



MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1978-1981

Volume I

Corrigendum

Note by the Secretary-General

The attached submission is a redrafting of part of the special analysis in volume I of the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981, 1/ as requested by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its sixteenth session.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6A (A/31/6/Add.1).

Part Three

SPECIAL ANALYSES

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

E. Economic Commission for Western Asia

Replace paragraph 2283 of the text in A/31/6/Add.1/Corr.4 with the following:

2283A. At the outset and as noted during the meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, it may be pointed out that the preparation and presentation of activities aimed at promoting economic co-operation among member countries of ECWA, under the Commission's 1978-1981 medium-term plan, were not based on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3442 (XXX) of 9 December 1975. The Commission became aware of the resolution too late to be able to either provide separate objectives under each of its substantive programmes or to include a separate section dealing with and analysing the specific activities aimed at promoting economic co-operation among member countries of the region.

2283B. As a result, the intersectoral relationships among various programme objectives and their corresponding activities under the 1978-1981 medium-term plan of the Commission will therefore have to be adequately developed and elaborated only in the next programme budget of ECWA for the period 1978-1979, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 3442 (XXX). In this connexion, ECWA will also take the opportunity to draw on the findings and recommendations of the meeting on "Technical Co-operation Among the Developing Countries (TCDC) for the ECWA region", which will be held later in 1976. However, in order to comply with the immediate request of CPC and the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the following is a brief presentation of a number of major objectives and their corresponding activities envisaged under the 1978-1981 medium-term plan of ECWA aimed at promoting economic co-operation among the countries of the region. Where appropriate, these will be supplemented by a brief presentation of such related ongoing activities which have been programmed under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977.

1. International trade

(a) Objective: Intraregional trade

2283C. Under this objective, efforts will continue towards the development and expansion of intraregional trade and the achievement of a more advanced degree of regional co-operation and integration /para. 1168/. 2/

2/ Paragraph numbers in the text refer to the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981 (Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6A (A/31/6/Add.1)), of which the present document is a corrigendum.

2283D. Action envisaged for 1978-1981: The attainment of the objective will be mainly pursued through the following activities:

- (i) Continuous collection, analysis and dissemination of basic data and information on the state of progress of interregional trade and economic co-operation and co-ordination of efforts among member countries of the Commission;
- (ii) Research and studies on existing bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and alternative approaches;
- (iii) Assessment of the degree of tariff and non-tariff protection measures related to proposed integration schemes and identification of suitable projects for increased co-operation and integration among member countries of the region.

2283E. Ongoing activities in this field, under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977, include a study on Arab payments arrangements which will examine efforts made to establish regional or subregional payments arrangements and the obstacles encountered, and the introduction of a payment scheme designed to assist the expansion of intraregional trade and regional economic co-operation. In carrying out these activities close consultations and co-operation will be maintained with Governments and concerned intergovernmental, regional and international organizations, notably the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and UNCTAD.

2283F. Expected impact: The completion of the activities outlined above is expected to make a significant contribution towards identifying the obstacles to expanding intraregional trade and to achieving a higher degree of economic co-operation and integration among member countries of the Commission.

2. Food and agriculture

(a) Objective 1: Food security

2283G. Under this objective, action will be focused on assisting the Governments of member countries in their efforts to achieve regional food security through the development of appropriate policies leading to the establishment of adequate food reserves /para. 562/.

2283H. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981: The activities envisaged in this connexion comprise collection and dissemination of information, development of guidelines, studies, reports and meetings on such selected issues as country, subregional and regional stock reserves, distribution systems of selected food commodities and measures to improve their efficiency, reduction of harvest and post-harvest losses of selected crops, new techniques and technologies, and new crops.

2283I. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include a study on various aspects of a pilot food grain reserve stock programme, namely, the centralization of purchases, the establishment of reserve stock, the management and organizational problems in operating such stocks, and the cost of location and of storage facilities. The study will be discussed at an ECWA/FAO-sponsored intergovernmental meeting to be held late in 1976.

