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Committee on Water Resources
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Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF ACTION TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES
SINCE THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON WATER RESOURCES**

CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1. The aim of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) programme of consultancy services and technical cooperation is to assist in providing support for the development programmes of member countries by responding to requests from those countries for regional consultancy services in such fields as they identify. The consultancy services and technical cooperation provided by ESCWA include providing technical assistance in devising appropriate solutions to local problems, formulating specific development projects and preparing the relevant documents. The service also includes involvement in the evaluation of project proposals, feasibility studies and post-implementation evaluation, and assistance in capacity-building.
2. The ESCWA Technical Cooperation Division is responsible for following up requests from member countries and coordinating the work of the regional advisers. It is also responsible for the administrative work involved in the regional and national projects that ESCWA carries out.
3. The consultancy and technical services provided by the regional advisers who work for ESCWA are considered one of the major technical cooperation activities undertaken by ESCWA and member countries.
4. Given that member countries derive great benefit from consultancy services and technical cooperation, ESCWA is anxious to ensure the continuation of such services, and to increase their range and raise their level. It also wishes to select the best and most highly qualified personnel to provide those services, regarding them as its contribution to socio-economic development, in accordance with the priorities of the region.
5. The work of the ESCWA regional advisers covers 10 specializations that are all closely linked to both the socio-economic development of the countries of the region and the ESCWA regular programme. The regional advisers also provide services in other specializations, as needed by member countries.
6. The regional advisers provide further services in regional institutions and organizations in the area and are involved in the preparation and organization of training and study courses.
7. Between November 2000 and August 2002, ESCWA regional water advisers undertook 10 consultancy missions, involving 66 days in the field, to five member countries. Details of those missions are given in tables 1 and 2.

8. The missions covered a wide variety of issues, as set forth below:
- (a) The problem of the silting up of dams in desert areas (Oman);
 - (b) Urban growth in Muscat and its impact on floods (Oman);
 - (c) The role and effectiveness of water-related legislation in achieving sustainable development (Syrian Arab Republic);
 - (d) The hydrology of water supply (Syrian Arab Republic);
 - (e) Sewage treatment in sand basins (Syrian Arab Republic);
 - (f) A new approach to the development and management of water resources (United Arab Emirates);
 - (g) The formulation of an integrated strategy for the development of deep groundwater resources (Yemen);
 - (h) The formulation of an exploratory groundwater plan (United Arab Emirates);
 - (i) The protection of supply wells (United Arab Emirates).

TABLE 1. WATER CONSULTANCY SERVICES PROVIDED SINCE THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

Country	Number of missions	Number of days
United Arab Emirates	3	28
Syrian Arab Republic	3	10
Oman	1	12
Lebanon	2	2
Yemen	1	14
Total: five countries	10	66

TABLE 2. DETAILS OF THE WATER CONSULTANCY SERVICES PROVIDED SINCE THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

Country	Subject of mission	Institution	Action taken	Date of mission (number of days)
United Arab Emirates	Evaluation of groundwater sources	Ministry of Planning	<p>Collection of information on sources of deep and medium-depth groundwater</p> <p>Review, analysis, revision and evaluation of that information</p> <p>A primary evaluation of the status of deep and medium-depth groundwater on the basis of the currently available information</p> <p>Ranking in importance of the required exploratory sites and setting of implementation priorities</p> <p>Preparation of the quantitative and qualitative evaluation and identification of the approach necessary to prepare and implement a groundwater strategy</p>	6-18 January 2000 (14 days)

TABLE 2 (continued)

Country	Subject of mission	Institution	Action taken	Date of mission (number of days)
United Arab Emirates (continued)	Preparation of a strategy for the management of sweet water in Abu Dhabi	Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency, Abu Dhabi	Preparation of a strategy for water resources management in the United Arab Emirates	20-27 April 2001 (7 days)
			Preparation of a vision for the future development and management of water resources	
			Identification of the most important water issues related to the water situation in Abu Dhabi	
	Formulation of a blueprint for the management of water resources in Abu Dhabi	Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency, Abu Dhabi	The second review of the strategy required before the final stage Formulation of the general framework for the first five-year plan from the beginning of implementation (2000-2005)	12-19 October 2001 (7 days)
Syrian Arab Republic	Experimental sewage plant in the city of Qatana	Water Research Centre, Ministry of Irrigation	Supervision of the experimental scheme to use natural methods to treat sewage in the city of Qatana	20-21 August 2001 (2 days)
			Partnership with the National Technical Committee in handing over the project to the contractor	
	Final review of plans for the plant	Ministry of Irrigation	Final review of the plans	27 February – 2 March 2002 (5 days)
			Design of the research experiment to treat sewage in Qatana using sand filtration basins	
			Review of the technical specifications	
	Review of the status of the experiment	Water Research Centre, Ministry of Irrigation	Review of progress of work in the water supply project in Sweida governorate	6-8 August 2002 (2 days)
			Review of progress in establishing the experiment, making certain adjustments, remarks and completion of the site Placing the sand in the filtration basins, preparing for the first operation, review of efficiency, preparation of a programme of work for the experiment as the first of a number of other experimental plants throughout the country	

TABLE 2 (continued)

Country	Subject of mission	Institution	Action taken	Date of mission (number of days)
Oman	Provision of technical consultancy in developing programmes for the water projects that the Ministry wishes to implement	Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources	<p>The provision of technical consultancy in developing programmes for the following projects:</p> <p>An investigation of the outflow of <i>aflaj</i> and springs</p> <p>Improved control in dry areas over the use of rainwater supply systems</p> <p>The silting up of small dams in desert areas</p> <p>Urban development in the Greater Muscat region and the impact and dangers thereof in respect of floods</p> <p>An evaluation of the role and effectiveness of water-related legislation in achieving the sustainable development of groundwater resources in Oman</p> <p>The identification of <i>aflaj</i> protection sites in Oman</p>	30 September – 11 October 2001 (12 days)
Lebanon	The water needs of the village of Ghajar in southern Lebanon	Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon	An evaluation of the water needs of the village of Ghajar, to be supplied by the Wazzani spring on the borders of the occupied territory	2-12 July 2001 (12 days)
	The management of water resources in Lebanon	United Nations Development Programme	Preparation of a report on the National Policy Framework for Water Resources in Lebanon	20 March 2001 (1 day)
	Visit to the Kafr Killa and Marjayoun areas in order to evaluate water resources (development of southern Lebanon)		<p>Recommendation to sink a second supply well equipped with a pump (in addition to the single well that exists at present) in the Kafr Killa area</p> <p>Recommendation to sink 3-5 additional wells in the Marjayoun area as part of the five-year plan</p>	5 October 2001 (1 day)
Yemen	Review of the programme to sink deep exploratory wells	National Water Resources Authority	<p>Assessment of the groundwater exploration programme in Taiz region</p> <p>Formulation of a programme for the protection of the groundwater supply well fields</p>	15-29 June 2001