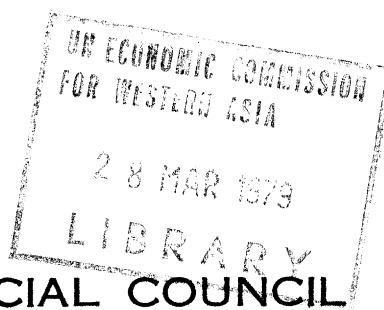




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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Fifth Session  
2-6 October 1978  
Amman, Jordan

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA  
TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

78-2225

1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the members of the committee who have been appointed to study the problem of the distribution of the public lands of the State of California.

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

1. At its 8th meeting, the Commission adopted the following resolution to be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 52 (V). The permanent headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

/For the text of the resolution, see chapter III below./

2. At its 10th meeting, 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 fifth session, endorsed the draft Medium-Term Plan for 1980-1983 contained in documents E/ECWA/56 and E/ECWA/56/Add.1 after taking into consideration the observations made by certain member States.

## II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH SESSION

### Attendance and organization of work

3. The fifth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was held at Amman, Jordan, from 2-6 October 1978.
4. The session was opened by His Excellency Mr. Najmuddin Dajani, head of the delegation of Jordan, with a message from His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, the Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Regent of His Majesty the King. In his message, H.R.H. the Crown Prince welcomed the delegations to the fifth session of the Commission and pointed out the role which the Commission could play in furthering co-operation among the countries of the region, providing them with the necessary technical assistance and helping to define the region's position with regard to current international issues. He stressed the problem of the brain drain, its negative effects on the developing countries and the need to find ways and means of dealing with the problem. He also emphasized the urgent need to develop national capabilities for the absorption and adaptation of technology and the importance of establishing an Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology.
5. The Chairman of the fourth session, H.E. Mr. Najmuddin Dajani, the Jordanian Minister of Industry and Commerce, then delivered an address welcoming the delegates to the fifth session of the Commission and commending the accomplishments of the Commission, which were achieved under difficult circumstances resulting from the distressing events in Lebanon.
6. Mr. Dajani stated that although most of the countries of the region continued to achieve high growth rates and were able to overcome many of the bottle-necks that had previously impeded development, the region still had a long way to go before the development process would yield the desired results. In this respect, Mr. Dajani referred to the effective role that could be played by co-operation among the countries of the region and gave as an example the experiment underway between Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. He also pointed to the positive and effective contribution of the countries of the region to the development and stability of the world economy and to the strengthening of confidence between the developing and the developed countries. This contribution resulted from the responsible and intelligent policies pursued by the countries of the region in opening their markets to international

trade, the assistance and loans offered to developing countries, which represented high proportions of their incomes, and their constructive participation in the deliberations and efforts aimed at the establishment of a new international economic order.

7. The Secretary of the Commission then read out a message from Mr. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Commission at its fifth session, in which he stated that many of the topics on which the Commission was about to deliberate were of relevance not only to the ECWA region but to the international community as a whole. He pointed out that efforts to establish a new international economic order were aimed at providing a suitable framework for solving the problems confronting his community. He emphasized the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries for collective self-reliance and noted with satisfaction the valuable contribution made by the oil-producing States members of ECWA in assisting the development efforts of nations within and outside the region. In particular, he welcomed the emphasis which these countries had placed on measures in favour of the least developed countries of the region and on assistance to Lebanon. He stressed that such a spirit of collaboration and support was the only basis on which lasting solutions to mutual problems could be found.

8. The Executive Secretary of the Commission opened his address with an expression of gratitude and appreciation to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Jordanian Government for the continuous support and the hospitality which they had extended to the Commission. He referred to the current crises affecting the world economy and observed that the dialogue taking place between the developed and developing countries had not brought about structural changes consistent with the objectives of the developing countries. He emphasized, however, that, in spite of existing difficulties and obstacles to the creation of an equitable international economic order, there was no substitute for dialogue in view of the extent and degree of interdependence among countries.

9. The Executive Secretary noted that the oil-producing countries in the ECWA region had made great efforts towards the creation of a more equitable world economic order by controlling their oil resources and utilizing their financial surpluses to contribute to the promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries, especially through financial aid to other developing countries. He pointed out that the financial surpluses of the oil-producing States had, in particular, enabled the

ECWA region as a whole to make significant achievements in economic and social development. He said that the ECWA countries were, however, part of the Third World and shared its problems.

10. The Executive Secretary reviewed the region's characteristics by dividing its countries into three groups: the oil-producing States, excluding Iraq, in which the petroleum sector dominated the economy; the non-oil producing States, and Iraq, which had more diversified economies; and the least developed States, which had unexploited potential and which ranked among the major exporters of manpower. It was apparent, he said, that the best and most appropriate way to overcome these obstacles and to utilize available resources was to develop co-operation and integration in the region and with other parts of the Arab World. In this regard, he noted that the region had already made considerable progress and possessed a wealth of experience and numerous institutions engaged in integration efforts.

11. The Executive Secretary then briefly described the accomplishments of the Commission in the fields of long-term planning, the socio-economic survey of the region, advisory services in various socio-economic fields, technical assistance and training in the preparation and publication of national accounts and statistics, agricultural development, regional co-operation and integration, food security, co-ordination of industrial plans and programmes, telecommunications, water and mineral resources, transfer and development of technology, population activities, transport and communications, rural development, participation of youth in development, advancement of women, housing, manpower and training officials of the least developed countries in public finance and administration.

12. The Executive Secretary stated that the constant support of ECWA's member States had enabled the Commission to carry out a large part of its programmes despite difficult conditions. He expressed hope that the support would be increased, especially by providing the Commission's experts with the information and data needed for their studies and research.

Attendance at the session

13. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States: 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.

14. In accordance with 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: Belgium; France; Germany, Federal Republic of; Greece; Hungary; India; Italy; Netherlands; Romania; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

15. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 244 (LXIII) the Holy See was invited to attend the session in a consultative capacity.

16. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV), and upon the proposal of the delegation of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic World League was also invited to participate in the session as a consultant observer.

17. Representatives of UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNIDO, the United Nations Secretariat and WFP attended the session, as well as representatives of the following specialized agencies: FAO, ILO and WIPO.

18. The following regional organizations were represented at the session: Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), Arab Tourism Union Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and League of Arab States.

19. The representatives of the following governmental organizations attended the session: Abu-Dhabi Fund for Economic Development (AFED), Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and the Foundation for Scientific Research in Iraq.

20. The Women's International Democratic Federation, a non-governmental organization, was also represented at the session.

21. The Commission adopted the proposals contained in document E/ECWA/62/Rev.1/Add.1 for the organization of its work.

Election of officers

22. The Commission unanimously re-elected for a second term His Excellency Mr. Najmuddin Dajani, Minister of Industry and Commerce and head of the delegation of Jordan, as Chairman; His Excellency Mr. Salim Yassin, Minister of Transport, Syrian Arab Republic; His Excellency Mohammed Sadiq Al-Mahdi, Ambassador and Director General of the Department of Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iraq; and Mr. Walid Kamhawi, head of the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization<sup>1/</sup>, as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Mohammed Faraj Ajaj, member of the delegation of the Yemen Arab Republic, as Rapporteur for the session.

23. In accordance with Rule 11 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, officers of the Commission examined the credentials of representatives to the session and found them in order.

Agenda

24. In accordance with Rule 9 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, the Commission agreed to reverse the order of items 4 and 5 of the revised provisional agenda as presented in document E/ECWA/55/Rev.1, and to discuss the problem of the brain drain under item 8 instead of item 6 (a) of the agenda.

25. The Commission also agreed to include under item 13 of the revised provisional agenda two sub-items, one on the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (proposed by the secretariat) and another on the participation of the Commission in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (proposed by the Jordanian delegation).

26. The Commission also considered a proposal to include in the agenda of the session an item on the establishment of a regional training centre for the use of computer technology for development and decided to defer this matter until a later session when the necessary documents for fruitful discussions would be available.

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<sup>1/</sup> Mr. Walid Kamhawi was elected as the third Vice-Chairman during the seventh plenary session in accordance with Rule 72 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure which permitted the suspension of Rule 12 of these procedures until the end of the fifth session.

27. The Commission then adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of the work of the session
5. Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the fifth session of the Commission
6. Report on the activities of the Commission since the fourth session
  - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme
  - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission
  - (c) Report on the 1978-1979 Programme Budget
7. The financial status of the Commission's programmes and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund
  - (a) Report of the Executive Secretary on the financial status of programmes of the Commission since the fourth session
  - (b) Financial statement on the Voluntary Fund
8. Migration of manpower from the countries of Western Asia to the developed countries
9. The Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology
10. Adoption of the 1980-1983 Medium-Term Plan
11. Establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission
12. Interim reports on the Commission's headquarters
  - (a) Report on the permanent headquarters at Baghdad, Iraq
  - (b) Report on the temporary headquarters at Beirut, Lebanon
13. Other business
  - (a) The Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in the countries of the ECWA Region
  - (b) Report on the participation of ECWA in the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development
14. Annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations  
not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity  
in the fifth session of the Commission

28. The Commission adopted a proposal to invite the States Members of the United Nations listed in document E/ECWA/61/Rev.1, which were not members of the Commission, to participate in a consultative capacity in the fifth session. The delegation of Saudi Arabia expressed reservations regarding the list of States included in the above document. The Commission also adopted a proposal, made by the delegation of Saudi Arabia in document E/ECWA/61/Rev.2/Add.1, to invite the representative of the Islamic World League in Mecca to attend the Commission's sessions and to participate in their subsidiary meetings as a consultant observer.

Report on the activities of the Commission since the fourth session

29. The Executive Secretary introduced this item of the agenda and mentioned that the Commission's work during the period went beyond the activities carried out under the work programme, as reflected in document E/ECWA/57, to include achievements made in connexion with certain deferred projects in the 1976-1977 work programme together with activities undertaken at the request of the governments of member States. In this connexion he drew attention to the Commission's reports on the ECWA Documentation Centre (E/ECWA/57/Add.1) and the Brain Drain: causes, consequences and remedies (E/ECWA/57/Add.2). He indicated, however, that as the Commission had decided to include an item in the agenda of this session on the migration of manpower from the countries of Western Asia to the developed countries, the problem of the brain drain would be examined under that item. He also drew attention to document (E/ECWA/59) which summarized the action taken to implement the resolutions adopted by the Commission at previous sessions. In this connexion he referred to reports covering follow-up action on "Regional Co-operation and Co-ordination" (E/ECWA/59/Add.1), "The Practices of Transnational Corporations in the Oil Industry in the Region" (E/ECWA/59/Add.2), the "Economic Survey of the Countries of the Economic Commission for Western Asia" (E/ECWA/59/Add.3) and the "Study of the Economic and Social Situation and Potential of the Palestinian Arab People" (E/ECWA/59/Add.4). He also made reference to the modifications recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) of the General Assembly in the



resource requirements for the 1978-1979 Programme of Work and Priorities of the Commission as adopted at its fourth session (E/ECWA/60).

