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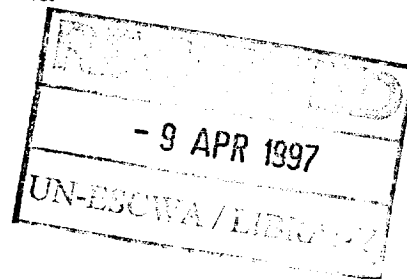
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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

Progress made in the implementation of the work programme

Report of the Executive Secretary

83-0147

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I. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

A. Subprogramme: Integrated regional agricultural planning1. Programme element: Monitoring and appraisal of agricultural developments, policies and plans

1. The 1982 (fifth) issue of the ECWA/FAO annual bulletin Agri-culture and Development was published in both English and Arabic and widely distributed inside and outside the region. Articles published in the bulletin served as background documents at a number of regional meetings. The standard review component of the bulletin includes sections concerned with regional trends in agricultural production and trade, a special review of agricultural production and development in Saudi Arabia and a special review of the situation in the forestry sector in the ECWA region. The variable component, which normally reviews major current policy issues, includes in this issue articles on aspects of rural development strategy and policies in Jordan and Yemen; the effect of agricultural price policies on the income of small farmers in selected ECWA countries; and the role of small-scale fisheries in the development of rural coastal areas bordering the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. The bulletin also featured a new section on the results and follow-up of meetings on agriculture organized by ECWA.

2. Programme element: Plan analysis and direct assistance to agricultural planning

2. A pilot case study on long-term agricultural development alternatives, efficient resource use and agricultural adjustment in the Syrian Arab Republic was completed in draft form. Key issues investigated include:

(a) how, taking into account the characteristics of the labour force, to restructure farms so as to take fuller advantage of available technology and to provide farm people with improved incomes and living conditions, while conserving the social and the physical environment;

(b) how to adjust the national output of agricultural commodities to domestic and export market demand without prejudicing the goals set out under (a). The study includes concrete proposals for agricultural adjustment which give due consideration to the assessment of priorities and the appropriate sequencing and timing of investment and to the need for, and possible methods of ensuring fully co-ordinated supporting policies (carry-over from the 1980-1981 programme budget).

3. As part of an ongoing programme, a first study on agricultural development in Saudi Arabia was completed. The study evaluates the land and water resources potential, regional cropping patterns, the cost of production on traditional and commercial farms, and agricultural price and marketing margins. The study also includes an in-depth analysis of the past (1975-1980) and current (1981-1985) development plans, and it discusses the relationship between programme implementation and sector growth. A number of conclusions are drawn regarding constraints in agricultural planning and the efficiency of plan formulation and implementation. The study and its recommendations will be discussed at a national in-service workshop, to be held in April 1983 in Riyadh.

4. A Round-table Conference on the Reconstruction and Development of Agriculture in Lebanon was held in Beirut from 11 to 13 January 1982. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and organized and managed in co-operation with UNDP, FAO and ECWA. The meeting discussed and endorsed, after introducing minor modifications, the final report of the UNDP/FAO project "Study on the reconstruction and development of Lebanese Agriculture"

(implemented in co-operation with ECWA), which includes a proposed strategy and policy options for agricultural development, a medium-term reconstruction and development programme and a proposal for the reorganization of the agricultural administration. The implementation of all recommendations is under consideration by the Government of Lebanon.

B. Subprogramme: Regional agricultural co-operation

1. Programme element: Promotion of national food strategies and food security programmes

5. A study on food strategy and food security programmes in Saudi Arabia was completed. The study includes a number of proposals and recommendations on food production, procurement, supply management and distribution.

6. At the request of the Government of Yemen, a joint ECWA/FAO field mission was organized in March 1982 to prepare, in final form, proposals for food security projects, including project documents on: the provision of buffer stock and emergency reserves and the construction of the necessary storage facilities; a feasibility study on the development of the flour mills; the establishment of a grain quality control unit; and the funding of a grain marketing advisor.

