render this unit operational by the inclusion of cartographic activities in the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981.

5th meeting  
1 May 1979

## Annex I

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The Secretary-General's statement to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed sixty-first session (E/L.1738/Add.1) issued on 25 October 1976, dealt with the financial implications of the move of ECWA to Baghdad and the cost of operating the Commission in that city during the biennium 1980-1981. That statement was updated and presented to the Commission at its fifth session as document E/ECWA/64/Add.1 dated 4 October 1978. It is now proposed to update the information further.

2. In the light of the latest information available, the cost plan is based on the following assumptions:

(a) That the move to Baghdad will be undertaken in stages beginning in September 1979 and ending in June 1980, including the time necessary to phase out existing operations in Beirut; if that assumption is correct, there will be financial implications for the biennium 1978-1979;

(b) That some 116 general service staff will be invited to join the Commission at Baghdad as international recruits;

(c) That in the buildings to be provided all the necessary facilities for the secretariat and for meetings would be available, without additional cost to the regular budget, including furniture, office equipment and conference equipment;

(d) All costs are calculated at current 1979 prices, salary levels and post adjustment classifications.

#### Cost estimates

3. The estimated operating costs of the Commission, chargeable to its regular budget, that would be affected by its location during the biennium 1980-1981, broken down by object of expenditure are listed below:

##### A. Salary costs

4. It is assumed that by 1980 the staffing table of ECWA will be composed of 97 professional and 150 general service posts.

5. The post adjustment at Baghdad reached class 5 (multiplier 28) on 1 February 1979 and class 6 (multiplier 34) on 1 April 1979. The post adjustment at Beirut declined from class 6+1 (multiplier 35) to Class 5+4 (multiplier 32) on 1 April 1979. In view of the recent accelerated upward movement at Baghdad, it is assumed that salary costs at Baghdad and Beirut will be the same.

(c) Non-recurrent freight costs estimated at \$75,000 would be incurred in moving certain items of equipment, documents, books, files, etc., \$25,000 in the biennium 1978-1979 and \$50,000 in the biennium 1980-1981.

8. Apart from the above exceptional costs, it is estimated that an additional \$2,712,000 would be required over the biennium 1980-1981 to cover regular common staff costs such as staff allowances (including assignment allowance referred to in paragraph 7 (b) above), social security payments, home leave, etc.

C. Travel on official business

9. It is assumed that travel costs will not be significantly affected by the location of the Commission's headquarters. For the Commission's information \$252,000 has been requested for the biennium 1980-1981, but this is subject to General Assembly approval. Extraordinary travel costs in connexion with relocating the Commission's headquarters are dealt with under paragraph 7 (a) and 13 (a) and (b).

D. General operating expenses

10. For the Commission's information \$640,000 has been requested for the biennium 1980-1981 which is subject to General Assembly approval. In the absence of experience of operating conditions at Baghdad, it is assumed that expenditure under this heading will be roughly comparable with that at Beirut.

E. Acquisition of furniture and equipment

11. On the basis of the proposal made by the Government of Iraq, it is understood that the Government will provide all furniture for the buildings. Additionally, it is understood that the Government will provide all necessary equipment for the catering facilities and library, as well as internal reproduction and conference services, including printing equipment, simultaneous interpretation, video and audio recording and transmission equipment. It is assumed that:

(a) The Government will arrange for installation of any equipment provided by the United Nations, such as radio equipment and antennae;

(b) The United Nations will provide all necessary official vehicles.

The cost of radio equipment is tentatively estimated at \$275,000 and the cost of vehicles at \$74,000.

F. Temporary arrangements

12. Given the assumption in paragraph 2 (a) above that the relocation to Baghdad will be staggered over a period of 9 months, additional resources will be required to:

(a) Maintain a dual administration at Baghdad and at Beirut during the period;

(b) Staff a liaison office, prior to the relocation which will be concerned with:



