



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

REPORT ON THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
(9 and 10 September 1974)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 10A

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I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY, OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE
ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Draft resolution requiring action by
the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Takes note of the report of the first special session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and of the resolutions adopted at its first special session.

B. Resolutions brought to the attention
of the Economic and Social Council

Site of the headquarters of the Commission

The Commission draws the attention of the Council to its resolution 6 (S-I) contained in chapter III below.

5. Speaking in his capacity as the head of the Lebanese delegation, the Chairman urged the other members of the Commission to endorse the Jordanian proposal and indicated that Lebanon accepted all obligations incumbent upon the host country.
6. Following a discussion of the draft resolution together with a number of amendments, the Commission adopted that resolution whose final text appears in chapter III (resolution 6 (S-I)).
7. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed reservations regarding paragraphs 3 and 4 of the final text of the resolution and requested their inclusion in the final report on the session.

B. Other Business

8. The Commission then took up item 5, "Other business". The representative of Jordan opened the discussion by commenting on the document of the United Nations Development Programme which had been submitted to the various Governments of the region and which dealt with UNDP intercountry programme proposals for 1975-1981. Referring to resolution 4 (I) of the Commission's first regular session, with regard to the need for co-ordination of effort in the technical co-operation activities in the region, the representative of Jordan said that UNDP should be invited to co-operate closely with ECWA so as to enable the latter to contribute to the planning, preparation, execution and follow-up of regional projects financed by UNDP in the ECWA region. He stressed the importance of taking into consideration the special features of the Arab world in general, and of the Commission's member States in particular, when UNDP prepared its projects and established its priorities. He also said that UNDP should consult the Governments of the region when the regional projects were prepared, so as to ensure that they were in line with their development plans. The delegation of Jordan submitted a written draft resolution on that subject.
9. The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of co-ordination between member States and the secretariat for the purpose of adopting unified projects that would be presented to UNDP. As a practical means of examining the projects proposed by UNDP for 1975-1981, the Executive Secretary said that the secretariat was prepared to send a mission to all member States before the end of 1974 to study any projects that might be presented to UNDP for that period.
10. The Commission was concerned with the implementation of the resolution adopted on that subject. It recommended that Governments of member States should contact immediately their delegations to the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly, requesting them to study the intercountry programme proposals of UNDP and to establish priorities for that programme and for the regional projects that benefited the States of Western Asia, in particular, and the Arab world, in general.
11. After introducing certain amendments, the Commission adopted the draft resolution whose final text appears in chapter III (resolution 7 (S-I)).

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

12. The first special session of the Commission was held at Beirut on 9 and 10 September 1974.
13. The opening meeting was presided over by H.E. Mr. Fouad Naffah, who had been elected Chairman of the Commission during the first regular session, held at Beirut in June 1974. In his opening speech, the Chairman welcomed the participating delegations.
14. The session was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
15. The Chairman announced the decision of the Commission to hold a closed session.

B. Election of officers

16. The officers of the Commission who had been elected during the first regular session were unanimously re-elected, on the understanding that Mr. Bachir El-Kotb (Syrian Arab Republic) would become Vice-Chairman, replacing Mr. Mohammed Zakaria Ismail who occupied this post at the previous session. The officers of the Commission were thus the following: H.E. Mr. Fouad Naffah (Lebanon), Chairman, Mr. Bachir El-Kotb (Syrian Arab Republic) and H.E. Mr. Khalil Salim (Jordan), Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Salah Al-Shaikhly (Iraq), Rapporteur. Mr. Sabah Mohammed Ali Mahmoud (Iraq) was elected Rapporteur in the absence of Mr. Salah Al-Shaikhly.
17. In accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure, the officers of the Commission examined the credentials of delegations and found them in order.

C. Agenda

18. The Commission approved the provisional agenda, contained in document E/ECWA/10/Rev.1, which included the following items:
 1. Opening of the session
 2. Election of officers
 3. Adoption of the agenda
 4. Site of the headquarters of the Commission
 5. Other business
 6. Adoption of the Commission's report on the work of its first special session

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

19. At its 3rd meeting, the Commission adopted the report on its first special session (see chapter III B above).

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED FOR THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION

Symbol

Title

/ECWA/10 and Rev.1

Provisional agenda

/ECWA/11 and Rev.1 and Corr.1

Facilities required in connexion
with the location of the secretariat
of the Economic Commission for
Western Asia: note by the Executive
Secretary

