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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

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

1. Agenda item 7, entitled Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission, comprises four sub-items that deal with various aspects of the activities undertaken by the Commission after its twenty-second session, which was held in Beirut from 14 to 17 April 2003.
2. The first sub-item, entitled Implementation of 2004-2005 biennium regular budget activities, falls into four parts. The first part deals with the regular budget activities that were implemented in 2004; the second part summarizes the progress made in implementing the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twenty-second session; the third part gives an outline of follow-up at the regional level to nine international conferences, in the organization and follow-up to which ESCWA played a part; and the fourth part reviews the reports adopted by the seven ESCWA specialized subcommittees at their sessions held between the twenty-second and twenty-third ESCWA sessions, with the focus on the most important recommendations made in those reports for the purpose of adoption.
3. The second sub-item deals with the financial position of the Commission, namely, the regular budget and the resources available from extrabudgetary sources and the ESCWA Development Fund.
4. The third sub-item covers technical cooperation programme activities, projects financed by extrabudgetary resources, the duties of the regional advisors, the technical cooperation strategy prepared by the secretariat in line with the reform endeavours undertaken by the United Nations and the regular budget technical cooperation activities for the 2002-2003 biennium.
5. The fourth sub-item deals with the report of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services on its audit of the regional commissions and the response of the ESCWA secretariat to the recommendations made in the report that related to its programme of work.
6. The agenda item therefore covers all the activities carried out by ESCWA since its twenty-second session and prepares the ground for discussion of the progress made in their implementation.