	<u>1980-1981</u>	<u>Additional</u> <u>1978-1979</u>	<u>Total</u>
Established posts	\$ 9,034,000		\$ 9,034,000
Temporary assistance	151,000		151,000
Consultancy fees	115,000		115,000
Overtime	6,000		6,000
<u>Ad hoc</u> expert groups	20,000		20,000
Common staff costs	2,712,000		2,712,000
Travel on official business	252,000		252,000
General operating expenses	640,000		640,000
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	349,000		349,000
	<u>\$13,279,000</u>		<u>\$13,279,000</u> <u>h/</u>
 <u>Non-recurrent expenditure</u>			
Termination indemnities	65,000		65,000
Temporary posts	45,000	\$ 22,000	67,000
 <u>Common staff costs</u>			
(i) For temporary posts	13,000	7,000	20,000
(ii) Related to the move to Baghdad	875,000	438,000	1,313,000
Travel on official business	3,000	36,000	39,000
Rental of office accommodation		10,000	10,000
Local transportation		2,000	2,000
Freight	50,000	25,000	75,000
	<u>1,051,000</u>	<u>540,000</u>	<u>1,591,000</u> <u>i/</u>
Total	<u>\$14,330,000</u>	<u>\$540,000</u>	<u>\$14,870,000</u>

h/ It should be noted that these costs, subject to local conditions difficult to predict at present, would have to be incurred by ECMA in 1980-1981, irrespective of the location of its headquarters.

i/ Non-recurrent costs attributable to the move from Beirut to Baghdad.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/83	Invitation to States Members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the Commission's work: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/84	Review of Commission resolution 37 (IV)
E/ECWA/85	Ditto
E/ECWA/86	Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the sixth session of the Commission
E/ECWA/87	Note verbale addressed by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to the Chairman of the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization
E/ECWA/88	Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
E/ECWA/L.85-94	Draft resolutions
E/ECWA/L.95	Draft report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
E/ECWA/INF.21	Notes for the information of participants
E/ECWA/INF.22	Provisional list of participants
E/ECWA/INF.22/Rev.1	List of participants
E/ECWA/INF.23	List of documents

PUBLICATIONS AND PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS ISSUED DURING THE  
PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Agriculture and Development, volume II
	Population Bulletin of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia, No. 14
	Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, Part II
	Bulletin No. 2 - Gross Domestic Product of the ECWA Countries throughout the Period 1960-1976
	Manual on National Accounts at Constant Prices
	Guidelines on Principles of a System of Price and Quantity Statistics
	Consumer and Wholesale Price Indices
	International Comparisons of Real Product and Purchasing Power

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Economic Statistics
	The National Accounts of the Yemen Arab Republic for the Years 1969/70-1976/77
E/ECWA/NR/CTT.2/Rev.3	Second revised feasibility study for the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology
E/ECWA/NR/CONF.2/12	Report of the Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development
E/ECWA/NR/CONF.2/11/Rev.1	ECWA regional report for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development
E/ECWA/NR/CONF.3/13	Report of the ECWA second regional water meeting

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS  
SIXTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
L/ECWA/73	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/73/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECWA/73/Rev.1	Agenda
E/ECWA/74	Work programme and priorities, 1980-1981
L/ECWA/74/Add.1	Work programme and priorities, 1980-1981: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/75	Progress report on the implementation of the work programme
E/ECWA/76 and Corr.1	Follow-up action on the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifth session, held in October 1978
L/ECWA/76/Add.1	The practices of transnational corporations in the oil industry in the ECWA region
L/ECWA/77	Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/78	Report on the headquarters of the Commission: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/78/Add.1	Report on the headquarters of the Commission in Baghdad, Iraq: financial implications
E/ECWA/79	The role of the regional commissions in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74
L/ECWA/80	Survey of economic and social development in the ECWA region, 1970-1978
E/ECWA/80/Add.1	<u>Idem</u> : a summary of the fourth biennial review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in the ECWA region
E/ECWA/80/Add.2	Fourth biennial review and appraisal: note by the Executive Secretary on item 8 of the provisional agenda
E/ECWA/81	Organization of work: note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/82	A. The financial status of the Commission's programmes; B. Statement on the Financial Contributions Account: report of the Executive Secretary

- (i) The preparation of the office accommodation in all its ramifications;
- (ii) Setting up, jointly with the Government, a housing service to assist staff members in locating suitable living accommodations;
- (iii) The expansion of existing educational institutions offering instruction in English and French.