2. Programme element: Assistance in regional food grain security arrangements

7. Work under this programme element will be initiated in 1983.

3. Programme element: National and inter-country action to combat desertification

8. The final report of the Expert Meeting on Management, Conservation and Development of Agricultural Resources (Damascus, May 1981

has been published and distributed. In follow-up to the meeting, a number of project proposals for external financing have been prepared. At the request of UNEP, a paper has been completed on planning for integrated agricultural resource management and development of the ECWA region, outlining a logical framework for the analysis and follow-up of the recommendations of the Damascus meeting. The report will be included in a forthcoming UNEP Desertification Control Bulletin. In addition, a paper on the state and management of agricultural resources in the ECWA region was prepared and submitted for publication in a UNEP/USSR monograph "Desertification; scientific fundamentals and strategies of control."

4. Programme element: Resource conservation and management in mountain areas

9. Work under this programme element will be initiated in 1983.

C. Subprogramme: Agricultural and rural institutions

1. Programme element: Rationalization of agricultural price policies

10. A case study on agricultural price policy in Iraq is in progress and is expected to be completed shortly. The study attempts to demonstrate the relationships between agricultural policy and over-all socio-economic policy; to evaluate the importance of incentives and disincentives in agricultural production; to show the difficulties in the implementation of agricultural price policy, to suggest alternatives to the present price policy and to identify policy options for consideration by the Government.

2. Programme element: Promotion of integrated rural developments programmes

11. A report on the organization and management of state farms in Iraq was completed. The report looks at the organizational structure and the management and administrative system of the state farming organizations, and reviews and assesses the decision-making process, the planning system, financing and accounting, wages

and incentives, managerial and administrative staff and labour and production processes. The report recommends strengthening of economic principles in state farm management and a certain degree of decentralization. On these bases, a number of proposals and recommendations are formulated regarding various aspects of the organization and management of state farms. The report and the suggested follow-up are under consideration by the Government of Iraq.

12. A report was completed in collaboration with the social development programme on the review of selected rural development projects in Iraq, including an assessment of their objectives and performance against World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) objectives. The report draws conclusions of a policy nature, chief among which are the need to build up an area-specific knowledge base and to establish effective co-ordinating and monitoring mechanisms at national, local and project levels. Proposals for action will be formulated for consideration by the Government.

13. A case study on rural poverty alleviation in Egypt was completed. The study is based on socio-economic indicators of rural poverty, prepared in follow-up to the WCARRD Programme of Action. The study examines why and how the incidence of rural poverty has been brought about and to what extent the national development strategy has the anti-poverty elements laid down in the WCARRD programme of Action. Causal factors are defined and the impact of policy actions on the alleviation of rural poverty assessed. Conclusions are drawn and a number of proposals made for initiating or strengthening policy measures and action programmes.

14. At the request of FAO, a list of organizations and institutions involved with rural development and their functions in ECWA countries was prepared.

15. The joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division participated in the work of the ninth session of the Administrative Committee for Co-ordination (ACC) Task Force on Rural Development (Rome, March 1982).

II. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

A. Subprogramme: Review and assessment of trends and short-term economic forecasts

1. Programme element: Survey and analysis of economic and social development in countries of Western Asia

16. The Survey of economic and social developments in the ECWA region, 1982 was completed in April 1982 and published before ECWA's ninth session.

17. During the period under review, preparations were made for the 1983 economic and social survey. The Survey Unit, which was established during the year could not become fully functional because of difficulties in recruitment, and therefore reliance continued to be made on input from various substantive programmes.

18. A consultant's study on "Oil revenue surpluses and development of financial markets" was completed. The study is intended for inclusion in the 1983 economic and social survey.

B. Subprogramme: Perspective planning

1. Programme element: Medium and long-term planning exercises

19. A proposal was prepared for the recruitment of a consultant to complete work on a macro-economic model for Yemen.

20. Work on the building of a model for the Jordanian economy was initiated. The Jordanian Government expressed interest in the proposal, and a staff member undertook a mission to Jordan to discuss the details of the project.

21. A preliminary paper was prepared on the general framework of country models, based on the experience gained in the programme's work on models for the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The paper will be completed after from outside the secretariat.

