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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

REPORT ON THE ELEVENTH SESSION
(22-26 APRIL 1984)

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NOTE

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

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ABBREVIATIONS

ATU	Arab Telecommunication Union
CTC	Centre on Transnational Corporations
DTCU	Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
SNPA	Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980's for the Least Developed Countries
TRAINMAR	Training Development in the Field of Maritime Transport
UNCSTD	United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNFSSTD	United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (Rome, 1979)
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period since the tenth session. It was adopted by the Commission at its sixth meeting, held on 26 April 1984, in the form as amended during the discussion.

I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

2. At its sixth meeting, held on 26 April 1984, the Commission decided to bring the following resolutions to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

125(XI) General policy-making structure of the Commission*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 114(IX) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/64 on the establishment of a Standing Committee for the Programme, of the Economic Commission for Western Asia composed of all members of the Commission, as the main subsidiary organ of the Commission to assist it in the execution of its responsibilities for programme planning and review,

Further recalling its resolution 119(X) on the policy-making structure of the Commission,

Desirous of ensuring representation at the ministerial level at the annual sessions of the Commission,

1. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council should designate the Standing Committee for the Programme as the Technical Committee and add to its terms of reference, as specified in the Commission's resolution 114(IX), the discussion of the items on the provisional agenda of the annual session in preparation for the Commission's meeting at the ministerial level;

2. Decides that rule 1(a) of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure should be amended to read as follows: "Normally, annually, beginning on the Saturday of the third week of April";

* See paras. 82-89 and 139 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of resolution 125(XI).

3. Decides further that the work of the Technical Committee should take place during a four-day period, immediately followed by a two-day meeting of the Commission at the ministerial level.

6th meeting
26 April 1984

126(XI) Staff and administrative questions*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Deeply concerned by the high vacancy rate which has prevailed at the Commission for a number of years,

Convinced that the high vacancy rate has had a serious impact on the work programme of the Commission,

Recognizing that repeated efforts have been made to find qualified staff from un-represented or under-represented States in the ECWA region but that difficulties still persist in the recruitment of such staff,

Recognizing also that knowledge of the Arabic language is important for the ECWA staff for the effective performance of their work,

1. Urges unrepresented and under-represented States to endeavour to assign competent personnel to work in the Commission's secretariat as staff members on a regular or secondment basis;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly that the Secretary General be authorized, as an exceptional measure limited to employment with ECWA, to recruit staff from any member of ECWA, even when such staff come from members which are, at the particular time concerned, over-represented in the United Nations Secretariat as a whole;

* See para. 105 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of resolution 126(XI).

3. Proposes that the number of staff so recruited should not exceed the total of the minimum quotas assigned to unrepresented or under-represented ECWA countries in the event of the non-availability of the staff members needed from those countries;

4. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to propose to the General Assembly of the United Nations that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be treated in a manner consistent with its full membership in the Economic Commission for Western Asia as regards employment in the secretariat.

6th Meeting
26 April 1984

II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE TENTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. The Standing Committee for the Programme, which was established under ECWA resolution 114(IX) and endorsed under Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/64, held its second session from 22-26 April 1984 at Baghdad.

4. The Committee discussed a number of issues within the context of the various items on its agenda, including follow-up on the Standing Committee's resolutions adopted at its first session and the Commission's resolution 120(X); the programme performance report; updating the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989; and the Commission's work in the areas of capital goods, new and renewable sources of energy, food security and information systems. The final report of the Standing Committee for the Programme (E/ECWA/XI/7/Rev.2) was adopted by the Commission at its eleventh session.

B. Other activities

5. For information on other activities of the Commission during the period under review reference should be made to the following documents: E/ECWA/XI/4 (Part I), E/ECWA/XI/4 (Part II), E/ECWA/XI/4/Add.1 (Part I), E/ECWA/XI/4/Add.2 (Part II), E/ECWA/XI/5 and Add.1, E/ECWA/XI/6 and Add.1, E/ECWA/XI/8, E/ECWA/XI/9 and Add.1, E/ECWA/XI/12, E/ECWA/XI/14, and E/ECWA/XI/15.

C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

6. During the period under review the secretariat of the Commission continued programme co-ordination with various United Nations specialized agencies in a number of important areas. FAO, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, and UNIDO were among the major organizations which engaged in joint activities with ECWA and extended assistance to ECWA for the implementation of those activities.

7. Under the food and agriculture programme, joint co-operation with FAO covered several areas. For instance, the 1983 (sixth) issue of the ECWA/FAO annual bulletin Agriculture and Development deals with problems such as the monitoring and appraisal of agricultural developments, trends and policy changes; and the promotion of national food strategies and food security. The programme also focused on national and intercountry action to combat desertification and the promotion of integrated rural development. A joint ECWA/FAO/UNDP mission was

undertaken to four countries, namely, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to initiate work on the assessment of training needs in the area of agricultural planning and project analysis.

8. ECWA continued its consultations with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) regarding Habitat's assistance to ECWA towards the implementation of several joint activities. Under the human settlements programme assistance was extended to member States in developing institutional capabilities in the field of human settlements. In particular, ECWA extended advisory services to Lebanon in the area of housing policies and a report was prepared on international assistance to earthquake-stricken areas in Yemen.

9. The Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division continued close co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization regarding the implementation of the industrial development programme; under the programme element on "identification of regional projects: capital goods industries", several industrial projects which could lend themselves to regional co-operation were identified. An Expert Group Meeting on Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries was held at Baghdad in 1983. Future work on this programme will focus on promotional aspects of industrial projects.

10. The Commission has established closer working relations with UNEP regarding the programme on environment. Several meetings were held between ECWA and UNEP experts in order to identify areas for joint projects with the assistance of UNEP, to integrate environmental considerations in several ECWA programmes, particularly energy and agriculture. ECWA received assistance from UNEP in implementing various programme elements relating to its environment programme.

11. ECWA's co-operation with UNCTAD covered areas such as follow-up activities on the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA). As a follow-up to ECWA resolution 118(X) on the programme of action in favour of the least developed countries, the ECWA secretariat prepared a comprehensive country presentation for a donor's review conference to be held in 1984 with UNDP serving as the lead agency. In fulfilling its mandate with respect to SNPA at the regional level ECWA also prepared a report on the implementation and follow-up of the SNPA in the two least developed countries of the region. Negotiations between ECWA and UNCTAD continued regarding ECWA's programme element on medium- and long-term planning; and close co-ordination took place with UNCTAD in modelling and forecasting exercises under that programme. Similar negotiations continued concerning the joint implementation with UNCTAD and UNDP of the TRAINMAR project in the field of maritime transport in order to satisfy the training needs of the region.

12. The major financial contributor to ECWA's population programme was UNFPA. UNFPA also assisted ECWA in the execution of several technical co-operation projects with important implications for the region's development.

13. The contribution from ILO included a regional household-survey expert in the field of labour statistics in order to assist in the ECWA national survey capability programme. The ILO expert participated in the provision of advisory services in the planning and implementation of the projects in several ECWA countries including Yemen, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and the Syrian Arab Republic.

14. UNDP extended assistance to ECWA in connection with the implementation of several important projects. The major UNDP-supported ECWA projects concerning household survey services for Western Asia, and the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. As the executing agency of the latter project, ECWA continued to co-ordinate the fellowship programme in collaboration with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD). Negotiations between ECWA and UNDP concerning the financing of a project relating to the establishment of a regional Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies still continue. Also, ECWA closely collaborated and co-ordinated with UNDP, the World Bank and the members of the Gulf Co-operation Council as a follow-up to ECWA resolution 117(X) on international assistance to the earthquake-stricken area of Yemen.

15. In the implementation of its science and technology programme ECWA co-operated closely with a number of United Nations agencies which included the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD), United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), UNIDO and UNCTAD. UNFSSTD provided funds for the implementation of the programme element relating to relations between processes of importing technology and development of technological capabilities, the output of which was the holding of a workshop in October 1983. UNCSTD provided a lecture and both UNIDO and UNCTAD supplied documents to the workshop.

16. The activities of the Joint ECWA/CTC Unit on Transnational Corporations under this programme have been concentrated on several issues including the analysis of the operations of transnational banks in selected ECWA countries. In co-operation with the Centre on Transnational Corporations (CTC) preliminary consultations between ECWA and ECA are under way for the holding of a meeting in 1984 for the Arab States relating to operations of transnational banks in the region of the League of Arab States; also ECWA collaborated with CTC on the implementation of the programme element relating to the relevance of the code of conduct on transnational corporations to countries in Western Asia.

17. Other organizations with which ECWA established close working relations and strengthened areas of mutual co-operation were UNESCO, WHO and some regional organizations such as the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies.

III. ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

18. The eleventh session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was held in its headquarters at Baghdad, from 22 to 26 April 1984. Its deliberations covered six meetings.

19. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Commission*: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

20. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organisation; International Monetary Fund; International Telecommunication Union; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Fund for Population Activities; United Nations Secretariat (New York); World Food Programme; World Health Organization.

21. Representatives of the following regional and intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers: Arab Federation for Engineering Industries; Arab Federation for Food Industries; Arab Industrial Development Organization; Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Arab Labour Organisation; Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization; Arab Organization for Agricultural Development; Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology; Arab Petroleum Institute for Training; Arab Planning Institute - Kuwait; Arab Telecommunication Union; Arab Union of Fish Producers; Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; Federation of Arab Councils for Scientific Research; International Chamber of Commerce; Iraqi Fund for External Development; Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry; League of Arab States; Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries; Arab Federation for Fish Producers.

22. The Commission adopted the proposals contained in document E/ECWA/XI/2 as amended, for the organization of its work.

*For the names of participants in the session, see E/ECWA/XI/INF.3/Rev.2.