13. The estimated costs of the foregoing are:

(a) Dual administration

(i) Temporary posts (1 P-2, 8 general service)

	<u>1980-1981</u>	<u>1978-1979</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salaries	\$45,000	\$22,000	\$67,000
Common staff costs	13,000	7,000	20,000
(ii) Travel	3,000	1,000	4,000

(b) Liaison office of 5 staff members

(i) Travel		35,000	35,000
(ii) Rental of office accommodation		10,000	10,000
(iii) Local transportation		2,000	2,000
	<u>\$61,000</u>	<u>\$77,000</u>	<u>\$138,000</u>

Conclusions

14. The total estimates at current rates, both for the biennium 1980-1981 and the additional expenses which may fall in the biennium 1978-1979, are as follows:

6. For the information of the Commission, it is estimated that for ECWA at Baghdad in the biennium 1980-1981 at current rates, salary costs would be of the order of \$9,034,000, temporary assistance, \$151,000, consultants' fees, \$115,000, overtime, \$6,000 and ad hoc expert groups, \$20,000. In addition, it is estimated that non-recurrent termination indemnities of \$65,000 would fall in the biennium 1980-1981. a/

B. Common staff costs

7. It can be anticipated that the impact of the proposed move by ECWA to Baghdad on expenditures in this category would be threefold:

(a) Significant costs would be incurred on a non-recurrent basis for the transfer to Baghdad of some 78 professional and 116 general service staff members. b/ The estimated costs to be incurred would amount to \$1,313,000 calculated as follows:

Travel for the purpose of transfer	\$ 58,000 <u>c/</u>
Removal costs	423,000 <u>d/</u>
Unaccompanied baggage	76,000 <u>e/</u>
Transportation of privately owned vehicles	155,000 <u>f/</u>
Installation grant	601,000 <u>g/</u>
	<u>\$1,313,000</u>

It is further estimated that \$488,000 of the above would be incurred in the biennium 1978-1979 and \$875,000 in the biennium 1980-1981;

(b) On a recurrent basis, there would be costs resulting from the assumption that none of the professional staff members would immediately exercise their entitlement to household removal and would accordingly be entitled, for a period not exceeding five years, to an assignment allowance; the relevant costs for the biennium 1980-1981 are included in the total estimate for common staff costs indicated in paragraph 8 below;

a/ Assuming that the services of 19 general service staff members at Beirut will be terminated by the abolition of their posts.

b/ March 1979 payroll figures.

c/ On the basis of 194 staff members and 317 dependants.

d/ Assuming that all internationally recruited general service staff members utilize their maximum entitlements at an estimated cost of \$4,805 for a staff member with dependants and \$2,883 for a staff member without dependants.

e/ Assuming that all professional staff members utilize their maximum entitlements.

f/ Assuming that all international staff members utilize their maximum entitlements of \$800 per vehicle.

g/ On the basis of 114 international staff members with dependants and 80 without dependants.

76 (VI). Third United Nations development decade 6/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Conscious of the supreme importance of the diligent preparation of the development strategy for the third United Nations development decade,

Realizing the significance of the contribution of ECWA member States in expressing the terms and trends of development during the 1980s,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/193,

1. Decides to set up an intergovernmental committee of development experts from the member States of ECWA for the purpose of preparing, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, a report on the views of the ECWA region on the international development strategy for the third development decade;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission to make the necessary arrangements for convening the meetings of this committee, so that it may conclude its work at a suitable date not later than the end of August 1979 and thereby enable the Executive Secretary to make available the contribution of the Commission.

5th meeting  
1 May 1979

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6/ For the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution, see para. 56 above.

73 (VI). Regional co-operation in the field of transport

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the important role of transport in the over-all socio-economic development of the region,

Realizing the urgent need for closer co-ordination and collaboration, at the regional, sub-regional and global levels, in order to cope with the rapid progress in the development of transport infrastructure and to provide an integrated approach for the establishment of efficient systems,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the Commission's secretariat in the preparation of a study on the "Development of an integrated transport system in Western Asia", part I, and the ongoing work of preparing a complete study for the whole region,

1. Invites Governments of member States to participate actively in the meeting envisaged for early 1980 to review the study prepared by the secretariat on the subject of the development of an integrated transport system in Western Asia;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit at the seventh session his recommendations and proposals for follow-up action on this subject.