Decides that:

1. UNDP should be invited to co-operate more closely with the Commission in planning, preparing, executing and following up regional projects financed by UNDP in the countries of the region;
2. UNDP should be requested to extend the time-limit given to the Commission's member States to study the 1975-1981 intercountry programme so that they will be able to exchange views and comment on the proposed programme and thus ensure that the projects included in the programme are in line with the comprehensive development plans and priorities of the States of the region;
3. UNDP should be invited to consider the establishment of a special office to serve the Arab States as a group with common objectives, aspirations, development efforts and beneficial economic projects;
4. Governments of member States, in addition to following up the implementation of the resolution adopted at this session, should contact immediately their delegations to the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly and request them to study the programme of regional projects proposed by UNDP and to establish priorities for this programme and for the regional projects which benefit the States of Western Asia, in particular, and the Arab world, in general.

3rd meeting
10 September 1974

B. Other decisions

At its 3rd meeting, on 10 September 1974, the Economic Commission for Western Asia adopted its draft report to the Economic and Social Council on its first special session, as amended during its discussions.

III. RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Resolutions

Resolution 6 (S-I) Site of the headquarters of the Commission

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered the question of selecting the permanent headquarters of the Commission,

Taking into consideration the time needed for undertaking studies and for preparing designs and executing the construction works,

Decides that:

1. The 1976 regular session should be considered the final deadline for selecting the permanent headquarters of the Commission provided that the subject remains until that time as an item on its agenda;
2. Member States wishing to act as hosts for the Commission's permanent headquarters should submit, at the earliest possible time, their proposals with regard to the material and other facilities which they would undertake to make available to meet the Commission's needs;
3. With effect from the date of this resolution, Beirut shall be the provisional headquarters of the Commission for a period of five years during which the permanent headquarters shall have been selected and the premises constructed for the Commission to perform its basic functions;
4. During this transitional period the Lebanese Government shall provide the Commission with all the material and other facilities to enable it to implement its planned work programme and projects.

1st meeting
9 September 1974

Resolution 7 (S-I) UNDP regional and intercountry projects

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Bearing in mind resolution 4 (I), adopted at its first regular session, concerning technical co-operation activities in the region,

Hoping that the UNDP intercountry programme for 1975-1981 will incorporate the priorities and projects of the Commission,

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

A. Site of the headquarters of the Commission

1. In considering the question of the site of its headquarters, the Commission before it document E/ECWA/11/Rev.1 which listed the facilities required in connexion with the location of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Western Asia. The Executive Secretary introduced the item and stressed its importance, its bearing on the Commission's operations and degree of effectiveness, and the need to provide the proper atmosphere and adequate facilities which would enable the Commission to perform its assigned functions. He then discussed the projected expansion in the staff of the secretariat of the Commission and the importance of that expansion for the implementation of the work programme. He also stressed the need to ascertain clearly the facilities required for such an expansion, so that the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly could take those matters into consideration when it came to consider the additional appropriations requested by the Commission for increasing its staff.
2. A number of delegations thought it necessary to hold consultations and prepare preliminary studies and designs before reaching a decision in that respect. Three alternatives were considered for the time-limit needed to reach a decision on the permanent site of the headquarters: (a) to take a decision at the second regular session scheduled for April 1975; (b) to postpone the discussion until the third regular session scheduled for April 1976; (c) to postpone the discussion for another five years. The delegates concluded that a final decision should be taken during the 1976 regular session, it being understood that Governments could hold consultations with a view to reaching a final decision prior to that date, if possible.
3. The Commission then discussed the site of its provisional headquarters. The general view was that Beirut should be chosen as a temporary site for the Commission, provided the Lebanese Government made available all the necessary facilities needed to carry out its functions. The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of reaching a decision on that matter.
4. At that point the Jordanian delegation submitted a written draft resolution which provided: (a) that the permanent headquarters should be selected during the 1975 regular session or, failing that, within a period not later than the 1976 regular session; (b) that member States wishing to act as hosts for the Commission's permanent headquarters should submit, at the earliest possible time, their proposals with regard to the material and other facilities which they would undertake to make available to meet the Commission's needs; (c) that Beirut should be the provisional headquarters of the Commission for five years, during which time the permanent headquarters should have been selected and the premises needed by the Commission to perform its basic functions should have been constructed; (d) that during that transitional period the Lebanese Government should provide the Commission with all the material and other facilities which would enable the Commission to execute its planned work programme and projects.