23. By virtue of article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, the following States Members of the United Nations participated in a consultative capacity in the work of the eleventh session: Algeria; Belgium; Czechoslovakia; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Italy; Japan; Malaysia; Mexico; Morocco; New Zealand; Philippines; Poland; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Tunisia; Turkey; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America and Yugoslavia. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Switzerland also participated in the meetings in the same capacity.

24. At its first meeting, the Commission unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Haider Abu Bakr Al-Attas, Minister of Construction of Democratic Yemen as Chairman of the eleventh session; His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Al-Khadim Al-Wajih, Minister of Finance of Yemen and Mr. Jamal Al-Surani, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Muhammad Wafiq Husni, Director of the Department of International Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, as Rapporteur for the session.

25. In accordance with rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission, the officers of the Commission examined the credentials of delegations and found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

26. At its first meeting, the Commission approved the agenda contained in document E/ECWA/XI/1/Rev.2 which it adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Invitation of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the eleventh session of the Commission.
6. Report on the activities of the Commission:
 - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme;

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

- (i) ECWA resolution 119(X) on the policy-making structure of the Commission;
- (ii) ECWA resolution 115(X) on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1984-1985;
- (iii) ECWA resolution 117(X) on international assistance to the earthquake-stricken area of Yemen;
- (iv) ECWA resolution 118(X) on the programme of action in favour of the least developed countries;
- (v) ECWA resolution 123(X) on the study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people;
- (vi) ECWA resolution 116(X) on staff and administration questions.

(c) Mid-term review and appraisal of implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

7. Follow-up action at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings:

(a) Regional Intergovernmental Consultation on Rural Development in the Near East region;

(b) The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting on the International Youth Year;

(c) The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

(d) The Regional Conference on Population in the Arab World in preparation for the International Conference on Population.

8. The Commission's preparations for UNIDO IV.

9. The financial status of the Commission's programmes.

10. Current issues in regional co-operation and integration (ECWA resolution 119 (X)).

11. Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations.

12. Amendment of the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission:

(a) Date of the opening of the session.

13. Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific.

14. Decentralization of economic and social activities to, and strengthening of, the regional commissions (General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system).

15. Other business.

16. Report of the Standing Committee for the Programme.

17. Adoption of the Commission's report on its eleventh session.

C. Account of proceedings

27. The session was opened by His Excellency Mr. Taha Yassine Ramadan, First Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, who welcomed the holding of the eleventh session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its permanent headquarters in Baghdad. He wished the Commission success in its work and expressed the hope that it would achieve positive results that would promote joint economic action by the member States. He noted that the agenda included a number of important issues, particularly the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the preparations for the International Conference on Population and the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

28. He stressed the need for the identification of obstacles and the formulation of positive proposals for the furtherance of joint economic action. He referred to the manner in which the international economic situation was deteriorating as a result of the widening gap between the developing and the developed countries, which constituted a serious problem and a source of instability. He also referred to the fact that the current economic crisis had become a chronic manifestation of the imbalance in the international economic structure, as could be seen from the fluctuating exchange rates, rising interest rates, declining levels of international trade for the developing countries; and

high rates of unemployment and a widespread tendency towards protectionism and restrictive practices among the developed industrialized countries with all the inherent negative consequences for the development potential of the developing countries.

29. He said that the structural imbalance in international economic relations could not be rectified by short-term economic recoveries since it required a restructuring of the present international economic order on a more equitable basis, together with a radical and fundamental change in the policies of the developed countries. He drew attention to the increasing interdependence between the economic destiny and political stability of the two groups of developing and developed countries. He also said that the developing countries had been affected more than any other international grouping by the adverse consequences of the deterioration in the international economic structure since they were suffering from the declining prices of basic commodities, an increasing deficit in their balance of payments, the burden of their foreign debts and a reduction in their gross domestic product, as a result of which many of those countries and, in particular, the least developed among them had been forced to cut back on their investment programmes and their imports of basic goods.

30. He said that the Arab countries had been affected in the same way as the other developing countries by the adverse repercussion of the international economic situation resulting from the economic crisis and the restrictive economic policies pursued by the developed industrial countries. Deteriorating terms of trade had clearly prejudiced the course of the development process and Arab countries in general, and the least developed ones in particular, had been affected by the high level of interest rates and the increasing magnitude of their foreign debt burdens which were threatening to lead them into a stage of economic recession. Consequently, not only States but also regional and international organizations should take effective steps to rectify the imbalances in the regional and international economic situations. He expressed the hope that the Economic Commission for Western Asia would gear its programmes towards the strengthening of collective self-reliance by the promotion of independent and balanced Arab development with a view to achieving the objectives of the Strategy of Joint Arab Economic Action, taking full advantage of other regional and international experiences.

31. He referred to the fourth summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at Casablanca in the early part of 1984, recalled the economic resolutions adopted at that meeting in connection with the strengthening of co-operation among members, and drew attention to the urgent food aid and other assistance that had been provided for the ten countries of the Sahel. He noted that UNCTAD VI had not yielded positive

results and expressed regret that the endeavours made during the last session of the General Assembly of the United Nations with a view to the furtherance of the global economic negotiations had been of no avail due to the lack of political will on the part of some industrial countries. Turning to the events that had taken place in the region during the past year, he referred to the resolution adopted at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations requesting the Secretary-General to continue and intensify his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance within the United Nations system to help the Government of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development. He declared Iraq's support for all endeavours aimed at helping the Government and people of Lebanon to recover their sovereignty and territorial integrity. He condemned the practices that the Zionist entity was pursuing to the detriment of the Palestinian Arab people and stressed the need for the adoption by the United Nations of resolutions condemning such unethical practices, affirming the right of that people to its homeland and calling for the implementation of the resolutions concerning the provision of assistance for the Palestinian Arab people.

32. He expressed the hope that international, Islamic and non-aligned endeavours would succeed in putting an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict on the basis of an equitable settlement acceptable to both parties. He said that the continuation of the conflict had severely damaged the economies of both countries and had caused a rift in the united stand formerly taken by the developing countries in international forums. He invited the international community to shoulder its responsibilities with regard to the termination of that conflict and called upon the United Nations to initiate earnest endeavours to reach a solution acceptable to both parties, as prescribed in its Charter. He pointed out that the waste of Arab resources resulting from the continuation of that war would impede the effective discharge by the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Western Asia of their role and of their tasks with regard to the implementation of their programmes aimed at furthering the development process in their member countries.

33. Mr. Jawad Al Anani, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism of Jordan, then addressed the session on behalf of the Chairman of the tenth session. He emphasized the need for joint economic action and drew attention to the fact that the orientation of the programmes of the Commission and of regional and Arab organizations should be towards providing a firm scientific foundation for a sound economy and industrial integration. He noted that the only way to meet challenges and dangers was through co-operation, solidarity, the satisfaction of needs, and the achievement of self-reliance and prosperity.

34. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the eleventh session was then read out. It conveyed his greetings to the participants and went on to state that ECWA had

not been unaffected by the negative consequences of world-wide developments on the economic and political fronts which had adversely affected the least developed countries of the third world. He hoped that 1984 might see some further improvement in the economies of the developing countries through the tackling of key long-term issues so as to put the world economy and North-South relations on a sounder and more just footing.

35. He called attention to the slow progress in the implementation of the South-South strategy as another subject of concern. He called for the achievement of collective self-reliance so that the resources available to the developing countries could be allocated to the best use. He referred to the General Assembly resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States and to the Economic and Social Council resolution on the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. He expressed satisfaction at the concrete ideas already suggested by the secretariat of the Commission for the implementation of those and other resolutions.

36. He stressed the importance of strengthening mutual co-operation between the League of Arab States, regional Arab organizations and ECWA in the areas of social and economic development and integration.

37. The Executive Secretary of the Commission then addressed the session. He began by thanking Mr. Taha Yassine Ramadan, First Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, for honouring by his presence the opening meeting of the eleventh session. He then expressed gratitude to His Excellency the President of Iraq and to the Government and people of Iraq. He also expressed appreciation to the Chairman of the tenth session and his fellow officers of the Commission for their efforts to ensure the success of that session.

38. Reviewing the progress made by the Commission in 1983, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the installation of the secretariat at its permanent headquarters had secured favourable working conditions which had enabled it to intensify its efforts and feel more confident and satisfied as to the extent of its achievements despite the difficulties and the constraints affecting its activities.

39. He referred to the concern prevailing in the world, stating that the situation in the Arab region was no less a source of concern in spite of progress achieved in certain spheres. Some indicators pointed to improvement in the previous year in the economic conditions of certain industrialized countries accompanied by a relative decline in inflation rates and signs of budding economic growth. However, that trend was having no tangible effect on the developing countries, in most of which indebtedness was still increasing. Interest rates remained high

depriving them of the resources needed for investment opportunities and the creation of more employment opportunities. He warned of a decrease in average per capita income levels in the developing countries by approximately 5 per cent by the end of 1984 as against the levels recorded at the beginning of the 1980s, unless the international community took bold and decisive measures to reform the existing international economic order.

40. The Executive Secretary went on to mention the adverse effects of world-wide recessionary tendencies on the development process in the region of Western Asia. One such effect was the decline in oil revenues which had followed their constant increase throughout the 1970s. That was attributable to a drop in foreign demand compounded by marketing difficulties, and a reduction of the output of some countries in the region. As a result, some oil-producing countries had an overall budget deficit for the first time ever.