5th meeting  
1 May 1979

74 (VI). Assistance to member countries in the field of development finance and administration

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 64 (V), which requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to pursue his efforts with the countries benefiting from the activities of the regional project for public finance and administration (PROPFAD), as well as with other countries both inside and outside the ECWA region which have the financial capability, urging them to participate in financing that project within the limits of the Commission's budgetary estimates,

Noting with appreciation the follow-up measures taken by the Executive Secretary to ensure that minimum essential training and advisory services will continue to be provided to the beneficiary countries throughout 1979,

Taking note of the effort that is being made by the Executive Secretary to assess and evaluate the state of development finance and administration in all member countries of the Commission in order to ascertain their technical capabilities and needs in this field and the extent to which assistance can appropriately be provided at the regional level,

Recognizing the growing importance of the role of the public sector in promoting economic and social development in the countries of the region,



71 (VI). Combating desertification in the ECWA region 5/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling that in resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977 the General Assembly requested the regional commissions to undertake intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to combat desertification, and to assist Governments in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Further recalling that paragraph 5 of the same resolution recommends that subregional co-operation be initiated or intensified with a view to formulating specific joint programmes,

Aware that the regional commissions have been assigned important responsibilities for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Conscious that problems of desertification seriously affect the socio-economic development process and that desert development is of great importance to the ECWA countries,

Having considered the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/77),

1. Approves the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region,
2. Calls on the United Nations Environment Programme and the regional and international organizations concerned to support fully the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region, together with the implementation of model projects to combat desertification, and to disseminate their results in the countries of the region;
3. Recommends that Governments of member States assess desertification problems at various levels, establish national priorities for action, and select from among these priorities those which could be implemented with the support of regional or international organizations or other foreign sources;
4. Calls on all Governments to make available all necessary financial and other resources and technical support for convening in 1980 a regional meeting which, inter alia, is to consider the implementation of the regional plan of action and to identify and to define intraregional programmes in greater detail;
5. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Commission to initiate and promote intercountry and regional co-operation to combat desertification, particularly in the socio-economic field;
6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to transmit to the Governments of member States, and to the regional and international organizations concerned, the recommendations adopted by the International Expert Consultation on Irrigation and Agriculture Development, convened in February 1979 at Baghdad, which urged the Governments and the organizations concerned to give high priority to these recommendations;

5/ For the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution, see paras. 65-68 above.

Affirming the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as an instrument for collective self-reliance and for the attainment of the new international economic order,

Recognizing both the primary responsibility of developing countries for such co-operation and the need for supplementary external assistance in addition to present aid flows, especially with respect to the least developed countries, as well as the scope for the Commission and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify efforts to assist such co-operation systematically at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels,

Stressing the importance of the efforts being made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to develop and implement the Commission's role as a regional focal point and catalyst for the promotion, monitoring and strengthened implementation of such co-operation, in accordance with the role assigned to it in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

1. Urges its member countries to participate actively in all forms of co-operation among themselves consistent with their national development objectives, laying due emphasis on:

(a) The intensification of technical co-operation among themselves in order, inter alia, to facilitate economic co-operation;

(b) The development and utilization of networks and other links to facilitate co-operative research among national institutions;

(c) Co-operation in training, the use of expert and consultancy services and the procurement of equipment;

(d) The special needs of the least developed countries of the region;

2. Invites developed countries to play their role in support of technical co-operation among developing countries in the ECWA region, as provided for in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

3. Further invites developed countries, as well as intergovernmental organizations, bodies and institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations within the United Nations system, in the context of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, to support economic and technical co-operation among developing countries by providing increased assistance to supplement, where necessary, the resources contributed for the purpose of implementing such co-operation activities by the countries participating in them, especially the least developed countries;

4. Invites its member States and their institutions to collaborate in the development and operation of a regional information system to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the regional and interregional levels and to serve as the regional arm of the information referral system for technical co-operation among developing countries operated by the United Nations Development Programme, part of the resources of which would be allocated to the regional information system;

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION  
AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

69 (VI). Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197  
on the restructuring of the economic and social  
sectors of the United Nations system <sup>4/</sup>

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and in particular section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197 relating to structures for regional and interregional co-operation,

Further recalling Commission resolution 63 (V) on the establishment of subsidiary bodies,

Affirming the important role played by the Commission within the United Nations system in facilitating, promoting and expediting the process of development and socio-economic co-operation among the developing countries in the region,

Noting that, in its resolution 32/197, the General Assembly confirmed the need to enable the regional commissions to play their role, inter alia, as the main economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the Commission, particularly through the expeditious implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development, with a view to the effective and efficient achievement of the objectives specified in those resolutions,

Considering the slow progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and, in particular, of section IV of its annex,

Noting the proposals and measures contained in particular in paragraph 93 of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/33/410 and Rev.1),

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to expedite the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, particularly as far as it relates to the regional commissions, and to make available adequate budgetary and financial resources, especially through redeployment, in order to strengthen the capability of the Commission;

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<sup>4/</sup> For the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution, see paras. 63 and 64 above.