30. The Commission decided to separately examine each of the three sub-items of this agenda as follows:

(a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme

31. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasized the need for a greater co-ordination of efforts within ECWA and between ECWA and other organizations in order to avoid duplication. He commended the work carried out so far on development trends and prospects in selected ECWA countries and expected subsequent work to provide the basis for establishing links between the economies of the region and the rest of the world. He emphasized the importance of statistics and urged member governments to provide the necessary statistical information. With respect to the proposed ECWA Documentation Centre, he noted that document E/ECWA/57/Add. had not fully examined all aspects of the subject and that the proposed activities, such as the establishment of a data bank and the preparation of statistics on manpower, were consistent with the work of the Statistics Unit of ECWA. He added that it was necessary to establish the organic links needed between the proposed operations of the Centre and the activities of ECWA divisions and units. Concerning the documentation of the session, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic indicated that the documents should be prepared in Arabic and then translated into English. This was especially necessary when dealing with such complicated subjects as science and technology. He drew attention to the fact that the Commission's report contained no mention of the achievements made in the Syrian Arab Republic with regard to the project for the establishment of a computer centre and he emphasized the need to ascertain the feasibility of projects prior to their adoption.

32. In his observations on the implementation of the Commission's work programme the representative of Iraq noted that the reporting period only covered activities carried out up to March 1978. He commended the Commission's work on long-term development trends and its active involvement in the preparation for and organization of the International Development Conference on the First Five Year Development Plan of the Yemen Arab Republic and expressed hope that similar arrangements would be made to also cover other countries. He supported the activities of the subregional training programme in public finance and administration (PROPFAD) and recommended that efforts should be made to ensure its continuation and that the scope of its

services be expanded to cover other countries of the region. He requested that the workshop on "Budget-Plan Harmonization in Countries of Western Asia" be financed from ECWA's budget.

33. The representative of Iraq stated that in the field of agriculture Iraq attached great importance to food security and agricultural integration, that studies on these topics should examine the situation in the region as a whole and that in the area of natural resources, special emphasis needed to be given to the development of water resources. He attached importance and urgency to the studies on energy and requested that closer co-operation with the Organization of Arab Petroleum Countries (OAPEC) be established.

34. With respect to the implementation of the work programme, the representative of Iraq indicated that it would be preferable to specify the timetable for the different stages of implementation and achievements. This was particularly relevant to projects that were likely to take a relatively longer time to complete. More attention should be devoted to the study of the economic and social impact of the operations of transnational corporations.

35. In the field of population, the representative of Iraq noted that no study had been undertaken on Arab manpower and indicated that the assistance of member States could be secured in conducting the study. He emphasized the need for more training in demography and suggested that training exercises similar to the one to be carried out in Amman, Jordan, be organized in other countries of the region.

36. With respect to the report on the establishment of the ECWA Documentation Centre, the representative of Iraq supported the proposal to convene an expert group meeting to discuss various aspects of the subject and indicated Iraq's readiness to assist.

37. The representative of Egypt stated that the study on long-term trends was an important effort but that it would be quite sometime before the final output would be made available. He suggested that resort should be made to alternative methods and models where the statistical requisites were not too elaborate and difficult to obtain. He indicated that these and other studies should be discussed with the Governments and some of the regional organizations, such as the Council of Arab Economic Unity, before they were finalized in order to ensure co-ordination.

38. The representative of Jordan noted with satisfaction the trend towards field studies and studies on specific issues instead of general reports and studies. He commended the role of ECWA in the International Development Conference on the First Five Year Development Plan of the Yemen Arab Republic, as a good example of the field work being undertaken by ECWA. He emphasized the efforts which were jointly underway between Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic towards achieving agricultural integration and attached considerable importance to them, particularly as the region was a net importer of food. He indicated that this endeavour was a good example of regional co-operation and integration.

39. Regarding the Documentation Centre, the representative of Jordan stated that more accurate information should be provided on the cost of its establishment and on practical steps to be taken to secure the required resources.

(b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission

40. The representative of Iraq, in his remarks on this sub-item, noted the delays in the implementation of some of the resolutions and requested an explanation. Regarding the programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region, he indicated that the programme should ensure adequate financial resources and that a resolution was needed on the subject. With respect to regional co-operation in the field of water resources, he reiterated the special attention given by Iraq to the importance of water resources not only for agriculture but also for industrial and other purposes and urged the secretariat to intensify its efforts in this vital field. Regarding the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, he commended the services provided by the secretariat to assist the Lebanese Government in its post-war efforts and urged that such services be continued and the necessary financial resources secured in order to assist in carrying out the reconstruction programme.

41. On regional co-operation and co-ordination, the representative of Iraq drew the attention of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council resolution on strengthening the regional commissions which authorized them to act as executing agencies of the United Nations Development Programme, with the approval of the governments concerned. He also requested the secretariat to identify regional projects for implementation by the Commission and to submit a report thereon to the next session of the Commission. He also requested the secretariat to delineate areas of importance to the Commission in connexion with the restructuring of the United Nations system. He noted that ECWA was not represented at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires in September 1978.

42. On co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa, he noted that not much co-ordination was recorded inspite of the similar nature of the problems confronting the countries of the two regions. Regarding the practices of trans-national corporations (TNCs) in the oil industry in the region, he inquired about the interim nature of the report submitted in this connexion and pointed out its shortcomings. Referring to national oil companies, he expressed reservations on the statement that the activities of national oil companies were rarely integrated. He added that the oil industry in Iraq was well integrated and that the same was true of a number of countries, such as the Syrian Arab Republic. These countries had extended assistance in various areas of the oil sector to other countries, both within and outside the region. He further added that the scope of the study should be extended to deal also with such matters as the restrictive business and financial practices of the TNCs, their illegal practices and the extent on the returns of their invested capital.

43. Concerning the Economic Survey of the ECWA Countries, the representative of Iraq indicated that the resolution had not been fully implemented and urged that every effort be made to ensure its full implementation. He noted that the Survey contained data only up to 1976 and had shortcomings in statistics related to such areas as growth, mining and quarrying, oil and planning of financial resources. Regarding statistics on financial assistance and loans extended by oil-producing countries of the region to developing countries, he suggested that reference could have been made to the publications of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) instead of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

44. The representative of Iraq noted a marked deficiency in the implementation of the resolutions on the study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people and the census of the Palestinian Arab people. Despite the long period of time, no tangible progress had been recorded in this connexion. He urged all member countries to assist ECWA in the implementation of these studies and expressed Iraq's readiness to assist in this respect.

45. The representative of Egypt emphasized the need to strengthen co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa. Before adopting any resolution, he suggested the Commission should study the feasibility of their implementation and, in doing this, be realistic and practical. On the practices of TNCs in the oil industry, he

said that the study should address itself to the redistribution of investments in the oil-producing Arab countries, particularly in the light of international efforts to secure alternative sources of energy.

46. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization commended the Commission for its efforts and work to assist the countries and peoples of the region, stating that these efforts needed to be intensified in order to achieve the desired goals. He went on to say that the two resolutions adopted by the Commission on the census of the Palestinian Arab people and the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people remained until now only on paper and urged that renewed efforts be made to implement these resolutions.

47. The representative of Jordan noted that the latest developments were not reflected in the follow-up report. He stressed that priority should be given to developing a framework for co-operation at the regional level and stated that it was time for ECWA to play a co-ordinating role at the regional level in conjunction with the League of Arab States and the Council of Arab Economic Unity, as there were a number of areas that required co-ordination. The Commission also needed to devise a formula to co-ordinate its work with the projects financed by the Arab funds.

48. The representative of Jordan, while commending the Economic Survey, stated that he would have liked to also see a descriptive and analytical presentation of the economic structures and development stages of the countries of the region over a span of time to allow comparison. In this, the development goals of member countries could have been enumerated in order to allow evaluation of achievements and progress. He had some reservations on the economic and financial statistical indices used in the preparation of the document.

49. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic commenting on this sub-item indicated that co-ordination was a difficult task although ECWA had made commendable efforts to achieve this objective. However, further efforts were still needed in this direction. He referred to two specific areas where co-ordination was necessary, namely statistical bulletins and training programmes. Regarding the practices of TNCs in the oil industry, he suggested that the study should also look into TNCs' policies concerning oil production and the development of alternative sources of energy.

50. On the Economic Survey, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic noted the existence of wide differences when using current and fixed prices which he

attributed to different systems and concepts in use in the countries of the region. These needed to be unified and ECWA could fruitfully address itself to this technical issue. He also indicated that changes in national income indicators should also be taken into consideration when examining prices and inflationary pressures.

(c) Report on the 1978-1979 Programme Budget

51. Regarding this sub-item of the agenda, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic stated that document (E/ECWA/60) did not give an adequate explanation concerning the resources spent so far and the allocation of expenses among projects. Specific amounts should be earmarked for each project in order to ensure its effective completion; otherwise, the resources might be scattered over a large number of projects. In reference to the financial difficulties which had prevented completion of the study on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people, he emphasized the importance of the project and said that ECWA should find ways and means of completing the study.

52. The representative of Iraq supported the views of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic with regard to the allocation of resources to specific projects such as the study on the Palestinian Arab people.

53. The representative of the Yemen Arab Republic proposed the inclusion of a new project in the Programme Budget aimed at the establishment of a centre to assist the member States in conducting project feasibility studies. He recalled the activities of ECWA which had benefited Yemen, including assistance in holding the Yemen International Development Conference, assistance in the development of national accounts and other statistical information and training in financial management through PROPFAD. Regarding the latter project, he referred to the comments of the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq that the training services should be extended to all member States and stressed that its operations be carried through to 1979 and beyond.

54. Following discussion on this item, the Executive Secretary replied to a number of questions and observations raised during the discussion. He explained that the secretariat was bound by the Work Programme adopted by the Commission and could not change the nature of the studies therein nor add to them. This applied to the study of the brain drain phenomenon. Concerning the question of measures to ensure that resolutions adopted could be implemented, he stated that this was the Commission's

responsibility. He also affirmed that the difficulties which had so far impeded the implementation of the two resolutions on the Palestinian people did not originate in the secretariat.