22. Contacts are currently being established with other international agencies, such as the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the World Bank, IMF, ILO and UNCTAD, for possible co-ordination of work on models and access to data bases and computer software.

Subprogramme element: Plan harmonization and regional co-operation in development planning

2. Programme element: Review and analysis of trends, policies and measures affecting development prospects in the least developed member countries

23. Owing to a lack of resources, the envisaged reports to the Commission on progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) had to be postponed until vacant posts are filled. However, the Development Planning Division (DPD), serving as the focal point for the least developed countries of the Commission, carried out the following activities in co-operation with other programmes of DPD and other divisions and units of ECWA:

(a) DPD participated in the Yemen Second International Development Conference, held from 17 to 20 April 1982 in Sana'a. Three senior staff members from DPD attended the Conference and assisted the Government of Yemen in drafting the Conference report;

(b) DPD participated in the First Inter-Agency Consultation on the follow-up of the SNPA, held from 24 to 28 May 1982 in Geneva;

(c) Staff of the DPD consulted with representatives of the least developed member countries, during ECWA's ninth session, on possible ECWA assistance to the LDCs in line with the implementation of the SNPA;

(d) DPD participated in the preparation of a draft ECWA programme for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-

stricken areas in Democratic Yemen. This draft will be discussed with the Government of Democratic Yemen during 1983;

(e) DPD prepared a draft Programme of Action in Favour of ECWA's Least Developed Countries within the framework of the 1982-1983 and 1984-1985 work programmes of the Commission. This proposed comprehensive programme was elaborated through consultations and co-operation with all substantive divisions and units of ECWA. Upon completion the draft will be discussed with Government authorities in Democratic Yemen and in Yemen.

3. Programme element: Improving national capabilities in project formulation and implementation

24. No work was undertaken during the review period due to vacancies in the programme. Efforts are under way to expedite the recruitment process and to carry out the proposed activities under this programme element during 1983.

III. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

A. Subprogramme: Human settlements planning1. Programme element: Training and research needs for human settlements planning

25. Owing to the large number of vacancies in the human settlements programme during the reporting period, this programme element was terminated in order to allow the strengthening of programme elements with higher priorities.

2. Programme element: Analysis of the human settlements situation

26. Work was initiated under this programme element during the period under review. Priority was given to the preparation of country profiles on the least developed ECWA member countries, namely, Democratic Yemen and Yemen. Data collection is under way.

27. Other activities included technical assistance to the government of Lebanon on housing policies and schemes. Furthermore, a number of papers dealing with specific types of human settlements were completed. These are: "Planning for human settlements in disaster-prone-areas;" "The Euphrates Valley region: resettlement policy, housing and settlements, and education"; "The East Jordan Valley: education, housing, land reform and land tenure;" and "Transportation for urban and rural areas with emphasis on groups with limited income."

3. Programme element: Assessment and improvement of the building materials and constructions industry

28. Work under this programme element will be initiated during 1983.

4. Programme element: Finance institutions for housing

29. Owing to the relatively large number of vacancies in the human settlements programme during the reporting period, this programme element was terminated so as to allow to strengthening of programme elements with higher priorities.

5. Programme element: Human settlements problems of urban primacy and city management.

30. This programme element was terminated for the same reason stated above.

IV. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Subprogramme: regional co-ordination in the industrial field1. Programme element: Co-ordination of industrialization policies, plans and programmes

31. A preliminary review was made of the latest development plans of ECWA member countries in preparation for the report which is scheduled to be completed in 1983.

2. Programme element: identification of regional projects

32. Two new prefeasibility studies, selected by the Expert Group Meeting on Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industries (June 1981, Vienna) were initiated during the reporting period:

(a) Switchgear equipment: The consultant's report was completed and a mission to Geneva undertaken to collect additional data for the preparation of a prefeasibility study on the manufacture of switchgear equipment. The final prefeasibility report will be ready in 1983;

(b) Power boilers: A prefeasibility study on the manufacture of power boilers, and possibly industrial boilers, has been initiated. The consultant's report has been received and additional data and information were collected during the above-mentioned mission to Geneva. The final report is scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 1983.