### Strengthening of substantive programmes

72. During the programme budget 1980-1981, particular emphasis will be given to areas where strengthening has been recommended by the Administrative Management Service or to areas which were particularly emphasized in resolutions of the Commission. In other areas, such emphasis corresponds to the priorities set by the General Assembly in connexion with its budget policy for the 1980-1981 period. On this basis, the following substantive areas have been proposed for strengthening: (a) the statistics programme; (b) the development planning, projections and policies programme; and (c) the natural resources programme.

### Establishment of new activities

73. Five years of the functioning of ECWA have indicated that a few basic tasks should be attended to, so as to enhance the development and efficient implementation of the Commission's programmes. Therefore, provision has been made under the 1980-1981 programme budget to start programme evaluation and to continue environmental co-ordination activities during 1980.

### Redeployment of resources

74. A careful analysis has been made of all programmes, so as to establish whether the need for strengthening existing activities and the undertaking of new ones could be met by redeployment from activities which could be terminated or which could be considered of marginal usefulness. In this connexion, it is to be observed that nearly all programmes have reached only a take-off stage during the 1978-1979 programme budget (after the return in 1977 of the secretariat to Beirut from Amman following the Lebanese civil war). It is only during the 1980-1981 period that the majority of the programmes will possibly reach their cruising level, under which a full range of activities involving practical arrangements for regional co-operative action are contemplated. Hence, the redeployment of resources in such circumstances would jeopardize the critical stage of the developing programmes. However, in two areas redeployment is considered feasible, namely, a redeployment from the social development programme to the transport, communications and tourism programme and a redeployment of resources from the natural resources programme to the science and technology programme. In connexion with redeployment, it should be noted that in the 1980-1981 programme budget proposals provision has been made for regularizing redeployment in a number of programmes which had already been effected during the 1976-1977 period. Such redeployments remain to be confirmed and are for that purpose presented in the 1980-1981 programme budget proposals.

### Resource requirements

75. The 1980-1981 programme budget proposals, which represent a modest real growth, have been formulated after a careful analysis of resource requirements, while bearing in mind the over-all budget policy for the period in question. The main underlying factor in proposing an increased budget for 1980-1981 relates to the fact that it is considered that ECWA has not yet reached its cruising level. This fact has been recognized on several occasions. In this connexion, reference is made to the decision of the Fifth Committee with regard to the 1978-1979 programme budget of ECWA, recommending that "the Secretary-General would review the ECWA situation and, if necessary, request additional appropriations in 1978".

order to enable it to carry out its activities. He noted that the resources allocated to travel had not increased, despite the rapid rise in travel costs. It was important for the countries of the region to establish close contacts with the secretariat and he proposed that teams of experts in various fields be sent to member countries.

The role of the regional commissions in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74

62. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 12 with a short review of document E/ECWA/79, in which he recalled General Assembly resolution 32/197, which considered the regional commissions as the major vehicles for socio-economic development in their respective regions. He also stressed General Assembly resolution 33/202, which delegated to the commissions the responsibility for implementing intersectoral projects at the regional, subregional and interregional levels. He recalled the role of the Commission in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 and drew attention to the bonds of co-operation and co-ordination forged with Arab regional and international organizations and institutions and to the plans for formulating an intensive programme for strengthening such co-operation.

63. One representative expressed his country's support for the principal objective of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and referred to the paper submitted by the secretariat to the meeting of Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions held at Rabat from 16 to 21 March 1979. He then requested that the subjects of food security and the combat against desertification be included among the subjects proposed by the secretariat in the context of strengthening the capabilities of the regional commissions. The representative asked why energy was included among these subjects despite the repeated insistence of the States members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that it was not possible to discuss the subject of energy in isolation from other economic issues.