55. In reply to the queries and observations concerning the activities of the Development Planning Division, the secretariat stated that studies would be prepared on the design of planning models and alternate models for the countries of the region and that these studies would specify the grounds upon which they were based. These studies would respond to the directives of the Work Programme and the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning the development strategy for the Third Decade. The projections and forecasts to be prepared would remain simple and they would be derived from the actual situation and development plans of the member countries. Concerning the programme on transnational corporations, the secretariat explained that, following the period covered by the progress report on the implementation of the Work Programme, information gathering covered all the member States and not just Lebanon. The study on transnational corporations was in hand and would take into consideration the studies conducted thereon by United Nations organizations, including the ILO. Within the limits of the relevant information and data available, the study would examine the conformity of the practices of the transnational corporations with the laws and regulations of the countries of the region and would endeavour to include a number of financial analyses and comparisons. In the area of international trade and development, the secretariat pointed out that contacts had been established for the purpose of co-ordination and co-operation with the relevant Arab organizations, particularly the CAEU and the League of Arab States. Concerning the economic survey of the countries of Western Asia, the secretariat had relied on statistics from the documents of member States and international organizations made available to it. The secretariat would welcome any written corrections received from member countries. The observation in the last chapter of the survey that the greatest challenge facing the countries of the region, namely the maximization of industrialization, was a subject that was open to discussion, even though the intention of the study was to concentrate on a problem derived from the actual circumstances of the majority of the member countries without detracting from the importance of other sectors.

56. Concerning the activities of the Statistics Unit, the secretariat pointed out that the work of this Unit was not limited to national accounts but included two types of statistics. The first was current statistics, which covered various statistical

areas in the countries of the region and which were published in the Annual Statistical Abstract. The other type consisted of specialized statistical surveys. In addition to national accounts, which had received major attention, these specialized surveys included other areas such as prices, the cost of living and statistical organization. As for the dispersion of statistical activity among various divisions and the fact that it was not all concentrated in the Statistics Unit, the explanation was that the Unit was still new. It was hoped that the Unit would gradually replace the different divisions in the collection of statistics and become the principal source for all published statistics in ECWA. The Statistics Unit would endeavour to avoid duplication of effort in its statistical publications and activities.

57. With respect to the Water Conference, the secretariat indicated that in the preparatory regional meeting held at Baghdad in December 1976, a resolution was adopted which called for the establishment of a Regional Council for Water Resources which was later reflected in the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the subject. At the fourth session of the Commission the secretariat was requested to contact member States to ascertain whether they wanted to join such a Council. Contacts made had brought only few responses. Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution on Water Resources, it was decided to hold a regional preparatory meeting before the end of the year in order to follow up the recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference and to discuss the question of the proposed Water Resources Council. Contacts had been established with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a view to the Kingdom's hosting of this meeting and the secretariat was awaiting an official reply in this regard.

58. Regarding the proposal to establish a computer centre in the Syrian Arab Republic, the secretariat indicated that, following an examination of the issue, it had been decided that ECWA would prepare a study on technology and computers and that the proposed project should be postponed until the study was completed. Concerning energy, the first draft of the study on energy forecasts in the region had been completed. It was in the process of being finalized and would be sent to member States for their views. A second study had been initiated on energy institutions in the region and was expected to be completed in the early part of 1979. Preparatory work was also underway for a conference on energy to be held in 1979. In all of these the secretariat had maintained close contacts with OAPEC.



59. On the question of the need for regional studies on food security and co-operation and integration in agriculture, the secretariat indicated that there were two fundamental considerations: first, that the significance of these studies extended beyond the national or regional level to apply to the Arab world as a whole; second, there were some regional organizations such as the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and international organizations such as FAO, which were involved in dealing with these issues throughout the Arab world.

60. Regarding the need for training programmes in the field of population and demography, the secretariat indicated that there were regional United Nations demographic centres in Cairo and Budapest which provided training programmes and the secretariat had assisted member States and individuals to benefit from these programmes, select universities and obtain scholarships. In carrying out activities under the population programme, efforts had been made to strike a balance between the compilation and dissemination of information on the one hand and analysis on the other with priority being given to demographic analysis. Regarding the Census of the Palestinian Arab people, the secretariat indicated that it had done all it was required to do in this respect. The resolution, in fact, had called for action which was not provided for in the programme budget. A project document for a plan of action had been prepared along with the cost estimates.

The financial status of the Commission's programmes  
and the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund

61. The Deputy Executive Secretary introduced this item of the agenda which was in response to ECWA resolution 45 (IV) requesting the Executive Secretary to submit a financial report for the period between the sessions. It also stipulated submission by the Executive Secretary of a financial statement on the Voluntary Fund for the approval of the Commission at each session. Document E/ECWA/63 was submitted, in accordance with these provisions, on the financial status of the Commission's programmes, the sources of such financing and the Executive Secretary's proposals regarding the strengthening of the financial resources of the Commission.

62. The Commission's attention was drawn to the difficulty of obtaining additional resources from the regular budget of the United Nations, in view of the fact that the General Assembly had reduced the proposed budget of the Commission for the biennium

1978-1979 by over a quarter of a million dollars, thus increasing the Commission's difficulties in the achievement of its Work Programme. Concerning the provision of financial resources for the Voluntary Fund, he stated that the results of the Executive Secretary's contacts with member States had not been very productive financially. However, they were encouraging from the moral point of view since some of the member States had expressed readiness to contribute symbolic amounts to the Fund as a gesture of their concern for the Commission's work programmes. The Executive Secretary referred to the interest of a number of States Members of the United Nations from outside the region - the Netherlands in particular - and their readiness, in principle, to participate in the work programmes of the Commission. He concluded by suggesting that the Commission might see fit to change the name of the Voluntary Fund in order to avoid the ambiguity that might occasionally arise concerning the nature of the activities of the Fund as a result of this designation. The purpose of establishing the Voluntary Fund was to obtain additional financial resources from outside the budget of the United Nations in order to carry out specific activities of the Commission and not to compete with existing "funds".

63. The representative of Egypt inquired whether the resources of the Voluntary Fund came from regular annual contributions or from ad hoc contributions, pointing out that this had a bearing on the number of posts financed from the Fund.

64. The representative of Iraq suggested that the secretariat might in the future wish to present the budget to a sub-committee of the member States before submitting it to the General Assembly of the United Nations. He also indicated that some of the activities financed from the Voluntary Fund should have been financed from the regular budget of the United Nations.

65. The representative of Kuwait stated that his country's delegation had already asked the secretariat to prepare a statement describing the composition of the secretariat and the posts filled on its manning table. The purpose was to promote the utilization of available expertise and to estimate the needs of the region in terms of the different specialized disciplines.

66. The representative of Jordan endorsed the idea of changing the name of the Voluntary Fund so as to avoid the confusion that might arise from its present name and noted that his Government was in the process of studying the possibility of contributing to the Fund.

67. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic also stated that his Government intended to contribute to the Voluntary Fund.

68. A number of delegates wanted to know what additional posts requested by the Commission were approved and what posts were rejected so as to follow up the matter in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Most of the delegations also agreed to change the name of the Voluntary Fund and called upon the secretariat to submit proposals on the subject.

69. Following the deliberation of the Commission on this agenda item, the secretariat presented a number of clarifications and responses to some of the queries and observations raised during the discussion. Regarding the financing of some projects from the Voluntary Fund instead of from the regular budget, the secretariat replied that the regular budget could not even cover all the activities included in the Work Programme of the Commission and that, therefore, resort had to be made to the Voluntary Fund in order to finance activities not included on the Commission's Work Programme but requested by countries of the region. As for the proposal to present the budget to a sub-committee of member States prior to its submission to the General Assembly of the United Nations, it was pointed out that the rules and regulations of the United Nations did not permit this procedure. In answer to the question on the composition of the Commission's secretariat and its personnel, attention was drawn to the reports issued by the Fifth Committee following discussion of the personnel issues and it was stated that these reports contained detailed information on the Secretariat of the United Nations, including ECWA. The secretariat further noted that this information was very accurate and detailed and that it was classified according to the subjects that concerned the member States - including geographic distribution and the grade, level and age of all staff members. In order to avoid any confusion concerning the activities of the Voluntary Fund, the secretariat proposed changing the name to the "Financial Contributions Account". The Commission approved the proposal. The representative of Saudi Arabia subsequently announced that his country would be contributing the amount of three hundred thousand United States dollars to this account.

Migration of manpower from the countries of Western Asia  
to the developed countries

70. The Commission discussed this item of the agenda on the basis of the study contained in document E/ECWA/57/Add.2.

71. The representative of Jordan indicated his country's special concern with the issue of the migration of manpower and suggested the implementation, at regional level, of the proposal submitted by H.R.H. Prince Hassan to the International Labour Organisation in June 1977 regarding the establishment of an international voluntary fund to compensate for the migration of manpower, to which countries benefiting from this migration would contribute and invest their resources in projects of benefit to the labour exporting countries. He mentioned that the study was included in the Commission's work programme and appeared as an ECWA document although the Commission was not responsible for its content since it was prepared by a consultant from outside the secretariat. He went on to say that, in accordance with the request of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, which was one of the contributors to the Commission's Financial Contributions Account, the scope of the study had been enlarged to include the movement of highly qualified personnel among the countries of Western Asia. He emphasized that the criteria used in the study to measure the brain drain within the Arab States were different from those used to measure this brain drain to other parts of the world and that a radical change had taken place in the character of labour migrations among the Arab States with regard to the significance of their socio-economic consequences both in the labour-exporting and the labour-importing countries.

72. The representative of Iraq made a number of observations concerning the statistical basis of the study, the causes of the brain drain and the policies pursued to reduce the seriousness of this phenomenon. He referred to the possibility of improving the statistical data used in the study and the need for a more thorough analysis of the causes, especially those of a psychological and social nature, which induce skilled Arab manpower to migrate. He added that the study did, however, contain a number of basic priorities that could be adopted and hoped that the study of the migration of manpower within the Arab States would be continued. With regard to the establishment of a regional institution to compensate for the migration of labour, he pointed out the importance of taking into account the endeavours of the Arab Labour Organization in this respect.

73. The representative of the Yemen Arab Republic stressed that the problem was not confined to the migration of technical personnel but also included skilled and unskilled labour. He mentioned that the implementation of development projects in Yemen, which was a basic exporter of unskilled labour, had been adversely affected by the migration of Yemeni workers which had made it necessary, in certain cases, to recruit labour from outside the country.

74. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic noted that, in addition to the issue of the brain drain to other parts of the world, the study also dealt with the brain drain within the region and that it was not confined to highly qualified personnel but also included other kinds of labour. He pointed out that the study did not deal with the reverse trends in the brain drain and stressed the need to study future trends in this field in view of their important consequences for the development process in member States. He proposed that a field survey be conducted to assess the Arab States' needs for various specialists on the basis of their development plans and that a further field study be conducted to determine the type of specialists available and the extent to which they meet development requirements in the Arab States, which would enable studies to be prepared at regional level, or for the Arab States as a whole, with the aim of establishing a balance between needs and potential. He was in favour of a continuation of the study on the brain drain provided that this was undertaken within two independent contexts: the brain drain from the countries of Western Asia to other parts of the world and the migration of labour among the countries of Western Asia; and that a study also be made of the phenomenon of the reverse trend in the brain drain and the migration of labour.