33. Other activities in the area of capital goods industries during the reporting period include the following:

(a) Automotives (comprising automobiles, construction equipment and agricultural machinery) data on stock and past demand for passenger cars, various types of commercial vehicles, etc. were compiled and projections of demand for these vehicles in various countries made. Since various member countries have been developing a number of projects in this field, this programme will ultimately cover a

large number of industrial projects, and will have to be formulated within the context of individual country plans. Contacts with the Arab Industrial Investment Corporation (AIIC) and with the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) are being established to work out a joint programme in this field.

(b) Cement mill equipment: Background data on the development of the cement industry in member States have been compiled for use in the preparation of a prefeasibility study of the manufacture of cement mill equipment.

34. Several regional investment and finance organizations have adopted a number of ECWA's identified projects as candidates for establishing an inter-Arab company. Future activities under this sub-programme will concentrate on the promotion of identified projects and on developing modalities of co-operation for identifying new projects. Several regional organizations engaged in industrial development, industrial investment and finance have expressed their desire to co-operate with the ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division on the development and promotion of the capital goods industry.

B. Subprogramme: Development of selected industrial branches

1. Programme element: Development of engineering industries: metal products and consumer durables

35. A desk research study on the iron and steel industry will be carried out in 1983.

36. Information was collected for a study of consumer durables. During 1983 an attempt will be made to determine the stock, and project and the demand for a number of selected items on the basis of the results of household surveys in a few representative countries in the region. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 1983.

2. Programme element: Development of the petrochemical and fertilizer industries

37. The activities of the Industry Division in this field concentrated on the collection, in member countries, of data relating to the development of petrochemical industries in downstream products and on developing studies relating to special issues and problems facing this industry. The first meeting of the Ad hoc Committee on Petrochemicals was held in Kuwait in January 1982. The meeting was co-sponsored by the joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division, the Arab Federation for Chemical Fertilizers and the Petrochemicals Industries Company of Kuwait. The Committee discussed specific issues and problem areas, and provided the focal point for promoting co-operation among relevant regional organizations, as well as a forum for further review of the development of petrochemicals in the ECWA region.

3. Programme element: Development of agro-based industries

38. No activities were undertaken under this programme element during the period under review.

C. Subprogramme: Review and appraisal of industrial development, potential, planning and implementation

1. Programme element: Review and appraisal of industrial development and potential

39. Country studies for the review and appraisal of industrial development (a joint ECWA/UNIDO project covering all Arab countries) were prepared and presented to the Fifth Arab Industrialization Conference held in Algiers in 1979, and to UNIDO III in New Delhi in 1980. Since then, these studies have been periodically updated. During the reporting period collection of field data and information was undertaken for the revision of the country studies on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

40. The joint ECWA/UNIDO publication Industrial development in the ECWA region: survey and potential, did not appear as scheduled in the fourth quarter of 1982, owing to delays in editing the document.

41. During the period under review, attempts were made to computerize the data for the study on export of manufactures. Difficulties were encountered because of the limited accessibility to a computer system and scarce travel funds. An interim arrangement is being worked out with the Statistics Section for the computerization of industrial trade data along with other statistics.

42. The preparation of country monographs covering the institutions involved in the financing of the industrial sector in the various member countries was initiated as a first step toward the preparation of the study on the financing of industry. Data were collected on the financing of the industrial sector in Saudi-Arabia (1970-1980). In 1983, the flow of external funds, particularly petro-dollars, to the industrial sector in the region will be studied.

2. Programme element: Industrial planning and implementation

43. Preparatory work for the development of an interregional model utilizing input-output and linear programming techniques was undertaken, and a conceptual framework was developed for the application of a normative model for the solution of the problem of co-ordinating industrial development in the ECWA countries.

V. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Subprogramme: Trade expansion and diversification1. Programme element: Review and analysis of developments in the external sector

44. A review of developments in the external trade and payments situation of member countries was completed and will be incorporated in the Survey of economic and social developments in the ECWA Region, 1983.