41. He also reviewed the events which had affected the course of economic development in the region, including the war between Iran and Iraq, the Lebanese crisis, the continued occupation by Israel of southern Lebanon and other Arab territories as well as the question of Palestine, which was at the root of the Middle East problem, and considerations related to the economic dimensions of national security and threats to the cultural and social aspects of national identity. He stressed the fact that that combination of factors had affected not only the course of development within the region but also the volume of aid provided by the oil-producing countries within the framework of international co-operation. Their aid to third world countries, however, was still above the level of one per cent of their gross national products as defined by the International Development Strategy, and higher than that of the industrialized countries.

42. Economic and social conditions in the region postulated a number of basic requirements for the improvement of the foundations and patterns of development. Some of the most pressing requirements affecting the course of development were: firstly, the reinforcement and expansion of the potential for Arab economic integration and increased joint Arab action in various fields through Arab regional organizations; secondly, the elimination of the imbalances and shortcomings in current development patterns in the light of national, regional and international variables, and the rectification of the course and pattern of development in such a way as to diversify and expand production capacities, guard against the dangers of economic recession and achieve a rising standard of food security; thirdly, the rationalization of public and private consumption and the identification of areas of investment and current expenditure on the basis of economic feasibility and social utility; and fourthly, the development of human resources and the improvement of skills and structures which were fundamental issues in the

region, as well as the stimulation of scientific and technological creativity, the utilization of the world technological and scientific potential and the organization and rationalization of both Arab and foreign manpower movements.

43. The Executive Secretary then drew attention to the numerous studies and extensive research conducted by ECWA and to its participation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations in the organization of a series of meetings, dealing with the various programmes of the Commission. He added that the Commission had resumed the issue of its periodical bulletins and publications on agriculture, population, statistics, foreign trade and studies on women and that there had also been some notable achievements in terms of technical co-operation and advisory services rendered to member States and Arab regional organizations.

44. The Executive Secretary went on to mention the signing of a memorandum of understanding on co-operation between ECWA and the League of Arab States, and the participation of ECWA in a meeting organized jointly by the United Nations, the League of Arab States and their respective agencies which had been held at Tunis in 1983. Its results included the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Economic and Social Council (A/38/229) and General Assembly resolution 38/6 on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

45. The Regional Conference on population in the Arab World in preparation for the International Conference on Population, which took place in Amman from 25 to 29 March 1984, to which all the States members of the League of Arab States had been invited, constituted the first joint action of ECWA and the League.

46. Within the context of the consolidation of co-operation and co-ordination between the Commission and Arab organizations and federations, the Executive Secretary mentioned the signing early that year of a memorandum of understanding concerning co-operation and co-ordination with the Arab Industrial Development Organization. He added that ECWA was also preparing to sign a similar memorandum with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

47. In this connection, the Executive Secretary stressed the Commission's desire to continue to promote and consolidate regional technical co-operation in its various spheres of competence. That desire accounted for the selection of "Current issues in regional co-operation and integration" as a topic for review and study at the Commission's current session.

48. He drew attention to the contribution made by ECWA with regard to the distribution of spheres of activity among the cen-

tral organs and regional commissions of the United Nations; a specific sphere had been assigned to each regional commission and ECWA had been assigned the social development programme.

49. The Executive Secretary concluded his address by emphasizing the need for closer interaction between the secretariat and the members of the Commission either within the context of the work of the Standing Committee for the Programme or through reactions and observations concerning the studies, research work and publications produced by the Commission because such exchanges would enable ECWA to obtain a more comprehensive insight into conditions prevailing in the region and, consequently, to play a more effective role in meeting its needs and aspirations.

50. Statements were made by the head of the United States Interests Section in Iraq, the Ambassador of Romania, the representative of the League of Arab States, the Ambassador of the Soviet Union, the Ambassador of Turkey, the Ambassador of France, the Ambassador of Poland, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, the representative of UNCTAD, the representative of UNFPA, the representative of the Population Division in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs at United Nations Headquarters, all of whom expressed their appreciation for the endeavours made by the Commission and the readiness of their countries, organizations and departments to co-operate with it. In this connection the observers from the Netherlands and France pledged specific contributions for the implementation of the work programme during 1984.

1. Report on the activities of the Commission
(agenda item 6)

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

51. The topics included under the item were covered in four documents prepared by the secretariat. The first of those documents (E/ECWA/XI/4(Part I)) covered the progress made in the implementation of the work programme, including the programme activities of the divisions and units of ECWA for 1983 and the activities initiated by the Commission at the request of its member States and of the United Nations. The second document (E/ECWA/XI/4(Part II)) contained a report on technical co-operation activities, including advisory services rendered by the Commission to member countries. The third and fourth documents (E/ECWA/XI/4/Add.1(part I) and (part II)) summarized the studies and reports prepared in connection with the various elements of the programme.

52. The Executive Secretary reviewed the most significant activities connected with each of the fourteen programmes set forth in document E/ECWA/XI/4. The review of each programme elicited a number of statements and comments by the representatives of the member States.

53. The representative of Qatar raised the question of delays in the distribution of documents to participants. In reply, the secretariat said that most of the documents had been delivered to the embassies of member States more than six weeks in advance of the meeting, as prescribed in United Nations instructions. A small number of documents, however, were held up because of the unavailability of certain data needed for their completion, as had been the case with the documents relating to the review of the International Development Strategy and UNIDO IV. The Executive Secretary suggested that both he and the representatives of member States should consider the most appropriate ways of forwarding documents in order to avoid delays.

54. On the subject of food and agriculture and in connection with the programme element on plan analysis and direct assistance to agricultural planning, the representative of Saudi Arabia inquired about the required common agreement on what constituted the concept of food security at the regional level. The secretariat explained that the required agreement was on the identification of strategic commodities, the magnitude of the stock of such commodities that should be provided and the manner in which such stocks should be managed and moved between countries of the region.

55. In that connection, the representative of Egypt drew attention to the need to achieve comprehensive co-ordination between the development strategies of the countries of the region. He added that such co-ordination should not take place in one sector in isolation from other sectors and activities. The secretariat replied that it was in complete agreement with the view expressed by the representative of Egypt and explained that in accordance with ECWA resolution 7b(VI), a draft strategy had been drawn up by an expert group meeting in Beirut in 1979. In 1980, the Commission had, at its seventh session revised and adopted that strategy. The strategy had appeared in its final form in December in document E/ECWA/UPD/14/1/Rev.2 which had constituted the Commission's contribution to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

56. With reference to an ECWA study, according to which one of the basic contradictions in the agricultural planning process in Iraq was the incompatibility of current planning methods with prevailing production patterns, the representative of Iraq stated that its conclusion was incorrect. He gave an account of Iraq's experience in agricultural planning and stated that it did provide for agricultural production conditions in production

units at various levels with a view to raising and improving rates and standards of production. The secretariat explained that the study referred to by the representative of Iraq had been reviewed with FAO and had been discussed at a meeting of experts that had included representatives of FAO and of the Ministry of Planning of Iraq as well as a number of other experts, and that review of the study was under way with the bodies concerned with a view to drafting it in its final form.

57. The representative of Jordan said that the secretariat's review of the programme elements called for the clarification of a number of problems impeding their implementation and of the solutions proposed to overcome them. He also called for the implementation of a regional project on short- and long-term training in agricultural planning designed to overcome the problems of that sector. The secretariat explained that such a project was presently being implemented with the co-operation of ECWA, FAO and the Arab Planning Institute. There was also, in that connection, an integrated project, the possibility of whose funding and implementation was under study.

58. With regard to the programme element on the promotion of national food strategies and food security programmes, the representative of Saudi Arabia objected to the study which had asserted that the Arab region was alarmingly dependent on foreign supplies to meet its requirements in basic foodstuffs. He pointed out that Saudi Arabia had achieved a high degree of self-sufficiency in wheat and vegetables. Saudi Arabia was spending billions of riyals on crop and livestock farming and he requested that information on the subject be included in the reports of the Commission. The secretariat replied that Saudi experience in wheat production had been unique and demonstrated that if the Arab States followed sound agricultural methods and provided incentives to farmers they might achieve self-sufficiency.

59. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization inquired about the progress made in the study conducted by ECWA on the question of food security in the occupied territories. The secretariat explained that the study was a joint undertaking of ECWA and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and its preparation had been entrusted to the Arab Foundation for Research and the Transfer of Technology located in the West Bank. A draft of that study was now ready and it would be communicated to the competent authorities in the Palestine Liberation Organization for its opinion before publication.

60. With regard to the programme element on assistance in regional food grains security arrangements, the representative of Qatar drew attention to the fact that the efforts made by ECWA had focused more on the national than on the regional level and he called for the co-ordination of imports of basic foodstuffs, including grains. The secretariat expressed its

agreement as to the importance of concentration in the field of food security on the regional rather than on the country level.

61. Speaking on the same subject, the representative of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development reviewed the efforts made both by the Arab Economic and Social Council and the Fund in the sphere of food security.

62. On the subject of development issues and policies, and the programme element on the survey and analysis of economic and social developments in the countries of Western Asia, the representative of Egypt inquired about the oil situation and he expressed surprise at the statement that the situation called for a realistic study differentiating between short-, medium- and long-term expectations whatever the conclusions of such a study might be.

63. On the subject of environment, the representative of Iraq emphasized the importance of establishing basic principles and standards for the protection of the environment against pollution which would serve as a basis for the approval of development projects in the industrial agricultural and other sectors from the point of view of pollution control and the protection of the environment. He gave an account of the experience acquired by Iraq in that field through its Council for the Protection of the Environment, a body connected with the Ministry of Health.