64. He stated further that his country would not object to the inclusion of this subject if it referred to new and renewable sources of energy, especially since there were wide opportunities for the exploitation of solar energy in the region. Another representative said that his country attached great importance to the decentralization of the activities of the regional commissions, in view of its many attendant advantages, including, in particular, the utilization of local capabilities. One delegation referred to the need for passing from the stage of general conceptualization to that of a more specific identification of the role the Commission would be called upon to play if decentralization were applied.

Plan of action to combat desertification in the ECWA region

65. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 13 by indicating the importance of the subject for most of the countries of the region. He noted that the plan of action before the Commission (E/ECWA/77) complied with the comprehensive plan adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification held at Nairobi in 1977 and constituted a basis for developing the Commission's activities in the area of combating desertification. He then proposed a number of ideas and measures for the Commission's consideration in this connexion.

66. The representatives agreed upon the importance of the subject of combating desertification in the region. One of them pointed out that the phenomenon of

53. The Executive Secretary pointed out that such co-operation was already under way in some specific areas and no doubt a great deal more could be achieved. There were, however, certain institutional and operational difficulties with respect to certain activities extending beyond the ECWA region.

Fourth and final review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade

54. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 10, together with the documents prepared by the secretariat on the subject. He stated that the survey of economic and social development in the ECWA region, 1970-1978 (E/ECWA/80 and Add.1) concentrated on the review and appraisal of the achievements in a number of socio-economic development fields during the 1970s in relation to the targets specified in the International Development Strategy, and the identification of problem areas and the study of their development potential during the coming decade. He then reviewed a note of the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/80/Add.2) dealing with the efforts put into the preparation of the international development strategy for the 1980s and detailing the contribution and the views of the secretariat in that regard. He invited the ECWA member States to provide guidelines for the secretariat's future work in the field.

55. Before the discussion of the item, the Assistant Secretary-General, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, made a statement in which he reviewed briefly the main problems facing developing countries and the international community at the present stage. He went on to mention the efforts made within the United Nations system and the progress achieved in the preparation of the international development strategy for the coming decade. He stressed that the effectiveness of the strategy for development purposes was largely dependent on the extent of its compatibility with the current situation and with the aspirations of the developing countries and, consequently, on the extent of those countries' contribution towards its formulation. He added that the formulation of the strategy should not be an isolated measure but rather an incentive for the preparation and implementation of regional and subregional development strategies.

56. The discussion highlighted the importance of the careful preparation of the international development strategy for the third development decade, together with the need to profit from a study of the factors which had led to the present strategy's failure to achieve its targets and the importance of adopting new methods based on giving the developing countries equal opportunities under the new international economic order. In the case of the ECWA region, a number of guidelines could be derived from the experiences of the 1970s for use in the formulation of the strategy for the coming decade and in the assessment of the positive results in the development experiences of member countries, for the purpose of promoting the process of economic co-ordination and co-operation among them. Greater attention should also be paid to the agricultural sector and to social development and, more particularly, to meeting the basic needs of the people and to determining indicative figures for the transfer of technology and for the commitments of the developed countries in this regard. Emphasis should also be placed on planning and on the essential role it played in rapid and comprehensive development. The Commission agreed to the proposal to establish a committee of experts from member States to work with the United Nations Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy.

Arab regional institutions, organizations and funds, since many of the projects and programmes undertaken by the Commission fell within the sphere of activity and terms of reference of numerous institutions in the region. One representative stated that co-ordination in one form or another was, in fact, taking place but that fuller co-ordination was needed. He stressed the importance of social development, especially the participation of youth and the integration of women in the development process. He expressed the hope that ECWA would expand its activities in that field and commended the proposal to postpone study of the establishment of subsidiary bodies by ECWA until the next session, since it was preferable to postpone the adoption of a resolution in that connexion until the Commission had moved and resumed its activities at its new headquarters at Baghdad.