75. The representative of the United Arab Emirates supported the proposal of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic that the study should be undertaken within two separate contexts and stressed the importance of studying the brain drain and migration of labour within the region in all its economic, social and political aspects.

76. The representative of Egypt stressed the significance of the psychological and social factors in the brain drain and the need to distinguish between temporary and permanent migration. He added that, in the event of the Commission's approving the study, emphasis should be placed on an analysis of the policies adopted by countries of the region to curb the brain drain.

77. In connexion with the brain drain and migration of labour to the Gulf States the representative of Kuwait stated that this movement had taken place either as a result of bilateral agreements, Arab national motives or personal reasons, and she wondered whether the study would be adopted by the Commission and issued in its name, in which case there would be ample opportunity to improve it by the incorporation of new information to make it more useful and comprehensive. She added that the topic of the study was a complex one with political, economic and social ramifications. She proposed that the member States should approach the study from the standpoints most appropriate to their own circumstances and that, if it was intended to widen the scope of the study, this should be done in accordance with clear and well defined principles and aims.

78. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization confirmed the need for a clear definition of objectives in the event of the study being continued or its scope being widened. He pointed out that the division dealing with the Palestinian brain drain in the study had not utilized all the available information. He also referred to the enforced migration of Palestinian workers from the occupied territories as a result of the practices of the occupying authorities and their exploitation of the workers.

79. The discussion showed that opinion was unanimous on the value of the study, the importance of the subject and its close connexion with socio-economic development in the region. There was general agreement regarding the need to separate the problem of the brain drain to the developed countries from the question of the migration of labour of various categories among the countries of the region since the first issue represented a definite loss to the region while the second issue was a fundamental factor in regional co-operation and contributed to the development of the region as a whole. There was also partial unanimity on the need to supplement the study in order to cover aspects which might have been overlooked or given insufficient attention, in particular the up-dating of the statistical data, the incorporation of future trends in the brain drain and fuller treatment of the issue of the Palestinian brain drain to other parts of the world.

80. The Executive Secretary clarified certain points raised during the discussion. He stated that the study formed part of the Commission's work programme and that certain Arab funds had expressed a desire for its scope to be widened to cover all the Arab States, which could be achieved by co-operating with the Economic Commission

for Africa in regard to the brain drain from the Arab countries located in the African continent. He noted that the study remained the responsibility of the consultant who prepared it although it could become an ECWA study after account was taken of the comments made during the discussion, which would require the allocation of the necessary funds, and that such allocation would have to be discussed during the examination of the Commission's future budget. He added that the study had another objective, namely the compilation of a roster giving the number and type of highly qualified Arab personnel residing abroad, and that, in this respect, the secretariat had made numerous endeavours that had not yet borne fruit.

The Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology

81. The secretariat presented the course of action it had followed in implementing the Commission's resolution 51 (IV) which called for the examination of the possibility of establishing a regional centre for the transfer and development of technology. The secretariat also briefly described the draft feasibility study it had prepared and the procedure it had followed in its preparation (E/ECWA/66, E/ECWA/67 and E/ECWA/68).

82. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic endorsed the idea of establishing the proposed Centre in view of the many benefits that all the Arab countries stood to derive from it. He proposed that the Centre adopt a decentralized form of organization, i.e., that it be composed of a number of specialized regional centres situated in different Arab countries and linked to the Centre's general administration, which would co-ordinate their activities vis-à-vis each other and vis-à-vis their respective national, regional and international counterparts. He also stressed that while the Syrian delegation proposed this concept, it did not consider it a substitute for the Commission's study, but rather a supplementary measure that could be implemented following the establishment of the Regional Centre.

83. The representative of Jordan supported the observations of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and emphasized the importance of making a decision that would accelerate the establishment of the proposed Centre in the light of the meetings that were held in Amman and Cairo for this purpose.

84. The representative of Kuwait asked if the resolutions of past meetings were to be considered the established base for accepting the idea of the Centre and inquired

as to the reason for convening a meeting of ministers concerned with science and technology. She added that it might be preferable to refer this study and the whole subject of establishing the Centre to the secretariat of the League of Arab States for decision. She also declared that the delegation of Kuwait was not authorized to make a decision on establishing the Centre, given the importance of the subject and the financial commitment involved in its establishment.

85. The representatives of Qatar, the U.A.E. and Saudi Arabia stated that they had no authority from their Governments to take a decision regarding the establishment of the Centre. The delegation of Saudi Arabia affirmed its support, in principle only, for the establishment of the Centre, requested a modification of the feasibility study and also expressed interest in the subject of co-operation between the regional Centre and the various national centres.

86. The representative of Egypt pointed to the objectivity and comprehensiveness of the study and asserted that the recommendations and resolutions that might be adopted on the establishment of the Centre ought to be founded on a realistic view of the feasibility of their implementation, including the acquisition of the necessary financing and the guarantee of continuity.

87. The representative of Iraq made a number of observations. He stated that, according to the form in which the feasibility study appeared, the Centre was to rely fundamentally on the principle of commercial profit in its operations as well as in its financing. What was needed, however, was the establishment of a Centre to assist the Arab countries with their requirements in the field of the transfer and adaptation of technology, unencumbered by financial implications which might over-burden those countries that possessed limited resources. He also indicated that the all-inclusive nature of the Centre's proposed activities would turn it into a planning and development centre and an educational and training institution with activities resembling those of other Arab and regional centres and organizations. He added that it was necessary for the activities of the Centre to be concentrated on the transfer and adaptation of technology, working on the principle of close co-ordination and co-operation with Arab regional organizations and bodies. The representative of Iraq also stated that the proposed Centre should support the countries of the region in strengthening and developing their national organizations, and should endeavour to integrate its activities with theirs. He pointed out that the study had neglected the scientific research institutions and academies of the



countries of the region and the need to establish ways and means of co-operation with them. He noted, moreover, that the feasibility study did not reveal the proportion of short-term projects as they appeared in the draft feasibility study submitted to the Second Interagency Meeting, which met in Beirut from 27 February to 1 March 1978, and that the study had overlooked the area of research and development which had been considered at that meeting.

88. The representative of Iraq also expressed the opinion that the Centre's administration should be limited to its member Arab countries and that the Arab funds and organizations should be given a secondary role therein. As for the privileges proposed for the Centre and for its staff, these ought not to exceed those granted to international and Arab regional organizations. While the representative of Iraq admitted that the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology was essential, he saw, at the same time, a need to redraft the study in the light of the opinions, guidelines and reservations expressed by the member countries of the Commission, including the reservations on the proposed sample study topics, particularly the one related to the Arab defense industry which had been discussed at previous meetings.

89. The representative of the Abu Dhabi Fund indicated that it was necessary to correct a statement made on the proposed Centre in the report of the ECWA Joint Meeting of the Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations concerning support for the idea of the Centre and participation in its financing. He explained that the Fund supported the establishment of the Centre in principle, but that it had not made any decision regarding participation in the Centre's financing.

90. After discussion of this item, the secretariat explained that the plan of action being followed, including the meetings held to examine the possibility of establishing the Centre, conformed to the spirit of the resolution taken by the Commission at its fourth session, which called for the closest possible association of all interested United Nations and Arab regional organizations and Governments in the preparation of the study. The secretariat also asserted that, from the start, it wanted the Commission to have the final authority on deciding whether the proposed Centre would be established. Thus, all the resolutions on the Centre were passed in the form of recommendations, to be placed before the present session. Furthermore, in reply to a question on certain financial and operational aspects of implementing

the Centre project (if its establishment should be decided), the secretariat stated that part of its plan of action was to submit the relevant recommendations proposed at this session to a meeting attended by representatives of the approving Governments and of the Arab funds and organizations. That meeting would decide on the Centre's structure, its sources of financing and other measures needed for launching it. The secretariat of the Commission also noted that, in accordance with contacts made with the secretariat of the League of Arab States, the subject of the Centre's financing would be submitted to the League's Economic and Social Council following completion of the final draft of the study.

91. The secretariat also pointed out that the privileges proposed for the Centre and its staff were not intended to exceed the privileges granted by the Arab States to Arab and international organizations operating on their territory. In reference to the objection made by the representative of the Abu Dhabi Fund regarding the report of the Joint Meeting of Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations on the Centre, the secretariat explained that it was not possible to correct the record since it had been adopted with no objections. The secretariat promised, however, to take the position of the representative of the Fund into consideration when preparing the revised version of the feasibility study.

92. The secretariat then stated that one of the activities of the Centre described in the study was that of assisting in the design and development of specialized research and development centres in the Arab countries but that the decision concerning the links between the proposed Regional Centre and these national centres would be left to the Regional Centre's General Assembly.

93. Commenting on the observation about the commercial features of the Centre, the secretariat explained that the intention was that the payments made in return for Centre services would cover the actual costs of these services and not achieve commercial profits. This was a common practice at a number of regional organizations, such as IDCAS. The costs of services rendered to countries with limited financial resources, however, could be covered by Arab development funds.

94. The secretariat, mentioning the sample topics for study by the Centre given in the feasibility study, pointed out that these had been listed as examples only and that the Centre was under no obligation to implement them all at once. The details would be left to the Centre's General Assembly and to its Governing Board.

95. The secretariat stated that the proposed activities of the Centre included the need for co-operation with Arab centres at the national and the regional levels, and gave priority to the role of the Centre as co-ordinator and complementary partner of the institutions working in the fields of research and development, planning and the adaptation and development of technology. The secretariat considered that the participation of Arab development funds in the constituent assembly of the Centre was imperative because of the close links between these funds and development programmes. This would not diminish the role of the Arab Governments but would give them the necessary back-up as long as the funds remained subject to their control.

96. In connexion with the observation concerning the proportion of short-term projects, which accounted for 86 per cent of the activities of the proposed Centre, the secretariat referred to Table 3 of the study where each activity was classified according to level of effort and manpower required, together with the priority of such efforts in the work programme. The secretariat confirmed, however, that these concepts were liable to modification by the Centre's General Assembly which had been assigned the task of determining the priorities and the importance of each activity in due course.