64. On the subject of industrial development, the representative of Jordan spoke of the importance of those programme elements in respect of which work had been terminated owing to the transfer of staff members or vacant posts. The representative of Egypt re-emphasized the observation made by the representative of Jordan. The secretariat explained that the termination of work on a number of programme elements was due, in addition to the reasons already mentioned, to the non-availability of the funds necessary for their implementation from extrabudgetary sources, on the one hand, and to the fact that certain regional and Arab organizations and funds were engaged in similar projects, on the other. The secretariat had had no choice but to cancel such elements in order to avoid duplication and the waste of available capacities.

65. The representative of Qatar made an observation concerning the need for ECWA to give its attention to industries readily available to the region, such as the petrochemical and fertilizer industries, rather than to industries requiring high skills and a long period of preparation.

66. On the subject of international trade, the representative of Egypt asked for the promotion of co-operation among the countries of the region, then with the developing countries and only then with other countries. The secretariat indicated that the

studies that it was conducting were aimed at the investigation of means of expanding and diversifying the trade of the States of the region in order to reduce their excessive reliance on a small number of commodities and markets. In this respect the activities of the Commission were, and continued to be, primarily geared to the stimulation of trade between the States of the region.

67. On the subject of natural resources, the representative of Jordan suggested the completion of the two studies being conducted on the programme elements on skilled manpower needs in the mineral resources sector and on the promotion of efficient water resources management and administration. Their skilled manpower needs should be studied in the same manner as the study on the skilled manpower needs of the energy sector in the sub-programme on skilled manpower needs in the oil and gas sector. The secretariat explained that the development of the human skills in the water resources sector was among the topics discussed at the Second Regional Water Meeting convened by ECWA at Riyadh from 30 December 1978 to 3 January 1979. The secretariat drew attention to the recent study carried out by UNESCO on the percentage of technical personnel in relation to the total population of each country, the findings of which would be taken into account in the study that was currently being prepared by ECWA on the subject of the enhancement of programmes for the training of manpower in the water resources sector in the region.

68. In the framework of the programme element on new and renewable sources of energy, the representative of the Republic of Iraq stressed the need for the utilization of solar energy in the development of rural areas, and particularly in respect of evolving agricultural production, especially since the ECWA region was well endowed with this source of energy. The secretariat expressed its agreement with the view of the representative of Iraq and said that the matter was always included in its programmes of work as in document E/ECWA/XI/CP/8 submitted to the Standing Committee for the Programme.

69. With regard to the programme element on determinants and consequences of population trends, the representative of Iraq emphasized the need to take into account the recommendations of the Amman Conference which expressed the views of the Arab States of the region concerning population policies.

70. Concerning the subprogramme on labour management and employment in the field of manpower, the representative of the Arab Labour Organisation stressed the need for efforts to remedy the lack of information on the labour market and to study movements of manpower. He expressed support for the endeavours made by ECWA in that respect, indicating that they coincided with the objectives of the Arab Labour Organisation.

71. On the same subject, the representative of Qatar highlighted the importance of that item, particularly under the current circumstances in which efforts were being made to achieve optimum utilization of manpower. He referred to the experience gained by Qatar in that field through its endeavours to establish a College of Administration at the University of Qatar with a view to training administrators of Qatar capable of achieving socio-economic development objectives. He expressed the hope that the ECWA secretariat would take account of manpower in its future programmes.

72. With regard to the science and technology programme element and the programme element on development of consulting, engineering and design capabilities in selected ECWA countries, the representative of Jordan indicated that the subject matter of that section was not in conformity with the heading. He requested clarification. The secretariat explained that the specifications of the subprogramme in question made it clear that it had been planned basically in order to study and analyse the growth of advisory, engineering and design capabilities in some of the ECWA countries so as to benefit from the experience, learn its lessons and arrive at appropriate proposals for the future development of those capacities.

73. Concerning social development and the programme element on assessment of integration of women in the development process, the representative of Iraq praised the ECWA secretariat for the endeavours that it had made with regard to the development of women. He stressed the need to continue the programmes which guaranteed increased participation of women in development and, in particular, in fields of production in view of the fact that women constituted half of society.

74. The representative of Qatar referred to the progress made by his country in the field of women's education, recalling that women accounted for 50 per cent of all students and that his country was diligently promoting that aspect so that women could play their role in society. He called upon the secretariat to pay more attention to that subject in its future programmes which might reduce the need to import labour from outside the ECWA region, which was having adverse effects on social changes in member States.

75. With regard to the procedural approach, the representative of Egypt said that the work of ECWA should not be confined to the mere attendance of meetings and provision of advice but, on the contrary, should be based on a global concept of social development factors in the countries of the region. He suggested that that should apply equally to social and other development sectors.

76. The representative of UNICEF thanked the secretariat for its endeavours to enhance national and regional capabilities

with a view to the identification, formulation and implementation of projects aimed at the development of women. He recommended that there should be prior co-ordination among the international organizations concerned with the enhancement of the capabilities of women and that use should be made of indicators such as those studies in order to promote the implementation of projects for the optimum enhancement and development of the capabilities of women.

77. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization stressed the co-ordinating role of ECWA, on the basis of a clear conception formulated by its members. It was important that the free will of the region should find expression in an integrated plan. The secretariat replied that it had, in co-operation with the League of Arab States, established a comprehensive developmental framework, with a balanced interlinkage between social and economic development, as stated in the Arab Charter of Joint Economic Action. It had held a series of meetings with the League of Arab States. An Arab Charter for Social Development had been drafted as a basis for an overall social strategy.

78. With regard to statistics, the representative of Iraq commended the efforts of the ECWA experts in that field and their co-operation with the Central Statistical Organization in Iraq during the study on the requirements for the implementation of the comprehensive industrial survey currently being undertaken by Iraq.

79. The representative of UNICEF referred to various problems impeding improvement of the coverage and accuracy of social statistics in the countries of the region. He proposed that attention should be given to mortality statistics and particularly to statistics on mortality among infants and children under the age of five since such indicators were of great importance for socio-economic planning.

80. The secretariat expressed its gratitude for the valuable observations made by representatives and stated that among its most important goals was the provision of the most recent statistics available at the appropriate time. With regard to vital statistics and statistics on infant mortality, the secretariat had made it clear that, from the beginning of 1983, the Statistics Division had given its attention to demographic, vital and social statistics and was preparing to issue a special detailed bulletin containing them. The secretariat also stated that it was engaged in improving and standardizing the ways and means of gathering such statistics and disseminating them at the regional and Arab levels in the Statistical Indicators of the Arab World which was published in co-operation with the secretariat of the League of Arab States. It stated that the project for strengthening household survey capabilities had begun to play an important role in developing the statistical capacities of the States of the region. In that connection, the overall

co-ordinator of the programme at United Nations Headquarters spoke and cast light on that vital project.

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

81. The secretariat introduced documents E/ECWA/XI/5 and Add.1, containing a summary of measures taken in implementation of a number of the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its tenth session.

(i) ECWA resolution 119(X) on the policy-making structure of the Commission

82. The Executive Secretary reviewed the resolution, which called upon member States to be represented at the annual sessions at the ministerial level, and decided that the Standing Committee for the Programme should meet prior to the annual sessions and should report as appropriate to the ministerial meeting held thereafter on all programme matters falling within its terms of reference. Since it had not been possible to convene the meetings of the Standing Committee for the Programme at the time proposed by the secretariat because of the inability to form a quorum, the secretariat was of the view that the Standing Committee for the Programme should meet during the session. With regard to paragraph 4 of the resolution, the secretariat had prepared a study on current issues in regional co-operation and integration which had been included in the agenda of the session as item 10.

83. The representative of Qatar requested that the periodic meeting should take place at two levels in order to facilitate the work of the Commission.

84. The representative of Jordan suggested that a technical committee should meet two days before the Standing Committee.

85. The representative of Iraq said that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was a committee of experts, and suggested that that Committee should assume the tasks of a technical committee, should function as a preparatory committee and should hold its meetings two days before the ministerial meeting.

86. The representative of Saudi Arabia called for an evaluation of current practice and, if its feasibility was demonstrated, it would remain in effect; the matter did not require any change in the resolution.

87. The representative of Egypt suggested the use of the term "Technical Committee" as more precise, and said that the object was not to establish a new committee; the meeting of the techni-

cal committee should precede the meetings of the session at the ministerial level.

88. The representative of Qatar said that the situation should remain as it was; the Standing Committee should be retained and the sessions should be retained, and what was required was that there should be a prior meeting of a technical committee in order to facilitate the work of the Commission's sessions, which would be attended by ministers.

89. Agreement was reached that the matter should be decided at a closed meeting of heads of delegations to be convened for that purpose.

(ii) ECWA resolution 115(X) on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1984-1985

90. The Executive Secretary reviewed follow-up action on the resolution and no comments on the subject from participants were forthcoming.

(iii) ECWA resolution 117(X) on international assistance to the earthquake-stricken areas of Yemen

91. After the Executive Secretary's review of follow-up action on the resolution, the representative of Yemen expressed his gratitude to the secretariat for the report submitted, its comprehensiveness and the details it gave of the effective assistance provided to Yemen. He thanked Arab and other friendly States and the Arab funds. The immediate rescue operations had been no more than one element in a long and costly series of operations which could not be borne by internal Yemeni resources alone. Accordingly, the Government had formed a supreme council for the reconstruction of the affected areas.

92. The representative of Democratic Yemen then spoke, saying that the agenda item was an important one and undoubtedly attested to the extent of the catastrophe and the suffering to which the least developed countries were subject; Democratic Yemen had itself been exposed to such catastrophes. He thanked ECWA and the various States and organizations for the assistance they had given in overcoming such problems.

93. The representative of Saudi Arabia affirmed that his country would stand by its brothers in the two Yemens. He said that the action taken by it was an Arab and an Islamic duty, and that it would continue to shoulder that responsibility. He called upon brothers and friends to make the effort to help the two fraternal peoples.

