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FOR WESTERN ASIA

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
FOR WESTERN ASIA**

**Seventeenth session**  
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**Amman**

Item 6(b) (v) of the provisional agenda

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION  
AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION**

**Resolution 183 (XVI)**  
**on the reconstruction of Lebanon**



1. In implementation of ESCWA resolution 183 (XVI) of 2 September 1992 on the reconstruction of Lebanon, various activities were undertaken in the following sectors during 1992-1993.
2. Agriculture. Two studies on a socio-economic survey of illicit crops were completed (E/ESCWA/AGR/1992 and Suppl. 1 [Arabic only]). A study on Eradication of Illicit Crops: Rehabilitation of the Agricultural Sector in Lebanon (E/ESCWA/AGR/1992/13) was issued. A National Training Workshop on Farm Management, Project Planning and Analysis was held at Beirut from 13 to 25 September 1993. Two studies on rehabilitation of the agricultural sector were completed in 1993. The first study was on rehabilitation of the agricultural credit system in Lebanon (E/ESCWA/AGR/1993/4 [Arabic only]). The second study concentrated on the preparation of project documents for land reclamation, rehabilitation of irrigation wells and canals: it was entitled Rehabilitation of the Agricultural Sector in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (E/ESCWA/AGR/1993/9 and Add. 1 and 2). Another study, focusing on the assessment and evaluation of rural development policies and programmes in Lebanon, was also issued in 1993 (E/ESCWA/AGR/1993/WG.1/12 [Arabic only]).
3. It is also worth mentioning that the preparation of a national farm data handbook for Lebanon was initiated in 1993 and should be completed during 1994. This publication, containing standardized input-output data for all agro-ecological zones, will facilitate the utilization of existing farm data for planning, policy analysis and project design in the agricultural sector of Lebanon.
4. Transport and Communications. The activities in these fields related to the following main topics: (a) hydrographic surveying and nautical charting; (b) management, rehabilitation and development of the port of Beirut; (c) establishment of free zones in Lebanon, in particular in the port of Beirut; and (d) transport policy and planning, public administration for the transport sector, and transport training, including a proposal for the restructuring of the Ministry of Transport. The above activities were all related directly to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon and were carried out through field missions undertaken in 1993 by the ESCWA Transport and Communications Division staff and by the ESCWA regional advisor on transport as well as by the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB).
5. The Expert Group Meeting on Transport Information Systems was held at Beirut from 15 to 18 November 1993. It was the first meeting in the ESCWA region to cover issues pertaining to transport-related information and data collection, processing and analysis.
6. Industry and technology. An advisory mission to two cement factories in northern Lebanon was conducted in April 1993. The mission recommended solutions and new approaches concerning the economic performance and technical problems of the factories.

7. In the field of development issues and policies, a study on economic reform and reconstruction in Lebanon was completed (E/ESCWA/DPD/93/11 [Arabic only]). The study addressed the subject with an extensive review of the imbalances that afflicted the Lebanese economy during and after the war. The study underscored the close relation between economic reform on the one hand and reconstruction on the other hand, in view of the fact that the economic imbalances in question were directly connected with the events of 1975. Prior to that, Lebanon had adopted a liberal economy and did not suffer from the imbalances afflicting a number of developing countries which had tried to correct them with the assistance of international organizations.

8. The above study contained two main parts; it concluded with an evaluation of the economic reform and reconstruction process in Lebanon. The first part addressed imbalances in the Lebanese economy before and after the war. The second part focused on the analysis of the economic reform and reconstruction policy during the period 1990-1992 and on the recommendations relating thereto, in particular the recommendations of the World Bank and formal measures in the context of policies aimed at establishing economic and financial stability.