35. Another representative stated that the progress report on the implementation of the work programme was confined to surveys, studies and projects carried out by the Commission, together with seminars and conferences in which ECWA had participated, no attempt being made to evaluate such activities and their results, for example, advisory services and the extent of their effect on the member States. There was a certain amount of duplication in regional studies on agricultural development plans between the activities of the secretariat and the studies undertaken by Arab regional organizations and local institutions engaged in the field and he noted that the report made no reference to the existence of any co-ordination between the Commission and those bodies. With regard to agricultural planning, he stressed the need for the Commission's studies to concentrate on the development of manpower in this sector. Agricultural activity would remain below the desired level, since the labour force engaged in the sector was constantly shrinking and the expansion of mechanized agriculture had not compensated for that loss. In connexion with natural resources, he said that the endeavours of the secretariat in the preparation of work programmes and the undertaking of studies on the optimum utilization of those resources were taking place in a context of limited collaboration with member States. Furthermore, the report contained no reference to the obstacles encountered during the implementation of the Commission's programmes in the field. With regard to labour, management and employment, he referred to the main substantive comments made during the fifth session in connexion with the study on the brain drain from the ECWA region and requested the Commission to review the structure and methodology of the study so that it could produce clear and practical results. He added that the report merely referred to the completion of the study and its submission to the Commission at its fifth session. He also pointed out the insufficient level of co-operation between the secretariat and the member States in evaluating the situation of women in the context of the development strategy and the studies and endeavours in connexion with the expansion of the role played by women in the process of socio-economic development. With regard to human settlements, he noted a lack of concern for demographic studies relating to movements of the labour force both at the country level and between the member States, particularly the relationship between the mobility and the structure of the population, on the one hand, and manpower planning, on the other.

36. In commenting on this item, another representative referred to the proposal made by the Executive Secretary and certain delegations that changes be made in the Commission's methods of work. The Commission could request the secretariat to submit at the next session a comprehensive study on its work methods, with a view to increasing its effectiveness, in addition to the study in connexion with

and Development at Manila would be a test of the realism and determination of both developing and developed countries in finding negotiated agreements on fundamental trade and development issues.

25. The Secretary-General stated that the deliberations of the Commission were taking place at a time when the Second United Nations Development Decade was coming to a close and the strategy for the third decade was being formulated, and he thus attached importance to the regional experience which the Commission could contribute in the preparation of the strategy within the framework of the new international economic order.

26. The Secretary-General specifically stressed the need for the strengthening of ECWA, in view of the increased responsibilities which had been entrusted to the regional commissions as part of the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to enable them to ensure co-ordination at the regional level and to promote more effective interregional co-operation.

27. The Chairman of the sixth session then delivered an address dealing with the crises facing the world economy and their adverse repercussions on the developing countries. He indicated that the failure of those countries to contribute to the adoption of resolutions related to changes in the existing economic order had led to the escalation of these crises and highlighted the need for the introduction of radical changes in the structure of that order. International meetings which had so far taken place in this regard had shown that the industrialized countries lacked the political will to bring about the requisite changes. He referred to the co-operation existing among the developing countries aimed at defining their position with regard to issues of concern to them, the most recent expression of which was the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 at Arusha and the important document which had been produced at that meeting. He spoke of the role played by Iraq in furthering the process of integration in the region and also in consolidating co-operation among the developing countries.

28. The representative of UNDP emphasized in his statement the close relationship existing between UNDP and the Commission and gave an assurance of the continuity of its support to the activities of the Commission. In his statement, the representative of France conveyed a message to the Commission from the European Economic Community emphasizing the importance of co-operation between the Community and the countries of Western Asia and the need for the continuation of the Euro-Arab dialogue.

#### Report on the headquarters of the Commission

29. The Executive Secretary introduced agenda item 6 and drew the Commission's attention to his note containing the report (E/ECWA/78) prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the Commission's resolution 52 (V), on developments since the fifth session regarding the question of the Commission's headquarters. He also drew attention to the annex to the report (E/ECWA/78/Add.1) dealing with the financial implications of the move to the Commission's permanent headquarters at Baghdad. He reminded the Commission that the General Assembly of the United Nations would have to approve those financial implications before they could be considered valid.



12. The role of the regional commissions in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and resolution 1978/74 of the Economic and Social Council
13. Plan of action to combat desertification in the ECWA region
14. Other business
15. Annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

Account of proceedings

17. His Excellency, the Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, Mr. Taha Muhieddine Maarouf, opened the session with an address in which he welcomed the convening of the sixth session of the Commission in Baghdad and emphasized the important role played by the regional commissions of the United Nations in the negotiations aimed at the establishment of the new international economic order and the importance of the unity of developing countries in the achievement of the desired changes. The Commission was in transition from the research and study stage to the implementation stage and he underlined the need for it to give priority to the strengthening of economic co-operation and integration among member States and to full co-operation with the activities of the League of Arab States in the field of socio-economic co-operation in the interest of economic integration. It was also necessary to co-ordinate the positions of members on the economic issues under consideration by the United Nations and its agencies, including current preparations for promoting the development strategy for the third development decade.