94. The representative of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development said that the Fund was prepared to offer aid to Yemen and was represented in the fact-finding mission to Yemen.

It was prepared to co-operate with ECWA in order to achieve the economic and social objectives of the countries of the region.

95. The representative of UNICEF then spoke and expressed gratitude to the secretariat for its efforts to assist Yemen. UNICEF had not only provided health services, as stated in the report of the Commission on follow-up action on its resolution 117(X), but had also provided services in kind.

96. The Executive Secretary thanked the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Kuwait Development Fund and the other funds and regional and international bodies and organizations which had joined in providing assistance to Yemen. He said that ECWA would continue to act to assist in cases of catastrophe afflicting countries of the region, and that it had previously provided such assistance to Democratic Yemen when that country had been afflicted with flooding. He called for increased co-operation with ECWA in order to enable it, in case of need, to provide speedy assistance to countries of the region in the event of catastrophe.

(1v) ECWA resolution 118(X) on the programme of action
in favour of the least developed countries

97. After the Executive Secretary had reviewed follow-up action on the resolution, the representative of Democratic Yemen stated that his country was interested and involved in the resolution and in the measures required by the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries in the region and within the framework of its priorities. He expressed appreciation and gratitude to ECWA and its Executive Secretary for the technical assistance provided in the form of regional advisory services in various fields, such as the formulation of proposals, the drawing up of feasibility studies, the preparation of country papers, the strengthening of national capabilities, the establishment of joint programmes for the two Yemens, the search for sources of funding and the implementation of projects within the framework of the development plans of the two countries.

98. The representative of Iraq said that it would have been appropriate if the ECWA report on follow-up action on the resolution had reflected the bilateral and multilateral action taken by the States of the region to provide assistance to the least developed countries. A number of States members of the Commission had, for example, recently provided generous assistance to the Sahelian countries affected by drought and had also done so through the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Member States also provided assistance through UNICEF and other United Nations organizations.

99. The representative of Qatar expressed gratitude for the Commission's efforts to implement the resolutions adopted on the

matter and thanked States and regional and international organizations which had contributed to solving some of the problems afflicting the least developed countries. He called for the Commission to continue to follow-up the matter, to include such an item in all future sessions and to monitor the activities of member States related thereto.

100. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization said that the most pressing problem was that of death from hunger and not that of the least developed countries. That topic was on the agenda of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the Afro-Arab Co-operation and other organizations. He wondered how the Commission might contribute to rapid action to save the lives of millions threatened by hunger.

101. The representative of the United Arab Emirates endorsed the proposal made by the representatives of Qatar and the Palestine Liberation Organization. He stressed the need for the continued provision of aid to the least developed countries and recommended that such aid should be provided in all fields.

102. The representative of UNCTAD emphasized the need for continued co-operation with ECWA with a view to assisting the least developed countries. He said that the UNCTAD programme called for the organization of meetings of international organizations assisting the least developed countries and drew attention to the meeting due to be held in 1985 in that connection.

103. The representative of the Arab Industrial Development Organization expressed the hope that a comprehensive plan and overall conception would be formulated by all the Arab and regional organizations with a view to drawing up a comprehensive programme for the ECWA region in which the situation of six of the least developed Arab countries would be taken into account.

104. The Executive Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the support given in that respect. He added that ECWA was co-operating with UNCTAD and, to that end, had attended the conference held at Sana'a. He said that ECWA would take into account the proposals made by the representatives. He requested that ECWA be supplied with information and details of the aid provided by the countries of the region to the least developed countries in order to complete the information available to the Commission in that connection so that ECWA could include it in the report due to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. He said that the assistance provided by ECWA for the least developed countries was being financed from the Commission's Trust Fund to which donations had been made by a number of member States, such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Qatar, together with Western countries such as the Netherlands, France and other members of the European Economic Community. He called for further contributions to enable ECWA

to continue to play an effective role in that respect. He also referred to the possibility of the despatch of joint missions by ECWA and other Arab organizations.

(v) ECWA resolution 123(X) on the study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people

(vi) ECWA resolution 116(X) on staff and administrative questions

105. The session decided that the two above-mentioned resolutions should be considered at a closed meeting of heads of delegations.

(c) Mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade

106. The Executive Secretary introduced document E/ECWA/XI/6 on the mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in the ECWA region. He said that the Strategy had been adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations with a view to accelerating the development of the developing countries within the context of an international economic order based on justice and efficiency. He indicated that the achievements made in the developing countries since the adoption of that Strategy fell far short of the target that had been set.

107. The representative of Iraq stressed that the oil-producing countries in general, including States members of ECWA, had exceeded the target set in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade with regard to the provision of a specific percentage of their gross national product in assistance for the developing countries. He added that for the reasons identified in the report, although it had not been complete and comprehensive, recent years had witnessed a reduction in amounts of assistance as a result of deteriorating conditions and declining prices in the oil market and also because of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war which, since its outbreak four years previously, had been draining the financial resources of Iraq and, to a lesser extent, of the Arab States members of ECWA. He characterized as over-optimistic the prediction made in the document to the effect that, in spite of all the adverse repercussions of economic stagnation, OPEC member countries would continue to provide external development assistance greatly exceeding the target set in the International Development Strategy and at a higher level than that provided by

the developed countries, particularly since the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war would lead to a reduction in such assistance, thereby precluding the realization of that optimistic prediction.

108. The representative of Egypt referred to a remark made in the document to the effect that a number of countries in the region, including Egypt, were continuing to rely on food aid received from abroad. He pointed out that although Egypt relied to a large extent on imported food, such imports were paid for in cash and did not constitute "food aid".

109. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization referred to the subject of the Iran-Iraq war, and its effects on development in Iraq. He said that the financial resources wasted in the Arab States as a result of the aggressive policies pursued by Israel since its establishment 36 years ago would have been sufficient to change all aspects of life in the region. He condemned the continuation of those policies, and drew attention to their destructive nature and the threats that they posed not only to the Palestinian people but also to the peoples of the entire region whose aspirations with regard to progress and development were seriously jeopardized thereby.

110. The representative of Saudi Arabia expressed agreement with the statement of previous speakers on the effects of the Iran-Iraq war and its depletion of Iraq's resources in particular and those of the Arab States in general. He affirmed the evil and destructive effects of the existence of Israel and the exhaustion of the energies of the Arab nation and called upon the international community to make positive efforts to achieve stability in the region.

111. The representative of Jordan called for an ECWA report to reflect certain numerical data on the economic effects of the continued stalemate in reaching a just solution to the Palestinian issue and the Iran-Iraq war, whether in the form of absolute numbers or percentages, and of their effects on the national income of Jordan, Iraq and the surrounding States.

112. The representative of Egypt said that the document presented by the secretariat should have been clearer and have contained more up-to-date information and that the data would have been more readily available if there had been a freer flow of information between ECWA and member States. He gave examples from the data contained in the document on the decline in the annual growth rate of the gross domestic product of the countries of the region. He called for the data relating to Egypt to be made explicit and stated that it was not sufficient merely to use the words "excluding Egypt". The statement in the report concerning the allocation of 1 per cent of GNP to assistance to the developing countries applied to wealthy, industrialized, developed countries and not to oil-producing countries as such.

113. The Executive Secretary said that the effect of the Iran - Iraq war was not restricted to Iraq but extended to a number of Arab countries. With regard to the correction of some of the information contained in the document, the secretariat would be pleased to receive the information as quickly as possible in order to make the necessary amendments to the document before its submission to the Economic and Social Council.

2. Follow-up action at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings
(agenda item 7)

114. The secretariat presented document E/ECWA/XI/8 containing a report and a number of annexes summarizing the basic documents, proceedings and follow-up action at the regional level to world conferences. It covered the following conferences and meetings:

(a) FAO/ECWA Regional Intergovernmental Consultation on Rural Development in the Near East Region as a Follow-up to WCARRD

115. In its presentation of the item, the secretariat stated that the Consultation, which it had organized, came as a follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held at Rome in 1979, and had reviewed national policies for agrarian and rural reform and the topic of the elimination of poverty in the countryside. The recommendations arrived at by the Consultation would be taken into account in the Commission's work programmes.

116. The representative of Saudi Arabia expressed the desire for more information on the rural projects undertaken by various countries of the region.

(b) The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year

117. In the framework of this item the secretariat referred to both the General Assembly resolution establishing 1985 as the International Youth Year under the motto of participation, peace and development and to the established programme of measures and activities concerning the preparation of the International Youth Year. On the basis of that programme, the Commission had organized a regional meeting of the members of ECWA in preparation for the International Youth Year in co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The secretariat had submitted two basic working documents to that meeting, namely on the situation and needs of youth in the Western Asia region, and a regional plan of action for youth in

the Western Asia region. The meeting approved the regional plan of action which was to be presented to the World Conference on the International Youth Year scheduled to be held in 1985.

(c) The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

118. In introducing that item, the secretariat mentioned that the meeting was one of several regional preparatory meetings being held to discuss the provisional agenda of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, scheduled for 1985, and to formulate appropriate recommendations on preparatory steps and the preparation of documents for the Congress. The secretariat had participated in the organization of that meeting by making the necessary arrangements for it to be convened and by providing technical assistance in the course of the proceedings. The meeting discussed conditions prevailing in the ECWA region with regard to the prevention of crime and to social justice, with particular emphasis on the region's characteristic features and peculiarities in that respect. The meeting also adopted a resolution entitled "Establishment of an Arab Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", affiliated to the United Nations.