2. Programme element: Identification of intraregional trade and regional integration opportunities

45. Basic information on existing joint ventures was compiled and sources of information identified. A project proposal on the assessment of the operations of joint ventures in the ECWA region and identification of investment possibilities was prepared to solicit extrabudgetary resources. A consultant has already been identified to carry out the study.

46. A review of efforts by member countries to promote regional co-operation and integration was completed and incorporated in the Survey of economic and social developments in the ECWA region, 1982.

47. The proceedings (final report and selected papers) of the Expert Group Meeting on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia held in Beirut from 14 to 18 December 1981 were prepared for publication.

3. Programme element: Trade relations with other developing countries and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe

48. A first draft of a study entitled, "Trade and economic relations between the countries of Western Asia and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe: trends and prospects" was completed. The study considers the co-operation mechanisms, including the legal

and institutional framework, that have evolved during the period 1950-1981, between the ECWA countries and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. It also reviews the over-all trade flows and the patterns of trade that have prevailed during the 1960's and 1970's, and identifies some of the factors that have, so far, inhibited the growth of reciprocal trade. The study concludes by examining prospects for the expansion and diversification of trade and suggesting possible ways and means for fostering closer economic co-operation. A chronological register and the salient features of various bilateral economic agreements, selected credit arrangements and joint ventures are contained in the annexes.

VI. LABOUR, MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

A. Subprogramme: Employment promotion and manpower development

1. Programme element: Review of manpower and employment developments in the ECWA region

49. This programme element was not implemented because of vacancies.

2. Programme element: Regional strategy for the optimum utilization of available manpower and the development of required skills

50. This programme element was not implemented because of vacancies.

VII. NATURAL RESOURCES

A. Subprogramme: Energy resources development

1. Programme element: A regional programme for new and renewable sources of energy, with special reference to rural applications

51. This programme element has been completed and a draft report on the subject has been issued. The report touches upon the new and renewable sources of energy in the context of economic development in the ECWA region. The concept of renewable energy conversion with particular reference to rural applications is dealt with comprehensively as a prelude to a programme for new and renewable sources of energy for the ECWA region.

2. Programme element: Energy planning; methodological considerations and their application

52. In the last quarter of 1982, ECWA initiated formal contacts with the Commission of the European Communities (CEC); both sides agreed to start joint work on energy methodology suitable for the ECWA region by early 1983. The preparation of methodology for evaluating present and future energy demand and the possibilities of fulfilling that demand in various ways is a prerequisite for in-depth analysis of energy planning in selected ECWA countries. A meeting of energy planning experts from within and outside the region will be invited to share experience, and to deliberate and enhance co-operation in the field of energy planning.

3. Programme element: Electric power generation and distribution opportunities for co-operation in the ECWA region

53. Work on this programme element was initiated in the last quarter of 1982 and a draft report is expected to be ready by the second quarter of 1983. The report will analyse the current

consumption of and future demand for electrical energy in ECWA countries discuss the existing and planned transmission networks in selected ECWA countries; explore experiences gained and possibilities for more multilateral co-operation in electric energy exchange between some ECWA countries. Further the report will propose a number of guidelines for agreements or contracts for future electric inter-connections.

4. Programme element: The economics of oil and gas transport

54. Work on this programme element was not initiated during the reporting period because of vacancies in this subprogramme. This programme element will be implemented during 1983.

5. Programme element: Skilled manpower needs in the oil and gas sector

55. Work on this programme element is in progress and is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 1983. The report will analyse the quantitative and qualitative manpower assessment in the oil sector in selected ECWA countries; discuss the methodology suitable for manpower planning in the oil industry; assess present training and educational programmes, with particular reference to the role of management and productivity; and explore possibilities for co-operation at the regional and subregional levels in the training of manpower for the oil and gas sector, after which a number of recommendations will be prepared to this end.

6. Other activities

56. ECWA took an active part in the preparations of the Second Arab Energy Conference held from 6 to 11 March 1982 in Doha, Qatar. Two papers were presented to the Conference: "Arab energy: prospects to 2000" and "New and renewable sources of energy in the Arab countries."