97. The secretariat explained that most of the officials interviewed by the two missions visiting the member States stressed that research and development should not be included among the Centre's activities and that this area should be left to Arab specialized centres. Nevertheless, the study indicated the possibility of reviewing this matter together with that of other unspecified activities after three years from the date of the Centre's establishment, in the light of current developments. With regard to the listing of the defense industry with other possible study topics, the secretariat explained that there was a difference of opinion among those who had discussed the feasibility study regarding the exclusion or inclusion of this topic, especially in the light of information stating that this industry was still run by foreigners in the Arab World. The secretariat nevertheless affirmed that the sample topics were no more than lists of examples to assist the Centre's General Assembly in selecting studies which, in its opinion, were essential and significant.

Adoption of the 1980-1983 Medium-Term Plan

98. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item and explained that the Plan (document E/ECWA/56) represented the policy framework for the Commission's 1980-1983 programmes and, after its adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations, would constitute the basis for the preparation of the 1980-1981 programme budget. He stated that the secretariat regarded the concentration of the Commission's resources on a lesser number of sub-programmes than in previous plans as an important step towards the achievement of greater effectiveness. He added, however, that the Plan did not meet the requirements of General Assembly resolution 197 (XXXII) in connexion with the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, nor did it reflect the international development strategy being prepared for the eighties. The secretariat realized, therefore, the importance of maintaining a sufficient degree of flexibility in the Plan to take account of such issues when preparing the 1980-1981 programme budget. He drew attention to the proposals contained in document E/ECWA/56/Add.1 regarding the inclusion of a programme for cartographic development and co-operation in this field among the member States owing to the importance of this issue from the point of view of the region and the secretariat.

99. The representative of Iraq made a number of observations on the content of the Plan. In connexion with economic co-operation and integration he noted that greater emphasis was placed on industry than on other sectors such as agriculture and regional trade. He pointed out the close relationship between rural development and prevailing agricultural systems and drew attention to the fact that the diversity of these systems among member States would impede the implementation of the Plan. He went on to say that, with regard to food security, what was required was the formulation of a plan, in conjunction with the member States, to define priorities rather than the undertaking of studies on the existing situation and that the formulation of a plan for the transfer of technology to the countries of the region had been made subject to the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology and priority had been accorded in the Plan to the establishment of this Centre. He inquired as to why the statistical plan concentrated on only two fields, namely national accounts and prices, and neglected the analysis of statistical data. He added that the Plan made no reference to the methods that would be adopted to improve the capabilities of member States in the

field of statistics since training alone was insufficient. With regard to human settlement he thought that it would be more appropriate to concentrate on specific projects in conjunction with existing organizations in the member States rather than on the collection of data. In the field of housing also more emphasis was placed on demographic data collection than on manpower. He pointed out that in the field of public finance and administration the Plan had overlooked administrative development which was an important factor in view of the acute shortage of qualified personnel from which the region was suffering in this respect. The representative of Iraq concluded by stating that the document under discussion did not constitute a plan so much as a work programme which the Commission would endeavour to carry out.

100. The representative of Kuwait hoped that the reduction of the number of sub-programmes in the present Plan would lead to better results and that the Plan would concentrate its attention on useful national or joint projects and also on regional integration in contrast to the previous plans which had put greater emphasis on economic analyses and studies and data collection. She welcomed the concern shown in the Plan for the various aspects of economic integration and called upon the Commission to suggest ways of implementing the recommendations and proposals made at seminars and incorporated in the studies on food security in the region. She hoped that there would be co-ordination between the Commission and the provisional secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment that would be based in Kuwait.

101. The representative of Jordan drew attention to the need for flexible interpretation of the Plan to allow new developments to be assimilated. He indicated the importance of the proposed inclusion in the Plan of a programme for development and co-operation in the field of cartography in the ECWA region where existing institutions were still suffering from an acute shortage of specialists in this important field.

102. The secretariat replied to the observations and queries raised during the discussion and explained that the Plan constituted a general framework for the orientation of the Commission's activities during a specific period rather than a plan in the generally accepted sense of the term and that it concentrated on a number of fundamental issues. With regard to regional co-operation, the Plan was not solely concerned with industry but also covered other fields such as agriculture and the development of trade relations among the countries of the region. In

connexion with food security, it was essential that the formulation of any regional or country plan be preceded by the necessary studies. The concern with the issue of the transfer of technology was apparent from the activities due to be undertaken within the period of the Plan. In the case of statistics, the activities in the Plan were distributed between data collection, the preparation of specialized studies, statistical organization and training. The secretariat hoped that it would be able to increase its effectiveness in the field of human settlement by the provision of guidance through a regional adviser to be appointed in due course. With regard to the emphasis placed on financial issues in the development finance and administration programme, this was due to the shortage of funds allocated to this programme. The secretariat would endeavour, however, to strike a balance between the two parts of the programme.

#### Establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Commission

103. In introducing agenda item 11, the Executive Secretary referred to document E/ECWA/58 on the subject and stated that the practice of resorting to subsidiary bodies had been used in various degrees in other regional commissions which had been in existence for a long time. He pointed out that the secretariat was of the opinion that the activities of the Commission would soon reach a momentum which would require the establishment of such bodies. However, instead of creating such bodies in an ad hoc manner, it was necessary to review, in a comprehensive way, the need for setting up subsidiary bodies including their type and number, terms of reference, technical fields to be covered, their financial implications and other aspects. He recommended that a detailed study be undertaken, in consultation with member governments and regional and international organizations, to be presented to the next session of the Commission. He indicated that since no provision was made for such activity in the Commission's 1978-1979 Programme Budget, the secretariat envisaged the use of the ECWA Financial Contributions Account.

104. In the discussion which followed on this item, the representative of Iraq supported the views of the Executive Secretary and suggested that the possibility of establishing subsidiary bodies in specific fields, particularly to co-ordinate work with UNCTAD, be also examined with a view to enabling the Commission, inter alia, to hold preparatory meetings in connexion with UNCTAD conferences.

105. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic stated that the creation of subsidiary bodies connected with the process of integrating the Commission's work from the point of view of form and content and that efforts should be made to strengthen the divisions of the secretariat prior to the establishment of subsidiary bodies.

106. The representative of Jordan supported the creation of subsidiary bodies in certain fields after the necessary study had been undertaken. He believed that such bodies would enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission since they would include specialists in particular fields and could thus help to bridge certain information gaps. He requested that the study be carried out in close collaboration with member governments.

107. The representative of Egypt suggested that the study should also look into alternative forms of subsidiary bodies, such as consultative committees, ad hoc and standing committees, working groups and the like.

108. The representative of Kuwait believed that such bodies should be established according to specific needs. She questioned the reason behind carrying out the proposed study and added that the Commission had adopted a resolution to establish a follow-up committee which had still not been set up. She stated that ECWA was still young and that the question of committees should be deferred until the Commission was able to service them.

109. The representative of Saudi Arabia supported the views of Kuwait and inquired whether these committees would be temporary or permanent in nature. He was concerned about the possibility of duplication when establishing such bodies in the region and urged caution in this regard.

110. The representative of Jordan drew attention to the fact that an increasing number of studies were being prepared at ECWA in various fields and that the annual sessions of the Commission were too short to enable an in-depth review of these. He thought that these studies and reports should be submitted to technical committees for their views. He added that the proposed study might come up with the conclusion that no subsidiary bodies would be needed for the time being. It was very important, however, that this study be prepared so that the Commission might know what it can establish and what it cannot.

111. The Executive Secretary stated that, in the light of all the reasons mentioned by the representatives of member countries, it was necessary to undertake the study

and send it to the governments of member countries for their views prior to the sixth session. With respect to the proposal of the representative of Iraq, he mentioned that numerous negotiations were underway for joint programming with UNCTAD and that the secretariat had communicated with member countries on various issues such as the establishment of the Common Fund on which no more than a few replies had been received. He urged the delegates of member countries to expedite their replies so that work could begin in co-ordination with the CAEU and other regional bodies concerned.

Interim reports on the Commission's headquarters

112. The Executive Secretary introduced this item of the agenda and pointed out that the issue of the Commission's permanent headquarters had been under discussion since the establishment of ECWA. He drew the Commission's attention to the opinion of the United Nations legal counsel in New York, as set forth in paragraph 14 of document E/ECWA/64, to the effect that the organization's move from the country of its temporary headquarters to the country of its permanent headquarters was a matter which only the members of the Commission could decide. He stated that the secretariat had prepared a detailed statement on the financial implications of the adoption of the resolution to move and that document E/ECWA/64/Add.1 contained a special section showing the financial implications in the event of the adoption by the present session of a resolution to transfer the headquarters to Baghdad in September 1979.

113. The representative of Iraq indicated that there were two separate issues before the Commission: the permanent headquarters in Baghdad and the temporary headquarters in Beirut. He affirmed that the Government of Iraq was giving serious attention to the matter of the permanent headquarters and had allocated the necessary funds for this purpose in the five-year plan. He then submitted a brief report on the progress of work on the project in which he highlighted the technical and engineering aspects.

114. The representative of Iraq raised a number of points regarding the relocation of the Commission's headquarters to Baghdad and mentioned that the choice of Baghdad as the permanent headquarters of the Commission was not a matter for discussion since it had been decided in resolution 2045 (LXI) adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. He added that the five-year period for the location of the



temporary headquarters in Beirut would end on 9 September 1979 as stipulated in the Commission's resolution 6 (S-1). He stated that the Government of Iraq had requested the Executive Secretary on 17 June 1976 to transfer the Commission to its permanent headquarters in Baghdad with effect from September 1979 and had notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this request. The Executive Secretary was further requested in a subsequent letter to inform the Government of all the requirements needed to effect this transfer. He expressed his regret that the Iraqi Government had not yet received any of the information requested. He added that the final designs for the permanent headquarters had been prepared after protracted consultations with the technical departments of the United Nations and that agreement in principle had been reached with the Iraqi Contracting Company, which is a government institution, to begin work on this project in the early part of 1979. He indicated that the period which had elapsed since the approval by the Economic and Social Council on 27 October 1976 of making Baghdad the permanent headquarters had not given Iraq sufficient time to complete the construction and that there were numerous precedents in the United Nations where relocation to temporary offices at a permanent headquarters had taken place prior to the move to the permanent offices. He stated that the Iraqi Government had allocated two new buildings at no cost to the United Nations, that the Executive Secretary and the Chief, Buildings and Management Service, from the Office of General Services at United Nations Headquarters had inspected these buildings and that the Chief, Buildings Management Service, could acquaint the Commission with his impressions as to whether these buildings permitted the Commission to carry out its major functions as per paragraph 3 of resolution 6 (S-1). He urged the members of the Commission to accept the Iraqi request since it was in keeping with the resolutions adopted by the Commission and the United Nations and also with the opinion of the United Nations legal counsel as set forth on page 4 of document E/ECWA/64. He drew attention to the fact that document E/ECWA/64/Add.1, which the secretariat had submitted on the financial implications of the relocation of ECWA headquarters to Baghdad, clearly showed that the relocation to the permanent headquarters, irrespective of whether this were to take place in September 1979 or in 1980, would not entail any additional expense but would, on the contrary, be cost-saving.