2283J. Expected impact: It is expected that the activities and related outputs will provide the Governments of member countries with adequate guidelines to develop food security policies leading to the establishment of minimum safe levels of food stocks and maximization of self-sufficiency in food. It will also provide guidelines for more efficient handling and distribution of commodities which will reduce waste and increase available supplies.

(b) Objective 2: Promotion of regional agricultural integration

2283K. Under this objective, efforts will be made to identify needs, promote better agricultural adjustment and integration policies among the countries of the ECWA region, and help identify and develop national and multinational investment projects in agriculture, fisheries and forestry [paras. 567 and 572].

2283L. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 consists of studies on intraregional agricultural adjustment issues, intercounty analysis of selected major commodities, subregional agricultural integration, identification of investment opportunities and evaluation of projects, as well as meetings and advisory services on regional agricultural adjustment issues.

2283M. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include:

- (i) A comprehensive pilot study on one or two commodities aimed at determining the scope for, and limitations on product specialization and regional complementarity. The study will be carried out in close co-operation with the Council of Arab Economic Unity;
- (ii) A study exploring investment possibilities in areas which are given "high potential" rating, covering mainly integrated dry-farming, sheep fattening, integrated fruit and vegetable production for urban consumption, and fisheries development in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Gulf of Aden.

2283N. Expected impact: These activities are expected to increase awareness among agricultural planners of issues pertaining to agricultural adjustment and integration in the region, and to demonstrate to them the possibilities for product specialization and complementarities at the regional level and to identify and develop national and multinational programmes and projects.

3. Industrial development

(a) Objective 1: Co-ordination of policies in the industrial field

22830. Under this objective, efforts will be made to assist in developing concrete proposals for the co-ordination of industrialization efforts in the region on the basis of a regional approach to investment and production /para. 925/.

2283P. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 includes conducting studies and preparing reports on national industrialization programmes, investment plans and project proposals and on the possibilities for their harmonization.

2283Q. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for the period 1976-1977, include a project aimed at analysing programmes and project proposals under the industrialization plans of the countries of the ECWA region and presenting them in a functional form in order to determine possible areas of multinational co-operation in specific enterprises, as well as to achieve over-all co-ordination of industrialization plans and programmes.

2283R. Expected impact: It is expected that the activities mentioned above will provide guidelines for the co-ordination of industrial policies and help in the establishment and strengthening of regional machinery for the synchronization of industrial investment activities, along with the formulation of a number of regional and subregional (multinational) industrial projects.

(b) Objective 2: Regional co-operation in the development of industrial manpower

2283S. Under this objective, efforts will be made to assist in promoting the development of industrial manpower skills in the countries of the region with special emphasis on the training of higher technical and managerial personnel and the promotion of training capabilities within the region /para. 935/.

2283T. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981: The activities envisaged include consultations with the Governments of ECWA member countries on developing a plan of action (as a follow-up to the 1975 survey of training needs and facilities) for the promotion of a co-ordinated approach to training needs and placement of trainees within the region, including the establishment of appropriate intergovernmental machinery for this purpose. Investigations will be made to identify future training needs in industry in the light of present and future industrial development plans, and to participate with the other substantive programmes of ECWA (e.g., the labour, employment and management programmes) in regional and international organizations, in the organization of workshops, and in-plant training programmes in the region.

2283U. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include a project dealing with the promotion of training possibilities in industrial project formulation and evaluation, and the follow-up action to the 1975 survey for the establishment of a regional co-ordinating machinery for industrial training needs and placement.

2283V. Expected impact: It is expected that through these activities ECWA will assist in identifying priority areas for the provision of training in industry, promote training activities in these priority areas and strengthen the requisite institutional machinery for the co-ordination of industrial training activities on a regional basis.

4. Natural resources

(a) Objective 1: Co-ordination of policies and programmes in the field of energy

2283W. Under this objective, efforts will be made to provide and exchange information on the medium- and long-term supply of and demand for energy, including electrical energy, in the countries of the region, with a view to: assisting in the elaboration of regional distribution arrangements; drawing up action programmes at the national and regional levels; and identifying and promoting projects aimed at achieving the minimum energy requirements to sustain development efforts, especially in the least developed countries of the region /para. 1386/.