57. ECWA took a very active part in the preparations for the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which met from 7 to 18 June 1982 in Rome. ECWA submitted a report to the Meeting on proposals for action-oriented programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action (E/ECWA/NRST/1/82).

58. ECWA participated in the following meetings:

(a) Second Arab Energy Conference (Doha, Qatar March 1982);

(b) Meeting of the ACC Task Force on the follow-up to the Nairobi Programme of Action (Geneva, March 1982);

(c) Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Rome, June 1982).

B. Subprogramme: Mineral resources development

1. Programme element: Skilled manpower needs in the minerals resources sector

59. Work carried out on this programme element led to the classification of human resources by occupation and to the assessment of the current situation pertaining to the skilled manpower in the minerals sector in the ECWA region. Work will continue on this programme element and a report on the subject is expected to be completed in July 1983.

2. Programme element: Analysis of technical documentation and collection and processing of mineral economic information with regard to present and future supply and demand

60. Work on this programme element has not commenced owing to vacancies in the subprogramme.

3. Programme element: Identification and promotion of investment in mineral resources development at the regional and national levels

61. Work on this programme element has not commenced owing to vacancies in the subprogramme.

4. Programme element: Monitoring of developments in the mineral resources sector in the ECWA region

62. Work on this programme element has not commenced in 1982 but will be implemented as originally planned during 1983.

5. Other activities

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

63. This programme element has been carried over from the 1980-1981 biennium. The report is expected to be completed by February 1983. It covers the main industrial mineral deposits, the balance of reserves in the region, a description and analysis of present development of industrial minerals, prospects of industrial mineral development and identification of potential joint mineral development projects in the region.

(b) Subregional economic studies of selected mineral prospects preparatory to prefeasibility studies, with the view to their development.

64. This programme element has been carried over from the 1980-1981 biennium. Work on it has progressed markedly. The output, expected to be completed during the first quarter of 1983, is in the form of a case study of copper deposits in Democratic Yemen and in Yemen.

C. Subprogramme: Water resources development and management

1. Programme element: Promotion of efficient water resources management and administration

65. Work on this programme element has commenced and will be completed in 1983. An outline of work was prepared and all the available in-house information regarding water management, administration and legislation in the member countries was reviewed, and a draft paper on the subject was prepared for each member State. In addition to the paper, a questionnaire on the same subjects has been prepared to obtain up-to-date and complementary information. In the next step the questionnaire and the draft papers will be sent to member States. This project will be completed in 1983.

2. Programme element: Dissemination and exchange of information on non-conventional water related activities at the subregional and regional levels

66. This programme element will be implemented in 1983.

3. Programme element: Development of guidelines for determining the economic use of water

67. Work on this programme element has started and will be completed in 1983. An outline of work was prepared and information regarding water quantity and quality requirements for domestic consumption, various industries, agricultural practices and other uses has been compiled.

4. Programme element: Promotion of co-operation and co-ordination of activities pertaining to water and sea resources projects in the ECWA region

68. This programme element is scheduled to be completed in 1983.

5. Programme element: Seminar on selected aspects of water resources development in the ECWA region

69. This programme element has been terminated owing to vacancies and a shortage of financial resources.

6. Programme element: The application of low-cost desalination techniques and pumping facilities for rural area development

70. This programme element is scheduled to be implemented in 1983.

Other activities

7. (a) Promotion of technical co-operation in the field of water resources development.

71. This programme element was scheduled to be implemented in 1981. Because of the work-load it was carried over to the 1982-1983 biennium. A report on the water activities recently undertaken in the region, the institutional set-up in member States and water documents issued in the region, was prepared. The report will be distributed to concerned officials in the member States for their comments. The final version is expected to be ready in early 1983.

(b) The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

72. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/31, ECWA undertook a regional review of the drinking water supply and sanitation activities of member countries. A report was prepared on the subject (E/ECWA/NR/13/Rev.1) in September 1982. The report outlines the status of the activities at national and regional levels and the sector programmes envisaged by the member States for achieving the goals of the Decade. The report also updated the regional review of the Decade preparatory activities in the region.