The representative of Iraq also expressed his deep regret at the fact that the Iraqi delegation, in the course of its contacts with other delegations, had learned that certain members of the secretariat had approached a number of

delegations and requested them to endeavour to postpone ECWA's transfer to Baghdad at the appointed time in September 1979. He added that his Government regarded this as an extremely serious and grave matter in which it perceived a flagrant indication of these employees' misconception of the nature of their duties and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and that his Government reserved the right to pursue this matter at the highest levels in the United Nations Secretariat. The Chairman expressed his opinion that such actions, if indeed undertaken, should be regarded as the initiatives of individuals in which the secretariat was not involved.

115. The representative of the Lebanese Republic stressed that the offer submitted by Iraq, on the basis of which it was agreed to make Baghdad the Commission's permanent headquarters, had been modified by Iraq and substituted by two rented buildings. In the opinion of the United Nations legal counsel the transfer of the Commission from its temporary headquarters in Beirut was intrinsically linked to the construction of the buildings through the use made of the expression "should then move" and he stressed the word "then".

He also thanked the Executive Secretary and the Staff of the Commission for their professional conscientiousness by virtue of which they had been able to work and produce so efficiently and diligently in difficult conditions of which everyone was aware. He indicated that discussion of the headquarters issue and the adoption of a resolution at this session one year before the expiry of the five-year period would have adverse repercussions and give rise to misinterpretations. On the other hand, the retention of the Commission in Beirut would be of benefit to all, bearing in mind the fact that such retention would be temporary pending the construction of the permanent headquarters.

116. At the request of the Executive Secretary Mr. Henry Jaran, Chief, Buildings Management Service, from the Office of General Services at United Nations Headquarters gave a brief account of his visit to Baghdad to inspect the two buildings proposed as temporary offices for the secretariat in which he stated as follows:

"At the request of the Executive Secretary of ECWA, I undertook a study of the proposed temporary accommodations suitable for ECWA's interim needs to be provided in Baghdad by the Government of Iraq. These facilities are to be utilized by ECWA until the permanent headquarters can be constructed in Baghdad. The evaluation that I made did not address itself to the matter

of housing, schools or other services related to staff welfare because of the time period available.

Just to identify myself for those who do not know me, I am Chief of Buildings Management Service, of the Office of General Services, Headquarters, New York.

The requirements were based on the estimated occupancy period of five years, running to September 1984. This would provide any additional time that might be required in the event of a delay in the completion of the building.

Manning table estimates for the regular budget and extrabudgetary posts were furnished by the Chief of the Division of Administration at ECWA. In the study it was understood that United Nations international standards for space allocation and environmental working conditions would apply.

Then, to summarize my report, I said in conclusion that, as stated above, the proposed two buildings would provide adequate area to meet ECWA's office space and special use requirements. These buildings, to be completed by September 1979, would require some modification to provide space allocation and environmental working conditions in accordance with the United Nations international standards. Examination of the constructions indicates, and the Iraqi engineer confirms, that the alterations can be executed with a minimum of difficulty. To meet ECWA's conference space requirements, it appears possible to provide on the site two conference rooms seating 50-60, with simultaneous interpretation in 3 languages. These rooms would either be located on a mezzanine level in the buildings, or would be at ground level in a 1-storey structure that is also proposed there.

Commission plenary meetings, however, which require a capacity of 250 with interpretation, would have to be conducted in off-site premises and I inspected some of those that are immediately available, either in hotels or clubs. The final requirement was parking for the staff and it was determined that adequate parking facilities will be provided on the site."

117. Two draft resolutions on the permanent headquarters were submitted to the Commission which adopted resolution 52 (V) by a majority of eight votes in a closed meeting.

Other business

(a) The Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women  
in Development in the Countries of Western Asia

118. The Executive Secretary of the Commission opened the discussion on the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in the ECWA Region (document E/ECWA/69) by reviewing the resolutions and activities within the United Nations system which had led to the formulation of the Regional Plan of Action for Western Asia. In 1972, the Economic and Social Council declared, and the General Assembly endorsed, that 1975 would be International Women's Year. In 1974, the General Assembly called upon member governments, specialized agencies and regional commissions to implement the work programme of International Women's Year and in 1975 a World Conference for International Women's Year was held which resulted in a World Plan of Action for Women.

119. In the World Plan of Action, first priority was given to action at the regional level and to the role of the United Nations regional commissions. The General Assembly requested the organs of the United Nations, including the regional commissions, to conduct an annual review of their activities related to the Plan and to develop and implement effective strategies to achieve the objectives of the Plan at the regional level. On this basis the member States of the Commission at its second session called upon the Executive Secretary to intensify the activity of the secretariat in this field.

120. The Executive Secretary explained that the Commission had prepared a Draft Regional Plan on this subject, which was submitted to a meeting of experts from member States in April 1978 in order to obtain comments and to seek the necessary recommendations of the governments of the region. In May 1978 the Regional Conference on the Integration of Arab Women in Development in the ECWA Region was held at the invitation of the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and ECWA and this represented the first United Nations conference on the integration of women in development in the ECWA region in which the States of the region put forward a regional Plan of Action on the subject. This Plan included action proposals in eleven fields, ranging from planning to legislation, implementation and evaluation, and also made recommendations for ECWA's work programme in the field of the participation of women in development.

121. The Executive Secretary stated that the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women had approved the projects proposed by ECWA, which were aimed at increasing the participation of women through training.

122. The representative of Iraq requested that the Plan of Action adopted by the regional conference be included among the fifth session documents (E/ECWA/69/Add.1) and indicated that "The Role of Women in Development" would have been a better title than "The Integration of Women in Development" since integration would seem to imply that women were not yet participating in the process when, in fact, they were participating in various ways, although perhaps not at the desired levels. He also noted several areas which were overlooked in the document E/ECWA/69 such as the role of women in politics, female illiteracy, the role of women in efforts to improve their situation, the manner in which the system of assessing the Plan in the region would be implemented, and the proposed means of co-ordination between the Commission and the member States in this field.

123. The representative of Jordan regretted that the document had not been presented earlier so that its background could have been studied more thoroughly. He said that the Arab Women's Committee, referred to in the document, should co-ordinate its activities with the Bureau of Women's Affairs in the Arab League. He emphasized that the issues surrounding the question of women in development were reflections of the conditions in society as a whole and that the position of women should not be treated in isolation from other social issues. He added that, in order to avoid duplication, the proposed collection of data on women should be undertaken by the Statistics Unit of ECWA and that the publications on women and development by other United Nations and regional organizations should be considered before a guide is produced by ECWA.

124. The representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation, in commenting on this subject, reminded the Commission that 1979 had been declared the International Year of The Child. She expressed the support of the Women's International Democratic Federation for this declaration and emphasized the connexion between the situation of women and children and the economic, political and social situation in every country. She said that the Federation would hold several bilateral, regional and international meetings on this subject, including one in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen for all the women's organizations in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf States. Also, in 1979, a roundtable on

the life and problems of children in Lebanon would be held. She further expressed the hope that ECWA would participate in the planning and preparation of the International Year of the Child.

125. The representative of Kuwait emphasized that the subject of women's participation in development was not only a question of equality but also an economic one closely connected with the human capabilities needed by the Arab World to further the process of development.

126. The secretariat emphasized that the Plan of Action had already been approved by governments and that resolutions to implement the Plan in ECWA should come from the Commission. It stressed that women should play a role in the development plans of member countries. It also indicated that efforts would be exerted within ECWA to provide more detailed statistics on the situation of women in the region and that the proposed publication of a Guide on Women in Development would be geared specifically towards Arab Women.

(b) Report on the participation of ECWA in the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

127. The secretariat reviewed ECWA's contribution to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and referred to the First Regional Preparatory Meeting held in Beirut from 19-21 December 1977 and the Second Regional Preparatory Meeting held in Amman from 12-15 September 1978. The secretariat also referred to the fact that preparations for the above-mentioned Conference were also made at the national level since each of the Commission's member States was requested to prepare a country paper indicating the country's experiences and problems in the utilization of science and technology for development purposes. In connexion with the Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for UNCSTD the secretariat noted that document E/ECWA/71 containing the report on the Second Regional Preparatory Meeting incorporated a general review of the country papers and of the discussions that took place regarding the draft regional report. Final recommendations had also subsequently been submitted to the secretariat of UNCSTD and these recommendations had been distributed at the present session as document E/ECWA/70. The secretariat also explained that these recommendations constituted the second part of the regional report and that the first part, containing a general review of the situation in the region, was being prepared. The whole report would be sent to the member States as soon as it was

completed. The regional report would be distributed as a background document at UNCSTD and, as such, would not be discussed at the Conference. The secretariat further explained that the recommendations of the Second Regional Meeting at national, regional and international levels constituted ECWA's contribution to the Plan of Action to be established by the UNCSTD secretariat.

128. When the floor was declared opened for discussion of this item, none of the participating delegations had any observations to make in this regard.

(c) Other issues

129. The following draft resolutions were submitted to the Commission:

- (i) The Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology.  
(sponsored by: Jordan, PLO, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen Arab Republic)
- (ii) Study of the situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people.  
(sponsored by: Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, PLO, the Syrian Arab Republic, UAE and Yemen)
- (iii) Regional co-operation and co-ordination.  
(sponsored by: the Syrian Arab Republic)
- (iv) Co-ordination of the regional strategy and programme of action on labour migration in the ECWA region.  
(sponsored by: Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic).
- (v) Expert group on long-term objectives and regional development strategy.  
(sponsored by: Jordan, PLO and the Syrian Arab Republic)
- (vi) Assistance to member countries in the field of external trade policies and planning.  
(sponsored by: Iraq, Jordan, PLO and the Syrian Arab Republic)
- (vii) Census of the Palestine Arab people.  
(sponsored by: Democratic Yemen, Iraq, PLO and the Syrian Arab Republic)

- (viii) Cartographic development and co-operation in the ECWA region.  
(sponsored by: Jordan)
- (ix) The brain drain from the ECWA region.  
(sponsored by: Jordan, PLO and the Syrian Arab Republic)
- (x) The permanent headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.  
(sponsored by: Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman and Yemen)
- (xi) The Arab Regional Documentation Centre for Economic and Social Development.  
(sponsored by: Jordan)
- (xii) The establishment of subsidiary bodies.  
(sponsored by: Jordan)
- (xiii) A programme of action in favour of the least developed countries.  
(sponsored by: Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen)
- (xiv) The permanent headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.  
(sponsored by: Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, PLO, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and UAE)
- (xv) Establishment of an agency for the reconstruction of Lebanon.  
(sponsored by: the Republic of Lebanon)
- (xvi) Strengthening the ECWA programme in the area of the participation of Arab women in development.  
(sponsored by: Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, PLO, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen)

130. After a discussion of the draft resolutions and the amendments thereto, the Commission proceeded to adopt the resolutions set forth in Chapter III below.