(d) The Regional Conference on Population in the Arab World in preparation for the International Conference on Population

119. In introducing that item, the secretariat drew attention to the fact that the meeting had been the first achievement of co-operation between ECWA and the League of Arab States and that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the States members of the League of Arab States, of ECWA and of the Economic Commission for Africa as well as international, regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations had also participated. That meeting had led to the issue of the "Amman Declaration" on population in the Arab World, a document reflecting the region's view of population and development issues, which also expressed the need felt by States of the region to achieve the comprehensive development of the Arab countries. The Executive Secretary then drew attention to the Arab Parliamentary Congress which was due to be held at Tunis. In this connection he expressed the hope that Arab delegations attending that meeting would adopt a position consistent with the Amman Declaration, and that they would also adopt a unified stand at the International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico in August that year.

120. The representative of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities expressed gratitude to the secretariat of ECWA

ence on Population. Moreover, he appreciated the fact that the Conference had been the product of the joint endeavours of ECWA and the League of Arab States, and expressed the hope that such co-operation would be further developed for the benefit of the States of the region.

121. The representative of the United Nations Population Division said that a number of preparatory papers for the Mexico Conference had already been produced and that the Population Division was also preparing the scientific documents needed for that Conference in the light of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council.

3. The Commission's preparations for UNIDO IV
(agenda item 8)

122. The Executive Secretary presented documents E/ECWA/XI/9, E/ECWA/XI/9/Add.1 and E/ECWA/XI/9/Add.2 which comprised the commission's preparatory work for UNIDO IV in accordance with the resolution adopted at the tenth session. He stated that the secretariat had prepared three documents on issues put forward for consideration, which were of special interest to the region. A conference of the ministers of industry of the Arab States was scheduled for May, 1984 and ECWA intended to participate in it in order to formulate a limited Arab regional stand at the Vienna conference.

123. The representative of the Arab Industrial Development Organization drew attention to the significance of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO and proposed that a unified position be adopted by the Arab States with regard to the items on its agenda. He said that the Arab Industrial Development Organization had prepared a number of background papers on those subjects which would be presented to the Arab Ministers of Industry at the Sixth Conference on Industrial Development, with a view to determining a consistent Arab position, as was required. He also expressed the Organization's preparedness to co-operate fully with ECWA and elaborate a joint working paper on that basis.

124. The representative of Iraq called for a unified Arab position as to the remedy to be applied to the imbalance in the sectoral structure of the composition of Arab production, as well as the increased participation of the Arab transformation industries in the formation of the Arab gross domestic product. He added that in spite of the efforts made during the 1960s to rectify the course of Arab industrial development, there had been a decline in the relative importance of the output of transformation industries as a proportion of the Arab gross domestic product. Moreover, the structure of Arab transformation industries was characterized by the predominance of industries producing intermediate and consumer goods at the expense of

those producing capital goods which accounted for merely 15 per cent of the output of all Arab transformation industries.

125. The representative of Egypt observed the fact that the statistical information contained in document E/ECWA/XI/9/Add.2 was out of date. He said that he noted certain inconsistencies, in respect of the years for which data were provided, which gave the impression that data were not available and, therefore, not fully usable. He requested that such information should be updated, stating that it would be possible to obtain data up to 1982.

126. The representative of Saudi Arabia expressed his delegation's appreciation of the quality of the document prepared and requested that it be made to include concise information on scientific developments and the transfer of technology in the region as well as on the importance of technical and industrial training.

127. The representative of Jordan suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on the need for co-operation with the Arab Industrial Development Organization with regard to the formulation of common ideas for the unified Arab position which was to set guidelines for the Arab States in their debate on the agenda of UNIDO IV. He also stressed the significance of the study on the comparison of the geographical distribution of industry and the distribution of the population in the Arab States. He said that in connection with the six topics selected in the proposed papers, due consideration had to be given to the role of the continuation of the problem of Palestine, the invasion of Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war and their impact on Arab industrial development.

4. The financial status of the Commission's programmes (agenda item 9)

128. The secretariat reviewed the financial status of the Commission's programmes as set forth in document E/ECWA/XI/10 on the financial status of the regular programme budget of the Commission. Details on extrabudgetary sources of financing available to the Commission in 1983 were contained in documents E/ECWA/XI/10/Add.1 and E/ECWA/XI/10/Add.1/Suppl. Document E/ECWA/XI/10/Add.2 contained a report by the secretariat on the status of the Trust Fund for ECWA Regional Activities.

129. The representative of Iraq made an observation concerning document E/ECWA/XI/10 on the regular programme budget of the Commission, which he said indicated the total resources allocated to two bienniums 1982-1983 and 1984-1985. He added that the document failed to account for amounts spent under allocations for the period 1982-1983 and, therefore, provided no basis for a sound and realistic comparison between requirements in the two periods, especially since amounts allocated for both

periods were in fact to be spent mostly on the salaries of staff members and because there was a high post vacancy rate of 30 per cent in administration in 1983 which had been lowered to 25 per cent in April 1983.

130. The secretariat replied to the question raised by the representative of Iraq with regard to document E/ECWA/XI/10 by saying that it did not contain an account of expenses incurred on top of allocations because the regular final accounts for the period 1982-83 had not yet been completed when the document was presented. It added that notwithstanding the high proportion of post vacancies, the increase in resources was attributable to expenses incurred as a result of the transfer of ECWA from Beirut to Baghdad and the costs of maintaining the new permanent headquarters building in Baghdad.

5. Current issues in regional co-operation and integration
(agenda item 10)

131. The secretariat introduced that item in accordance with the Commission's resolution 119(X) on the policy-making structure of the Commission as contained in document (E/ECWA/XI/11).

132. The representative of the Republic of Iraq made a number of observations on that item. He stated that it was primarily intended to shed light on certain achievements in the sphere of joint Arab economic co-operation and to avoid the duplication of efforts to promote joint Arab development. He drew attention to the efforts made by the Council for Arab Economic Unity to expand the membership of the Arab Common Market and the fact that a "compensation fund" was being set up to facilitate the accession to membership of the least developed Arab countries. Furthermore, the Council was endeavouring to transform the market from a 'free trade zone' to a customs union and a large number of measures had already been taken with regard to the unification of legislation, customs regulations and a common external tariff applicable to outside trading partners. Such measures and accomplishments deserved to be followed up and considered attentively because in the final analysis they fell within the scope of the Commission's interest in current issues in regional economic co-operation and integration. He went on to mention the two main documents adopted at the eleventh Arab Summit Conference in Amman in 1980, namely the document on the joint Arab economic working strategy and the document on the National Economic Working Charter. He said that those two documents constituted an important turning point in the "Arab collective evolution" and that they had led to fundamental changes in the Arab economies and embodied the organic links between them. He stressed the need to keep Arab economic

co-operation clear of Arab conflicts and involvement in the emerging political disputes and crises, and in compliance with the provisions of the National Economic Working Charter. He referred to the common convention on Arab capital investment in the Arab States and the agreement to facilitate and develop trade flows between the Arab States. On the subject of the participation of the private sector in the sphere of regional co-operation, he said that it was essential to benefit from the efforts being made by the League of Arab States, the Arab Institution for Investment Insurance, the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in the Arab countries to convene and organize special conferences for Arab businessmen and investors aimed at encouraging the private sector to participate in the promotion of joint Arab development. On the subject of manpower movements within the ECWA region, the labour-exporting and labour-importing countries called for the elaboration of a long-term perspective of the region's manpower needs; in this connection, it was proposed that countries concerned should conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to control manpower movements across their national borders and organize their transfer within the region.

133. The representative of Egypt agreed with the observations of the representative of Iraq and called for attention to be paid to studying the extent to which it was possible to continue economic co-operation in all its forms among the States of the region in spite of the political circumstances that might intervene. He called for priority to be given, whenever possible, to technical Arab manpower.

134. The representative of the International Chamber of Commerce said he was of the view that co-operation and co-ordination among Arab and international organizations and institutions including ECWA, and among Arab businessmen and investors through their chambers of commerce or federations or through their General Federation could contribute to the strengthening of joint Arab economic action.

135. The representative of Qatar referred to the fact that achievements of the Gulf Co-operation Council included the abolition of customs duties on trade in national products among the member States and freedom of movement for capital and citizens, as a preliminary stage towards the creation of a Gulf common market.

136. The secretariat noted that the brief study presented under the agenda item in document E/ECWA/XI/11 did not contain an evaluation of the activities and efforts of the countries of the region in the field of regional co-operation. It was intended to give an opportunity to member States to provide the Commission with information and ideas on new forms of regional co-operation and integration between them.

6. Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations
(agenda item 11)

137. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/XI/12 containing a report on the activities it had undertaken to strengthen and consolidate economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations in implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/50 of 28 July 1983. The document covered the promotional activities of the Commission in support of co-operation among the developing countries in general, and particularly at the regional level, in the fields of institution building. It did so through the provision of advisory and training services and the co-ordination and harmonization of research activities, activities relating to execution, the exchange of information, co-ordination in the fields of financial support for technical co-operation among developing countries, and activities related to publications, training workshops and seminars.

138. The representative of the Arab Telecommunication Union called for strengthening modes of co-operation between ECWA and ATU, particularly in the technical field.

7. Amendments to the provisional rules of procedure of the Commission
(agenda item 12)

139. The secretariat presented document E/ECWA/XI/13 on the proposed change of the date of the opening of the session from the third Monday of April to the third Sunday, of the same month. The proposal was discussed at a closed meeting of the heads of delegations, at the outcome of which it was agreed that the annual date for the opening of the session would be the third Saturday in April.

8. Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific
(agenda item 13)

140. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/XI/14 containing a review of measures taken by ECWA in implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/69 of 29 July 1983 concerning the Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994. The secretariat had established appropriate contact with the secretariat of ESCAP in order to monitor the activities to be undertaken in preparation for the Decade.