18. The Chairman of the Commission at its fifth session, Mr. Najmuddin Dajani, Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, made a statement in which he thanked the Iraqi Government for acting as host to the Commission at its sixth session. He called upon the Commission to review its work procedures so as to increase its effectiveness and its contribution to finding solutions to the problems of the region commensurate with the importance of the circumstances and challenges facing it, especially those which had emerged since the previous session and which had had a sizable impact on the progress of joint regional activities. He stressed the importance of increased co-ordination among member States, pointing to the current co-operation between the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan, and Iraq and Jordan. He urged member States to formulate priorities for their social and economic development consistent with their aspirations and with the new goals laid down in the international development strategy for the coming decade.

19. The Executive Secretary of the Commission welcomed the Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq to the session and expressed his gratitude and appreciation to him and to the Government of Iraq for the support extended to the Commission in order to facilitate its activities for the benefit of the region and also for Iraq's hospitality during the sixth session. Referring to the development efforts in the region, the Executive Secretary pointed out that, although the countries of the region had achieved annual average growth rates in their gross domestic product ranging from 7 to 12 per cent, which was well above the rate specified in the International Development Strategy for the 1970s, wide differences in income levels still existed both within and among the countries of the region.

### III. SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

#### Attendance and organization of work

7. The sixth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was held in the Salam Palace, Baghdad, Iraq, from 28 April to 2 May 1979.
8. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States: 3/ Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The Palestine Liberation Organization also attended the session in its capacity as a full member of the Commission.
9. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Information Centre (Baghdad), United Nations Secretariat (New York), World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Monetary Fund and International Telecommunication Union. Representatives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the International Organization for Standardization also attended.
10. The following regional and governmental organizations attended the session as observers: Arab Monetary Fund, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, Foundation for Scientific Research, Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development and Iraqi Fund for External Development.
11. The Commission adopted the proposals contained in document E/ECWA/81, as amended, for the organization of its work.
12. By virtue of article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, the following States Members of the United Nations participated in the work of the session in a consultative capacity: France; the German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Hungary; Morocco; the Netherlands; Tunisia; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the United States of America.
13. The delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization expressed its reservation with regard to the invitation extended to the United States of America to attend the session in a consultative capacity in accordance with article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, referring to States which, in the view of the Commission, had a special interest in the topics under consideration; this definition did not apply to the United States of America, which, moreover, did not recognize the existence and rights of one of the members of the Commission. The delegations of Iraq and Democratic Yemen expressed the same reservation.

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3/ For information concerning the names of participants at the session, see document E/ECWA/INF.22/Rev.1.

68 (VI). Reconsideration of Commission resolution 37 (IV)  
adopted on 28 April 1977 2/

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Taking into consideration the objectives for which it was established, especially the adoption of measures for facilitating co-ordinated action for economic development and construction, raising the level of economic activity and maintaining and strengthening economic relationships among the countries of the region on the basis of economic integration,

Taking note of the fact that the circumstances through which one of the member States of the Commission has passed led that member State to redirect its course, thereby opening a gap which will have a future impact on the cohesiveness of the States of the Commission and on their common effort to achieve the aforementioned objectives,

Responding to the desire of the member States as a whole to preserve cohesiveness in their policies, which is essential for achieving the objectives of the Commission,

Decides to reconsider its resolution 37 (IV) adopted on 28 April 1977 and recommends that the Economic and Social Council suspend the membership of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Commission.

2. At its fifth meeting, on 1 May 1979, the Commission decided to bring the following decision to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

The Economic Commission for Western Asia, at its sixth session, endorsed the draft programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 contained in document E/ECWA/74, after taking into consideration the observations made by certain member States.

3. At the same meeting, the Commission 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 sixth session and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in chapters I and IV of the report;

"2. Endorses the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 as contained in document E/ECWA/74."

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2/ See chap. III, sect. C, para. 31.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AMF	Arab Monetary Fund
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOS	International Organization for Standardization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OAPEC	Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PROPFAD	United Nations Regional Programme for Finance and Administration
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme

NOTE

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

E/1979/49/Add.1