131. During the discussion of the draft resolutions, the secretariat of the Commission submitted a statement on the financial implications of a number of these draft resolutions (see Annex I below). The delegations of Bahrain, Kuwait and UAE expressed reservations on operative paragraph 3 of resolution 54 (V). The delegations of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and UAE expressed reservation on Resolution 55 (V).



The delegation of Saudi Arabia expressed reservation on operative paragraph 2, and the delegations of Kuwait, Qatar and UAE on operative paragraphs 2 and 5 of resolution 61 (V). The delegations of Kuwait and UAE expressed reservation on resolution 63 (V).

132. The delegations of Qatar and Saudi Arabia expressed reservation on all resolutions having financial implications.

133. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics delivered a statement; the representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt expressed reservations on parts of it which he considered outside the nature and scope of the subjects which were being discussed within the context of the Commission's work.

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### III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

52 (V). The permanent headquarters of  
the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 6 (S-1) on the selection of Beirut as temporary headquarters of the Commission and resolution 35 (S-2) on the selection of Baghdad as its permanent headquarters,

Referring to the Commission's Interim Report on the Commission's headquarters (E/ECWA/64),

Decides:

1. To reaffirm the Commission's resolutions 6 (S-1) and 35 (S-2) mentioned above;

2. To postpone decision on the subject of the temporary headquarters of ECWA and to request the Executive Secretary to prepare a progress report on the steps and measures taken in the construction of the permanent headquarters building of the Commission for submission to the Commission's sixth regular session.

8th meeting

5 October 1978

53 (V). Study of the situation of potential of the  
Palestinian people

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its unanimous resolution 27 (III) of 14 May 1976, which requested the Executive Secretary to make arrangements to carry out a study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people, and

Taking note of the progress report (E/ECWA/59/Add.4) on the implementation of this resolution,

1. Urges the Executive Secretary to intensify the efforts to implement this resolution in the shortest time possible;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to reallocate the balance of the United Nations' contribution to the study;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the sixth session embodying his proposals for obtaining the supplementary funds necessary for completing the study.

9th meeting

5 October 1978

54 (V). Regional co-operation and co-ordination

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Reaffirming the importance of co-operation and co-ordination in development activities carried out by the organs of the United Nations and Arab and regional organizations,

Recalling its resolution 47 (IV) on regional co-operation and co-ordination adopted at its fourth session,

Taking note of the report E/ECWA/59/Add.1 entitled "Follow-up to Resolution 47 (IV) - Regional Co-operation and Co-ordination",

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Executive Secretary in developing its relations with Arab and regional organizations and bodies,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the governments of the region, to work out concrete arrangements for co-operation and co-ordination and report to its sixth session on the progress achieved in this regard;

2. Urges member States to take the appropriate measures in relation to regional, Arab and international organizations that would convince them to offer their active participation in working out such concrete arrangements;

3. Further urges member States to consider contributing to the resources required for carrying out the necessary work through the ECWA Financial Contributions Account for Regional Activities.

9th meeting

5 October 1978

55 (V). Co-ordination of the regional strategy and programme of action on labour migration in the ECWA region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Conscious of the growing magnitude of labour movements among the member countries and of the important role of migrant labour in furthering development efforts in the region,

Mindful of the increasing problems generated by the large and unregulated movements of labour among the countries of the region,

Appreciating the need to take corrective measures,

Recognizing the need for closer co-operation in the optimum utilization of available manpower at all levels and in regulating its movements, and in order to co-ordinate policies to that effect,

1. Urges the Executive Secretary to take effective measures, in co-operation with regional and international organizations, for the co-ordination of these activities;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to undertake the necessary studies and organize, at the appropriate time, a technical meeting designed to discuss and clarify the issues related to the problems of labour movements.

9th meeting

5 October 1978

56 (V). Definition of long-term objectives  
and regional development strategy

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the importance of the efforts underway on the overall economic perspective for the ECWA region up to year 2000, with a view to:

- providing ECWA governments with overall economic views on the development of the region in the context of the world economy; and
- identifying long-term economic problems of common interest and areas of mutually beneficial co-operation among member countries,

Taking note of the work so far carried out by the secretariat of the Commission on trends and prospects in the ECWA region,

Noting with appreciation the need for further articulating and harmonizing long-term development objectives and development strategies of member countries and reflecting effectively the views of member countries, especially on the global development strategy for the next decade,

Taking cognizance of the need for setting up an effective machinery to co-ordinate various United Nations efforts on long-term development prospects in the region and to adequately monitor the implementation of programmes of action at the country and regional levels,

Urges the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures for preparing an overall economic perspective for the ECWA region, to formulate a common regional development strategy, and to maintain a continuous dialogue on the urgent development issues of the coming decade.

9th meeting

5 October 1978

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

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) on international trade, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution 91(IV) on multilateral trade negotiations and the Tokyo Declaration on this subject, especially the need to increase the benefits accruing to developing countries from international trade,

Considering the important role that external trade plays in the economies of member countries,

Aware of the difficulties and problems that these countries face, especially the least developed among them, in planning their foreign trade sectors and formulating appropriate policies,

Aware also of the urgent need to strengthen the capability of member countries to overcome these difficulties, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the contribution of the external sector towards achieving the objectives of economic and social development in these countries,

1. Recommends 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;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the appropriate measures, in consultation and co-ordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre, to provide the assistance required;

3. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to provide the financial support needed for the activities proposed by the Executive Secretary to implement the measures mentioned in the preceding two paragraphs.

10th meeting  
6 October 1978

58 (V). Census of the Palestine Arab People

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the recommendations, emanating from successive regional meetings, concerning the need for conducting a census of the Palestine Arab People,

Recalling its unanimous resolution 28 (III) of 14 May 1976 which urged the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to furnish the material support for beginning implementation of this project before the end of 1976, and which called upon the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps, in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, for beginning the population census operations as soon as possible after the meeting of the preparatory committee to be held in 1976,

Taking note of the preparations undertaken by the Executive Secretary in this regard,

Noting with appreciation the project devoted to this subject submitted by the Executive Secretary in March 1978 to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities,

1. Expresses its disappointment that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities has not yet given its agreement;
2. Strongly urges the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to provide the necessary finances for the requirements and the operations of the census of the Palestine Arab People, so as to secure implementation of the resolution of the Commission and its project in this regard;
3. Calls upon member States, especially those States which host large numbers of the Palestine Arab People on their territory, to offer all the facilities that could assist ECWA in successfully implementing this project;
4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to follow-up the implementation of this resolution in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

10th meeting  
6 October 1978



59 (V). The brain drain from the ECWA region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution approving the 1974-1975 work programme in which a study was to be undertaken on the brain drain,

Noting with appreciation the proposals on the brain drain put forward by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan in his address at the 1977 meeting of the International Labour Organization,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 192 (XXXII) of December 1977 entitled "The Reverse Transfer of Technology" and the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Reverse Transfer of Technology,

Noting the study prepared on "The Brain Drain Problem in the ECWA Countries" (Document E/ECWA/57/Add.2 of 25 August 1978), and this study's elucidation of the serious adverse consequences of the brain drain out of the region and of the relevant policies being pursued in each country of Western Asia in this respect,

Requests the Executive Secretary to arrange for the above study to be completed with a view to (i) up-dating the data, (ii) working out estimates of the regional supply and demand for highly qualified personnel during the next decade, (iii) adding new information on the Palestinian brain drain out of the region and (iv) submitting recommendations to curb this outflow and create an appropriate climate for the reversal of the brain drain.

10th meeting

6 October 1978

60 (V). The Arab Regional Documentation Centre  
for Economic and Social Development

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the increasing need for information in the socio-economic development process in the Arab region,

Taking note with appreciation of the efforts of the Executive Secretary in studying the possibilities for regional co-operation in the field of development information (E/ECWA/57/Add.1),

Taking further note with appreciation of the valuable contribution of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in carrying out a survey and a feasibility study for the establishment of an Arab Regional Documentation Centre for Economic and Social Development,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to organize a regional meeting at ~~the~~ level of experts from all the Arab countries to consider this feasibility study;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to take appropriate measures for co-ordinating the efforts in this field with other or related projects in this area of the Arab world;

3. Calls upon regional financing institutions to consider continuing to contribute to the development of documentation infrastructure in the Arab region and to the efforts leading towards regional co-ordination and integration in this field.

10th meeting  
6 October 1978

61 (V). The Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer  
and Development of Technology

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling resolution 87 (IV) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on strengthening the technological capacity of developing countries and resolution 2034 (LXI) of the Economic and Social Council bearing the same title,

Recalling ECWA resolution 51 (IV) entitled "Study of the Possibility of Establishing a Western Asia Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology",

Recalling the agreement concluded between the ECWA secretariat and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States concerning the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology (sections 2.4.1, 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 of E/ECWA/67),

Recognizing the urgent need of the Arab countries for the establishment of an Arab regional centre for the transfer and development of technology,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on this subject (E/ECWA/66), the First Revised Feasibility Study on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology (E/ECWA/67) and the report on ECWA's Joint Meeting of Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations on the same subject,

Taking into consideration the resolution adopted by ECWA's Joint Meeting of Representatives of Arab Governments and Regional Organizations on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, held in Amman from 16-18 September 1978 (Appendix I of E/ECWA/68) and the report on the recommendations of the Arab Meeting to Discuss Possibilities for Euro-Arab Co-operation in Establishing a Centre for the Transfer of Technology held in Cairo from 20-21 September 1978 (Appendix II of E/ECWA/66),

1. Notes with appreciation and satisfaction the implementation of the tasks described in operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of ECWA resolution 51 (IV);
2. Decides in principle to establish the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a second revised version of the feasibility study taking into consideration the comments made on it by the fifth session of ECWA;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to contact the Secretary General of the League of Arab States for the purpose of submitting the second revised version of the feasibility study to the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States for discussion and adoption;

Requests the Executive Secretary, following the approval of the feasibility study by the Economic and Social of the League of Arab States, and in co-operation with the secretariat of the League of Arab States, to invite the Arab Governments, regional Arab organizations and the Economic Commission for Western Asia to a meeting for the purpose of taking the necessary measures to set up the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology.