9. Decentralization (General Assembly resolution 32/197
on restructuring of the economic and social sectors
of the United Nations system)
(agenda item 14)

141. The secretariat introduced document E/ECWA/XI/15/Rev.1 and stated that based on General Assembly resolution 32/197, which defined the basis for the implementation of the decentralization process and resolution 35/197, which focused on the restructuring of the support services in the Secretariat at Headquarters, and resolution 33/202, which vested the regional commissions with the status of executing agencies for intersectoral projects at the regional, subregional and interregional levels or for projects not falling within the scope of the responsibilities of the specialized agencies and which were undertaken by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/214, the regional commissions and the units concerned at Headquarters exchanged views on the current distribution of responsibilities in all programme fields and consequently the field of social development had been assigned to ECWA. The secretariat pointed out that, as a result of the consultation that had taken place between Headquarters and the regional commissions, it had been agreed that there was a need to pay more attention to the strengthening of the resolutions of the regional commissions and to ensure that agreement was reached on the types of activities to be carried out during the current biennium or in the coming programme budget. There was also a need to study the list of joint activities so that they could be carried out at an early date. Special importance was attached to the question of the decentralization of resources and the need to achieve decentralization of activities when preparing the coming programme budget.

10. Other business
(agenda item 15)

142. The representative of Lebanon expressed his Government's appreciation and gratitude for the reference to Lebanon made in the address by Mr. Taha Yassine Ramadan, First Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq. He called upon the secretariat to give priority to meeting the requests that Lebanon would be making to the Commission, particularly since its special circumstances over a period of nine years had prevented it from making full use of the Commission's services.

11. Report of the Standing Committee for the Programme
(agenda item 16)

143. The Standing Committee for the Programme met at ECWA headquarters from 22 to 26 April 1984 (see paras. 145 and 146 below).

12. Adoption of the Commission's report on its
eleventh session
(agenda item 17)

144. At the sixth plenary meeting, held on 26 April 1984, the Commission adopted its draft report to the Economic and Social Council and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report and introduce any requisite editorial changes .

D. Programme of work and priorities

145. The Standing Committee for the Programme discussed the programme of work and priorities and the updating of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1985 and submitted its report (E/ECWA/XI/7/Rev.1) to the eleventh session of ECWA.

146. At the sixth plenary meeting, held on 26 April 1984, the eleventh session of ECWA adopted the report of the Standing Committee for the Programme as well as the resolution of the Standing Committee.

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS
ELEVENTH SESSION

124(XI) Study of the economic and social conditions
and potential of the Palestinian Arab people*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 27(III) of 1976 which provided for the preparation of a comprehensive study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people,

Further recalling its resolution 123(X) of 1983,

Taking cognizance of the note submitted by the Executive Secretary concerning the study under consideration,

1. Decides to refer to member States the complete study together with its summary, and the report of the sub-committee established pursuant to its resolution 123(x), so that they may make observations thereon within a period not exceeding four months;

2. Requests the sub-committee to meet after that period has lapsed, in order to consider the observations of member States and revise the complete and summarized versions of the study on the basis of those observations with a view to the production of a new study and summary thereof, within a period not exceeding eight months;

3. Invites member States to finance the emoluments of the members of the sub-committee and the costs of translating the complete study into Arabic if required after its revision, on the basis of the financial estimate presented by the Executive Secretary of the Commission;

4. Decides to distribute to non-members neither the study nor its summary until these have been revised and approved at the twelfth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

6th meeting
26 April, 1984

125(XI) General policy-making structure of the Commission

126(XI) Staff and administrative questions
These resolutions appear in chapter I.

* See para. 105 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

127(XI) Fourth General Conference of the United Nations
Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO IV)*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/212 in which the draft provisional agenda for the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO IV) was approved,

Appreciating the endeavours made by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to prepare for the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO IV) due to be held at Vienna from 2 to 18 August 1984, including the reports submitted in this connection to the Commission's eleventh session by the Executive Secretary,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to provide the members of the Commission with technical assistance in the form of information and studies on the topics for discussion at UNIDO IV, and to maintain co-ordination with the Arab Industrial Development Organization in this respect;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to include in the agenda of the twelfth session a special item on the recommendations and outcome of the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

6th meeting
26 April 1984

* See paras. 122-127 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

128(XI) Regional Conference on Population in the Arab World in preparation for the International Conference on Population

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the efforts made internationally to prepare for the International Conference on Population (1984) and assess the achievements made in the field of population questions since the holding of the World Population Conference at Bucharest in 1974,

Appreciating the efforts made by the secretariat to implement its population programme and the support that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities is providing for that programme,

Appreciating further the achievements made by the secretariat in holding the Regional Population Conference on Population in the Arab World (Amman, 25-29 March 1984) in collaboration with the secretariat of the League of Arab States, with a view to preparing for the International Conference on Population (1984), as stated in the note by the Executive Secretary on follow-up action at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings**,

Taking note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population, 1984***,

1. Endorses the Amman Declaration on Population in the Arab World issued by the Regional Conference and regards it as a contribution by the Economic Commission for Western Asia to the preparation of the International Conference on Population, 1984;

* See paras. 119-121 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

** E/ECWA/XI/8.

*** Economic and Social Council (E/1984/28).

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the twelfth session of the Commission on the work and resolutions of the International Conference.

6th meeting
26 April 1984

129(XI) Strengthening of national capabilities in the field of household surveys*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on progress made in the field of regional technical co-operation, particularly with regard to the strengthening of national capabilities in the field of household surveys,

Recalling that the programme on the strengthening of national capabilities in the field of household surveys was established to help the members of the Commission to secure through household surveys, a constant flow of the statistical information needed for the formulation and approval of development plans and policies as well as the enhancement of their national capabilities to carry out such surveys,

Aware that a number of States which prepared detailed household survey programmes have been unable to begin their implementation owing to the lack of requisite technical and financial resources,

Mindful of the importance of the technical assistance in that field provided by the secretariat's Household Survey Unit to members of the Commission,

1. Emphasizes the need to enable all States members of the Commission which have prepared household survey programmes to implement those programmes with a view to their utilization in development planning operations, taking advantage of the technical services provided by the Commission's secretariat in that respect;

*See para. 80 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

2. Urges financial organizations and bodies to continue to provide such financial and technical support within the framework of their technical co-operation programmes, as to enable the members of the Commission to implement their national household survey programmes.

6th meeting
26 April 1984

130(XI) Strengthening of the ECWA programme in
the area of increasing the participation
of Arab women in development*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Guided by General Assembly resolution 3520(XXX) of 15 December 1975 which called upon the regional commissions to give priority to the development and implementation of effective strategies to further the objectives of the World Plan of Action aimed at increasing the participation of women in development at the regional and subregional levels, bearing in mind the circumstances and priorities of each State,

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

Recalling further its unanimous resolution 66(V) of 6 October 1978 which adopted the recommendations of the regional plan of action concerning the responsibilities of ECWA in the field of women and development, and urged the Executive Secretary to intensify efforts to implement those recommendations through the necessary programmes and activities,

Appreciating the contribution of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women to the technical assistance projects carried out by the ECWA secretariat for the benefit of its members, thereby highlighting the importance of ongoing support by the international community for that Fund in order to enable it to continue its activities,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980 which called for the convening, at the conclusion of the United Nations Decade for Women, of a world conference to review and appraise achievements in that field,

Mindful of the special importance of the participation of the official delegations of its members in the regional preparatory meeting scheduled for December 1984 with a view to the

* See paras. 73 and 74 of this report for the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution.

adoption of the official documents and common positions constituting its contribution to the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women to be held at Nairobi in 1985, and also mindful of the importance of extensive participation by their delegations in the said World Conference.

1. Urges the Executive Secretary to establish the necessary contacts with the League of Arab States, its specialized agencies, and other Arab regional organizations concerned with a view to contributing towards the holding of the Regional Meeting on Women as part of the Commission's activities in preparation for the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the possibility of establishing a regional project, within the context of the programme on women, in co-operation with international and Arab regional organizations and bodies, which would be implemented through the secretariat for the conduct of research and studies and the provision of technical assistance and advisory services at the national and ECWA regional levels, taking into consideration the various sources of financing likely to meet the needs of that project.

6th meeting
26 April 1984

**131(XI) Information system at the Economic Commission
for Western Asia***

The Economic Commission for Western Asia

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/63 on the strengthening and co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 36/237 of 18 December 1981 on the establishment of an information systems unit in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations,

Mindful of the essential services that an information system at ECWA could provide for members of the Commission and other potential users,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the Commission's work in the field of information systems,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to elaborate a comprehensive programme of work to develop the secretariat's information infrastructure within the context of the 1986-1987 programme of work and priorities comprising projects that could be financed from various extrabudgetary sources;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to co-operate with Arab, regional and international organizations for the purposes of co-ordinating the information programme, ensuring complementarity and preventing duplication;

3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the fourth session of the Standing Committee for the Programme on the programme of work for the development of the information system.

6th meeting
26 April 1984

*The Standing Committee for the Programme referred this project resolution to the eleventh session. See the report of the Standing Committee (E/ECWA/XI/7/Rev.2).