2283X. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 includes: updating the study on medium- and long-term supply of and demand for energy; preparing a study and expert report on the feasibility of regional distribution arrangements for electrical energy, to be followed by an expert group meeting to draw up a plan of action; and preparing an action programme for developing the energy sector of the least developed countries of the region.

2283Y. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include:

- (i) A study on medium- and long-term supply and demand projection for energy which will cover all the countries of the region. The study will be carried out in close co-operation with the Development Planning, Projections and Policies programme of ECWA, as and when necessary;
- (ii) Initiation of preliminary work in connexion with the study on regional distribution arrangements for electrical energy.

2283Z. Expected impact: The completion of the activities outlined above is expected to constitute an important step towards spreading awareness among the Governments of ECWA member countries of the need to develop an integrated and diversified energy base in the region and to co-ordinate policies leading to the drawing up of a regional programme of action.

(b) Objective 2: Co-operation in energy and energy-related activities

2283AA. Under this objective, efforts will be made to intensify intercountry co-operation in energy and energy-related activities in the ECWA region and the rest of the Arab world /para. 1389/.

2283BB. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981: Activities include a major research work on inter-Arab co-operation in hydrocarbons and other energy sources. The study will attempt to elaborate a strategy for the development of the oil and gas sector in the Arab countries, for co-operation among the countries concerned with hydrocarbons and associated activities, and for the application of alternative forms of energy, both conventional and non-conventional, in the Arab countries, with special emphasis on renewable and non-polluting sources of energy. The research work will be carried out in close co-operation with the secretariat of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

2283CC. Ongoing related activities under the Commission's programme of work for 1976-1977 include the development of basic energy statistics and review of the energy and oil sector. The output will appear as an annual publication entitled The Energy Situation and Outlook in Western Asia.

2283DD. Expected impact: These activities are expected to have a considerable impact on the economy of the Western Asian countries and of the rest of the Arab world since they will deal with the crucial issue of co-operation in energy and associated activities, using an in-depth integrated, comprehensive and realistic approach.

(c) Objective 3: Policy-co-ordination on mineral resources exploitation

2283EE. Under this objective efforts will be made to assist Governments of ECWA member countries in the planning and management of mineral resources exploitation through the dissemination of concepts, and the development of legal and institutional infrastructures and adequate training facilities /para. 1395/.

2283FF. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 include: completion of a report dealing with the achievement of full and permanent sovereignty over mineral resources; preparations of expert reports and provision of advisory services on the strengthening of the institutional and legal framework for mineral resources and development; and examination of the feasibility of establishing a regional facility for training and research and of identifying and promoting investment in this field.

2283GG. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include a number of projects dealing with the survey of mineral resources in the region, the appraisal of existing mining codes and the enforcement of mineral legislation, short- and long-term skilled manpower requirements in the mineral resources sector, and the identification and promotion of investment in mineral resources development.

2283HH. Expected impact: The activities are expected to assist ECWA member countries in developing and co-ordinating their policies in mineral resources exploitation in a manner which would serve their interest, both individually and collectively.

5. Transport, communication and tourism

(a) Objective 1: Transport integration

2283II. Under this objective, activities will be directed at assisting ECWA member countries in their efforts to improve the efficiency of the existing facilities and networks of transport and communications, and, with respect to new development projects in this field, to achieve better intercountry and intermodal transport integration /para. 2108/.

2283JJ. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 includes:

(i) Studies on the present system of national and international overland transport, both within and to the subregional groups of ECWA member countries, present shipping and port facilities, and present policies and facilities for international transit traffic of persons and goods within the ECWA region;

(ii) Expert group meetings and the rendering of advisory services.

2283KK. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include the preparation of review reports on plans, policies and practices in the field of transport and communication relating to intercountry traffic; studies on major commodity flows, trade routes, modes of transport and transport of costs in the trade of regional countries with each other and with the rest of the world. Similarly, work will also be carried out, by teams of experts, on various aspects of transport in each ECWA country.