10th meeting  
6 October 1973

62 (V). Cartographic development and co-operation in  
the ECWA region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the importance of cartography as an important tool for  
economic and social development,

Recognizing further the need for greater co-operative efforts in  
cartographic activities in the Arab region,

Taking note of the draft proposals contained in document E/ECWA/56/Add.1  
for establishing a cartography programme,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the need to  
establish a cartography unit within the framework of the ECWA secretariat;

2. Requests further the Executive Secretary to consider ways and  
means to commence cartographic activities before the medium-term plan period  
1980-1983.

10th meeting

6 October 1978

63 (V). The Establishment of subsidiary bodies

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to rules 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the Commission's Provisional Rules of Procedure setting out the procedures for establishing subsidiary bodies,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 162 (XXXII) entitled "Institutional Arrangements for International Co-operation in the Field of Human Settlements" which calls upon regional commissions to consider the establishment of regional committees on human settlements,

Recognizing the importance of subsidiary bodies both for the work of the secretariat and the Commission's role in global policy making,

Having noted the report of the Executive Secretary E/ECWA/58,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a detailed study on the modalities and possibilities for establishing subsidiary bodies of the Commission in consultation with Arab and international organizations and member States;

2. Requests further the Executive Secretary to submit the study to its sixth session.

10th meeting

6 October 1978

64 (V). A programme of action in favour of  
the least developed countries

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 38 (IV), which requested the Executive Secretary in its first operative paragraph "to convey to the United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation and to the United Nations Development Programme the desire of the Economic Commission for Western Asia that they reconsider their positions on the financing of the project so as to ensure its continuity"; and which in its second operative paragraph "urged the countries of the ECWA region that have the financial capability, and also the Arab funds and the League of Arab States, to make appropriate contributions within the limits of the budgetary estimates submitted by the Executive Secretary",

Taking into consideration the follow-up measures to resolution 38 (IV) indicated in document E/ECWA/59, and observing that sources of financing existed which ECWA had not yet had the opportunity to contact,

Appreciating the services that the United Nations Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration offers the Sultanate of Oman, the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic, which are all among the least developed of the developing countries receiving special consideration from the United Nations,

Affirming the continuing need of these countries for the services of the project,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to convey to the United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation for Development the desire of the Economic Commission for Western Asia that the project continue to be financed for the second year of the present course 1978-1979;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue his efforts with countries of the ECWA region and outside it, urging them to participate in financing the project within the limits of the budgetary estimates made for this purpose for a period of three years;

3. Strongly requests the Executive Secretary to follow-up this subject and to submit a report thereon to the sixth regular session of the Commission.

10th meeting

6 October 1978

65 (V). Establishment of an agency for the  
reconstruction of Lebanon

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling resolution 24 (III) which invited the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to extend all possible assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon,

Further recalling resolution 40 (IV) which invited the Executive Secretary to initiate immediate consultations with the President of the Reconstruction and Development Council with a view to establishing a technical assistance development programme and to make the necessary contacts to this effect,

Considering that the needs of Lebanon exceed the means within the capacity of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and its Executive Secretary and that a special full-time agency with its own organization and staff is therefore required for the reconstruction of Lebanon,

Requests the Executive Secretary to recommend that the Secretary-General of the United Nations submit to the General Assembly a resolution for the establishment of an agency to be designated "The United Nations Agency for the Reconstruction of Lebanon", the methods of funding and management and the rules of procedure of which would be defined by agreement between the two parties.

10th meeting

6 October 1978



66 (V). Strengthening the ECWA programme in the area of increasing the participation of women in development

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Noting General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, which called upon the regional commissions to give first priority to the development and implementation of effective strategies for achieving the objectives of the World Plan of Action for increasing the participation of women in development at the regional level and at the national level, taking into account the respective circumstances and priorities of each country,

Recalling its unanimous resolution 17 (II) of 9 May 1975 requesting the Executive Secretary to intensify the secretariat's activities in this field,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1850 (LVI) of 16 May 1974 establishing the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women,

Taking note of the approval of the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women of the projects submitted by ECWA and the agreement to finance them and to finance other technical assistance projects for a period of two years,

Having examined the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Arab Women in Development in the ECWA region adopted by the regional conference which was held in Amman from 29 May to 4 June 1978 and which called for strengthening ECWA programmes on women so that the secretariat could confront the growing responsibilities of the 1976-1985 Decade for Women,

1. Adopts the recommendations of the Regional Plan of Action related to the responsibilities of ECWA in the field of women and development;
2. Urges the Executive Secretary to intensify efforts to implement these recommendations through the necessary programmes and activities;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the sixth session embodying proposals for obtaining additional funds for strengthening the Commission's programme in the area of the participation of women in development.

10th meeting  
6 October 1978

#### IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

134. At its 11th meeting, on 6 October 1978, the Economic Commission for Western Asia adopted the draft report on its fifth session, as amended during its discussion, for submission to the Economic and Social Council.

# A N N E X E S



STATEMENT OF  
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS  
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTH SESSION

Note by the Secretariat

1. As required under Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the secretariat had prepared the present statement on financial implications relating to draft resolutions put before the Commission at its Fifth Session.
2. The relevant observations relating to some draft resolutions are as follows:-

(a) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE STUDY OF THE SITUATION AND POTENTIALS  
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (E/ECWA/L.68/Add.1)

The Executive Secretary shall request the General Assembly to appropriate an amount equivalent to the unspent balance of the \$ 59,500 appropriated in the 1976-1977 biennium. If successful it should be noted that this appropriation may not be made until the 1980-1981 biennium.

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION  
(E/ECWA/L.69/Add.1)

1. Consultant		
(a) Fees	\$ 5.000	
(b) Travel	1.000	
	<u>        </u>	\$ 6.000
2. Travel of ECWA Staff		4.500
3. Reproduction of Documents		5.000
4. Stationery and Office Supplies		2.500
5. Miscellaneous Supplies and Services		<u>2.000</u>
		\$ 20.000
6. 14% Provision for Programme Support Costs		<u>3.000</u>
		<u><u>\$ 23.000</u></u>

(c) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CO-ORINATION OF REGIONAL STRATEGY AND  
PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON LABOUR MIGRATION IN THE ECWA REGION  
(E/ECWA/L.71/Add.1)

1. Consultants 10 m/m	\$	30.000
2. Technical meeting		30.000
3. Regional conference		30.000
4. Administrative support costs 24 m/m research assistant <u>12 m/m secretary</u> 36		34.000
5. Travel		15.000
6. Publication costs (Translation, printing, etc.)		<u>15.000</u>
	\$	154.000
7. 14% provision for programme support costs		<u>22.000</u>
	\$	<u>176.000</u> =====

(d) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES AND REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (E/ECWA/L.72/Add.1)

1. Consultants	\$ 20.000
2. Expert Group Meeting	20.000
3. Administrative Support Costs	
12 m/m Research Assistant	
<u>12 m/m Secretary</u>	
24 m/m	23.000
4. Travel	10.000
5. Publication Costs	<u>15.000</u>
	\$ 88.000
6. 14% Provision for Programme Support Costs	<u>12.000</u>
	<u>\$ 100.000</u>



(e) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE  
FIELD OF EXTERNAL TRADE POLICIES AND PLANNING (E/ECWA/L.73/Add.1)

1. Expert Costs 12 m/m	\$ 56.000
2. Administrative Support Costs 24 m/m Research Assistant <u>12 m/m Secretary</u> 36 m/m	34.000
3. Consultant 3 m/m	10.000
4. Travel	15.000
5. Stationery and Office Supplies	3.000
6. Miscellaneous Supplies and Services	2.000
7. Equipment	2.000
8. 1% Provision on Expert Costs for Appendix D Compensation	<u>6.000</u>
	128.000
9. 14% Provision for Programme Support Costs	<u>18.000</u>
	<u>146.000</u> =====

(f) DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ARAB REGIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE  
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/ECWA/L.78/Add.1)

1. Intergovernmental meeting at  
expert level

\$ 30.000

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION  
SINCE THE FOURTH SESSION

The progress report (E/ECWA/57) has already been submitted to the Economic and Social Council and has appeared as a document of the second session (1978,) of the council under the symbol (E/1978/49).



LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION  
AT ITS FIFTH SESSION

Symbol	Title
E/ECWA/55	Provisional Agenda
E/ECWA/55/Rev.1	Revised Provisional Agenda
E/ECWA/55/Rev.1/Add.1 +Corr.1	Annotated Revised Provisional Agenda
E/ECWA/55/Rev.1/Add.2	Note on the Annotated Revised Provisional Agenda
E/ECWA/55/Rev.2	Agenda
E/ECWA/56	Draft Medium-Term Plan for 1980-1983
E/ECWA/56/Add.1	Medium-Term Plan for 1980-1983
E/ECWA/57 +Corr.1	Progress Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme
E/ECWA/57/Add.1	The Arab Regional Documentation Centre for Economic and Social Development
E/ECWA/57/Add.2	The Brain Drain Problem in the ECWA Countries
E/ECWA/58	Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission - Note by the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/59	Follow-up Action on the Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fourth session, in April 1977
E/ECWA/59/Add.1	Follow-up to Resolution 47 (IV) - Regional Co-operation and Co-ordination
E/ECWA/59/Add.2	Follow-up to Resolution 42 (IV) - The Practices of Transnational Corporations in the Oil Industry in the Region (an interim report)

Symbol	Title
E/ECWA/59/Add.3	Follow-up to Resolution 48 (IV) - Economic Survey of the Countries Members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia
E/ECWA/59/Add.4	Progress Report on the implementation of ECWA Resolution 27 (III), on ECWA Study of the Economic and Social Situation and Potential of the Palestinian Arab People
E/ECWA/60	The 1978 - 1979 Programme Budget - Note of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/61 +Rev.1 +Rev.2 +Rev.2/Add.1	Invitation of States Members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the Commission's work - Note from the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/62 +Rev.1 +Rev.1/Add.1	Organization of Work - Note from the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/63	The Financial Status of the Commission's Programmes - Report of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/64 + Add.1 and Add.2	Interim Report on the Commission's Headquarters - Note from the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/65	Resolutions and Decisions taken by the General Assembly at its Thirty-Second Session and Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its Sixty-Third Session - Note from the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/66	The Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology- Report of the Executive Secretary
E/ECWA/67	First Revised Draft Feasibility Study for the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology
E/ECWA/68	Report of the ECWA Joint Meeting of the Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology
E/ECWA/69 + Add.1	Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development for the Countries of the ECWA Region

Symbol	Title
E/ECWA/70	Recommendations of ECWA's Second Regional Preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.
E/ECWA/71	Report of ECWA's Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD).
E/ECWA/INF.18	Notes to Participants
E/ECWA/INF.19	List of Documents
E/ECWA/INF.20	Provisional List of Participants
E/ECWA/INF.20 +Rev.1 and Rev.2	List of Participants

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