132(XI) Economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people under occupation*

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 30(III) of 14 May 1976 urging the Economic and Social Council to work towards the speedy adoption of practical measures to ensure the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people in their homeland, and its resolution 108(IX) of 11 May 1982 on assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization,

Recalling also the substance of paragraphs 14 and 15 of section (b) of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the work programme on the exercise of Palestinian rights which, respectively, contained recommendations to "undertake measures to alleviate the economic and social burdens borne by the Palestinian people as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of their territories since 1967" and to "consider contributing or increasing special contributions to the proposed budgets, programmes and projects of the relevant organs, funds and agencies of the United Nations system that have been requested to provide humanitarian, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people",

1. Expresses gratitude to the Executive Secretary for the secretariat's efforts to conduct social and economic studies on the Palestinian people;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to continue to devote special attention to social and economic studies on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

**6th meeting
16 April 1984**

*** This resolution was submitted by the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and it was adopted unanimously by the Commission.**

Annex I

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS
AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

Programme budget for the biennium 1984-85

Administrative and financial implications of draft
resolution No.125(XI) on the general policy-making
structure of the Commission

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In paragraph one of ECWA resolution 125(XI) on the general policy-making structure of the Commission, the Economic Commission for Western Asia recommends that the Economic and Social Council should designate the Standing Committee for the Programme as a Technical Committee and it add to the Committee's terms of reference the item "discussion of the items on the provisional agenda of the annual session in preparation for the Commission's meeting at the ministerial level".
2. In paragraph two of the resolution the Commission decided that rule 1A of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure should be amended to read that the session would begin normally, annually on the Saturday of the 3rd week of April.
3. The present working hours at the secretariat of the Commission are from 7.30 p.m to 2.30 p.m Sunday through Thursday. The convening of the session on Saturday would require the secretariat to work beyond the normal tour of duty, for which additional payment should be made to staff members in the general service category.
4. It is estimated that the servicing of the session on Saturday by the secretariat would require all the general service staff members in the Conference Services Section, some of the general service staff members in the General Services Section and a number of secretaries detailed from other substantive areas of the secretariat. Based on past experience a total of 100 general service staff members would be required to work overtime to service the session on Saturday.
5. In the event the draft resolution is adopted by the Commission a total of \$US 10,000 would be required for the payment of overtime in 1985 for the staff members in the general service category who will be requested to service the Saturday session of the Commission. In future years the annual amount of ten thousand dollars will be increased according to the rate of inflation.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT
ITS ELEVENTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/XI/1	3	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/XI/1/Rev.1	3	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/XI/1/Rev.2	3	Agenda
E/ECWA/XI/1/Rev.1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECWA/XI/2	4	Organization of work
E/ECWA/XI/3	5	Invitation of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the activities of the eleventh session of the Commission
E/ECWA/XI/3/Rev.1		
E/ECWA/XI/3/Rev.2		
E/ECWA/XI/3/Rev.3		
E/ECWA/XI/4/Part I and Corr.1	6(a)	Progress made in the implementation of the work programme
E/ECWA/XI/4/Part II	6(a)	Technical co-operation activities and technical assistance projects

E/ECWA/XI/4/Add.1/ Part I E/ECWA/XI/4/Add.1/ Part II	6(a)	Progress made in the implementation of the work programme <u>Addendum</u> Executive summaries
E/ECWA/XI/5	6(b)	Report on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission
E/ECWA/XI/5/Add.1	6(b)	Report on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission (resolution 116(x))
E/ECWA/XI/6 and Corr.1	6(c)	Mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in the ECWA region (summary)
E/ECWA/XI/6/Add.1	6(c)	Mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in the ECWA region
E/ECWA/XI/7	7	Report of the Standing Committee for the Programme
E/ECWA/XI/8	8	Follow-up action at the regional level to United Nations world conferences and ECWA regional meetings
E/ECWA/XI/9 E/ECWA/XI/9/Add.1 E/ECWA/XI/9/Add.2	9	The Commission's preparations for UNIDO IV

E/ECWA/XI/10	10	The financial status of the Commission's programmes: Regular programme budget of the Commission
E/ECWA/XI/10/Add.1		The financial status of the Commission's Programmes: Extrabudgetary resources supporting the Commission's programmes
E/ECWA/XI/10/Add.1/ Suppl.1		The financial status of the Commission's programmes: Extrabudgetary resources supporting the Commission's programmes
E/ECWA/XI/10/Add.2		The financial status of the Commission's programmes: The Trust Fund for ECWA Regional Activities
E/ECWA/XI/11	11	Current issues in regional co-operation and integration in Western Asia
E/ECWA/XI/12	12	Co-operation among developing countries and regional organizations
E/ECWA/XI/13	13	Amendments to the provisional rules of procedure: Date of the opening of the session
E/ECWA/XI/14	14	Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994
E/ECWA/XI/15 E/ECWA/XI/15/Rev.1	15	Decentralization: General Assembly Resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

E/ECWA/XI/16

Draft final report

E/ECWA/XI/INF.1

Information for
participants

E/ECWA/XI/INF.2/Rev.1

List of documents

E/ECWA/XI/INF.3/Rev.2

List of participants

Annex III

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS ISSUED SINCE THE
TENTH SESSION

Symbol	Title
E/ECWA/AGR/83/6	The status and management of agricultural resources in the ECWA region
E/ECWA/AGR/83/9	Pastoral and livestock management systems in the ECWA region
E/ECWA/AGR/84/2	Review of the sample design for the agricultural household survey in the Yemen Arab Republic
E/ECWA/AGR/WG.14/12	Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Review of Experiences with Rural Development Projects in Countries of Western Asia (Baghdad, September/October 1983)
E/ECWA/AGR/IG.1/10	Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Review of Experiences with Rural Development Projects in Countries of Western Asia (Baghdad, October 1983)
E/ECWA/AGR/WG.15/9	Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Constraints in Agricultural Planning and Resource Mobilization for Food Programmes in the ECWA Region (Baghdad, December 1983)
	<u>Agriculture and Development,</u> Annual Bulletin No. 5 (1983)
E/ECWA/DPD/84/8	The operations of transnational banks in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
E/ECWA/DPD/WG.15	Expert Group Meeting on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia
	Review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in the ECWA region (August 1983)

Survey of Economic and Social
Developments in the ECWA Region
(Baghdad, 1984)

Studies on development problems in
countries of Western Asia
(1983)

E/ECWA/ID/83/6

Report on the Expert Group Meeting
on Electrical Network
Interconnection in the Meshreq
Arab Countries (October, 1983)

E/ECWA/ID/WG.8/41

Preliminary technological and
economic considerations on the
manufacture of electronic (semi-
conductor) components

E/ECWA/ID/WG.9/FR

Final report on the Experts Panel
on Electric Power Generators and
Turbines Manufacturing (1984)

E/ECWA/NR/83/2

Survey of economic analysis of the
actual and potential development
of industrial mineral deposits in
the ECWA region

Energy conservation in the ECWA
region: Prospects and possible
lines of action.
Natural Resources Bulletin
(vol. I, No.1, 1984)

Regional programme for new and
renewable sources of energy, with
special reference to rural
applications.
Natural Resources Bulletin
(vol. I, No.2, 1984)

E/ECWA/NR/WG.2

Joint ECWA/FSSTD Training Workshop
on Strategic Problems Involved In
Importing Technology for Industrial
Investment (Baghdad, 1983)

E/ECWA/POP/Conf.5/CRP3

The demographic situation and
prospects for the ECWA region
(1983)
Population Bulletin of ECWA
(Baghdad, 1984)

E/ECWA/PPCU

Directory of Regional and National
Training Institutes, Research

Centres, Specialized Agencies,
Training and Technical University
Programmes Available in ECWA
Countries
(volumes I & II, 1983)

Regional intergovernmental consultations for formulation and implementation of a programme for TCTD: Activities and ideas to improve such activities at the interregional level

E/ECWA/SD/83/3

Progress report to the thirteenth session of the Consultative Committee on ECWA's Voluntary Fund Activities covering the period January-December 1982

E/ECWA/SD/83/5

Progress report of the fourteenth session of the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women: ECWA's activities covering the period January-June 1983

E/ECWA/SD/83/5/Rev.1

Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women: Role of rural women in economic development in the ECWA region

E/ECWA/SDP/83/5

Report of the Workshop on National Planning and the Integration of Women in Development, Institute of Development Planning (Damascus, 10-23 December 1979)

E/ECWA/SDP/83/6

Some demographic implications of urbanization in the ECWA region

E/ECWA/SDP/83/7

The Role of women's organizations in implementing the regional and international plans of action

E/ECWA/SDP/84/2

Progress report to the fifteenth session of the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women: ECWA's activities covering the period July-December 1983

E/ECWA/SDP/Conf.1/4/2

Final report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting Devoted to the

- E/ECWA/STAT/WG.4/13 International Youth Year for
Western Asia (Baghdad, 1983)
- Report of the Expert Group Meeting
on Income Distribution Statistics
in the Arab Countries, (1983)
- External Trade Bulletin of the
ECWA Region
1st. Issue (Baghdad, 1983)
- Cross Domestic Product, National
Disposal Income and Consolidated
Account Statistics of ECWA
Countries.
National Accounts Studies
Bulletin No. 5, (1983)
- Statistical Abstract of the Region
of the Economic Commission for
Western Asia
6th. Issue (Baghdad, 1983)
- Studies on Prices and Index
Numbers in the ECWA Region,
1972-1982
Bulletin No. 5 (Baghdad, 1984)
- E/ECWA/TCTD/83/2 Mathematical analysis, evaluation
and classification of tourism
resources and attractions in the
ECWA region
- E/ECWA/TCTD/83/3 West Asian transport networks:
An overview
- E/ECWA/TCTD/83/5 Strategy for the development of
tourism in the ECWA region
- E/ECWA/TCTD/84/2 Mid-term review and appraisal
of progress in the implementation
of the International Development
Strategy for the Third United
Nations Development Decade:
Transport, communications and
tourism
- E/ECWA/TCTD/84/3 Transport harmonization and
standardization of documents

E/ECWA/TCT/84/5

Improvement of road maintenance
in the ECWA region

E/ECWA/ARDCES/3

Arab Regional Documentation Centre
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