1. Rule 2 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Western Asia states:

"The sessions of the Commission shall normally be held at its headquarters. It may, with the concurrence of the Secretary-General, hold a particular session elsewhere."

2. At its second session (Beirut, 5-10 May 1975), the Commission received a proposal that the next regular session should be held in one of the Gulf States. Subsequently, the Government of the State of Qatar advised the Executive Secretary that it would like to host the Commission's third session at Doha, Qatar.

3. At the Commission's third session, (Doha, 10-15 May 1976), the head of the delegation of Saudi Arabia invited the Commission to hold its fourth session in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Commission unanimously accepted the invitation with full appreciation and thanks (document E/ESCWA/37). Subsequently, it was decided to hold the fourth session at Jeddah.

4. In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly, financial and administrative implications have to be taken into consideration if a session is to be held elsewhere than the provisional headquarters. Operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly's resolution 31/104, dated 17 December 1976, states:
"Decides that the United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional cost directly or indirectly involved".