2283LL. Expected impact: The activities and their corresponding output are expected to provide ECWA member countries with the relevant data on various aspects of transport and communications in the region and to assist them in formulating their transport and communications development programmes and projects in such a way as to contribute to the development of an integrated transport and communications network for the region.

(b) Objective 2: Subregional co-operation in the development of tourism

2283MM. Under this objective, ECWA will concentrate on assisting Governments of member countries in their efforts to develop tourism through the effective pooling of resources on a subregional basis /para. 2218/.

2283NN. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 includes follow-up action to the two studies on subregional co-operation in the development of tourism mentioned below and the identification of investment opportunities and preparation of projects. These activities will be co-ordinated with the work of other regional and international organizations in this field.

228300. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include completion of two studies, each covering a number of countries in the region, focusing on various aspects of tourism and the prospects for its development.

2283PP. Expected impact: The activities are expected to provide the countries of the region with guidelines to assist in effectively pooling their potential resources for the development of tourism in the region.

5. Finance

(a) Objective 1: Regional co-operation in the mobilization and allocation of financial resources

2283QQ. Under this objective, efforts will be made to assist in promoting the development of the legal and institutional framework for an effective mobilization and allocation of financial resources at the national and regional levels, and to promote co-operation in the monetary and fiscal areas among ECWA countries /para. 1608/.

2283RR. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 includes studies and survey reports on financial planning, reform and harmonization of the tax structure, budgetary systems and schemes of classification, and budget and plan harmonization and management.

2283SS. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include:

- (i) Evaluation surveys of government budgetary systems and practices and of existing patterns of income distribution in selected countries;
- (ii) Studies on the prospects for the accumulation of financial resources in the region arising from the oil sector over a period of 10 to 15 years, analysing the effects and exploring alternative uses of these funds, both within and outside the region.

2283TT. Expected impact: The activities outlined above are expected to provide policy guidelines aimed at assisting ECWA member countries to develop the legal and institutional framework of their monetary and fiscal systems, initiate necessary reform and lay down the foundation for effective co-operation in these fields.

6. Science and technology

(a) Objective 1: Regional co-operation in science and technology

2283UU. Under this objective, activities are aimed at assisting Governments of ECWA member States in promoting co-operative research and technology projects, programmes and institutions /para. 1720/.

2283VV. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 includes the development of "Guidelines for the Establishment of Research and Technology Projects in Selected Areas". This will be a yearly output throughout the plan period.

2283WW. Ongoing activities under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 include a project which will consist of the following operations:

- (i) A review of the objectives, principles and methods of national and regional co-operative research and technology undertaken in the ECWA region;
- (ii) Case studies assessing projects on co-operative research and technology;
- (iii) Identification of areas for regional co-operation in research and technology;
- (iv) Selection of co-operative research and technology projects through a seminar on "Co-operative Research and Terminology Projects in the ECWA Region".

2283XX. Expected impact: It is expected that by the establishment of regional co-operative research and technology projects greater impetus will be given through the effective application of technology to the more rapid development of areas which have shown slow pace of development. They will also set out the basis for active co-operation in all aspects of technology.

7. Development planning and projections

(a) Objective 1: Regional co-operation in development planning

2283YY. Under this objective, efforts will be directed at promoting plan harmonization and regional co-operation in development planning /para. 336/

2283ZZ. Action envisaged under the Commission's medium-term plan for 1978-1981 includes a follow-up and study of initiatives taken by individual countries as well as regional organizations in the field of development planning. It will also include the collection and dissemination of information related to plan harmonization activities and to co-operation in development planning among the countries of the region. These activities will be closely co-ordinated with those of the Council of Arab Economic Unity and other intergovernmental regional bodies involved in the field of development planning.

2283AAA. Expected impact: It is expected that, the above activities will result in: (a) providing guidelines aimed at avoiding unnecessary and costly duplication in national development planning; (b) exploring new approaches towards more effective co-operation in development planning; and (c) providing additional guidelines for project evaluation underlining the lending and assistance policies of regional institutions.