(c) Meetings

73. During the review period the Water Resources Subprogramme participated in the following meetings:

(a) Surface Water Hydrology Symposium, organized by ACSAD and CEFIGER and held in Damascus from 11 to 17 September 1982. The delegates to the meeting discussed national and regional surface water studies and research work carried out in their countries.

(b) Meeting between regional commissions and United Nations Secretariat units, held in Paris from 30 September to 1 October 1982.

The meeting discussed harmonization of proposed programme budgets for 1984-1985, co-operation and co-ordination in the implementation of the 1982-1983 programme budgets, and reviewed other water-related activities.

(c) ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, third session, held in Paris from 4 to 8 October 1982. The meeting was concerned with progress made in implementing the Mar del Plata Action Plan, co-ordination of field and regular programme activities, current developments on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the system-wide overview of medium-term plans for water resources, the joint thematic programming on the water component of SWITREP, and technical co-operation among developing countries in water resources development and other water-related activities.

VIII. POPULATION

A. Subprogramme: Data collection and analysis

1. Programme element: National censuses, surveys and registration

74. The activities of this element were concentrated on the following two dimensions:

(a) Evaluation of the population data which are provided by census and surveys conducted in ECWA countries, namely in Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates. These activities may be considered as preparatory work necessary for the implementation of other programme elements.

(b) Since the regional adviser in the population statistics' post has been vacant since June 1982, substantive support for technical co-operation activities was provided only until this period.

2. Programme element: Regional Surveys

75. Though the survey of international migration was not conducted because of vacancies in the subprogramme, its main preparatory work has been completed. The main output of this element is the estimation of volume, structure and trend of regional migrants in the ECWA region.

3. Programme element: Analysis of population data

76. Population estimates and projections were the main activities of this programme element. These activities are related to the recommendations made at the meetings of the United Nations Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections held in 1981 and 1982. The following have been completed:

(a) The revised third issue of the Demographic and Related Data Sheets;

(b) The 1982 Adjusted Age-Sex Structure of Population in the ECWA Region;

(c) A preliminary preparation for the Demographic Estimates and Projections Workshop on the ECWA Region which will be held in 1983;

(d) Providing support services for the regional adviser in demography.

B. Subprogramme: Population Development and Policies

1. Programme element: Determinants and consequences of population trends

77. Activities under this programme element were confined to editing and publishing: The Population and Development in the Middle East and International Migration in the Arab World.

2. Programme element: Review and appraisal of policies and plans

78. Work under this programme element has been postponed because of vacancies in the subprogramme.

C. Subprogramme: Population, education and information

1. Programme element: Population Bulletin

79. During 1982, Bulletin No. 21 was published in Arabic and English and distributed to an extensive number of relevant national, regional and international organizations and, training institutions, as well as to scientists and policy-makers interested in Arab population matters.

2. Programme element: Information, research and training

80. Under this programme element, the following publications were completed:

(a) Guide for Arab Students and Researchers in the Field of Population;

(b) Population Publications of ECWA, 1975-1982;

D. Subprogramme: Employment promotion and manpower development

1. Programme element: Review of manpower and employment development in the ECWA region

81. During 1982, the following were completed:

(a) "The estimation of economically active population by age and sex", Demographic and Related Socio-Economic Data Sheets;

(b) "Prospective for Labour Force Planning in Syria till 2000";

2. Programme element: Regional strategy for the optimum utilization of available manpower and the development of required skills

82. Work under this programme element has been postponed because of vacancies in the subprogramme.

IX. PUBLIC FINANCE

A. Subprogramme: Mobilization and management of financial resources and improvement of administrative capabilities for development1. Programme element: Review and analysis of trends and policies in development finance in countries of Western Asia

83. A report on trends and policies in development finance in the ECWA region was prepared as planned under this programme element. The report, which covers the period 1981-1982, reviews and analyses major trends and policies within the fiscal and monetary sectors of ECWA countries. It also gives an over-all view of financial developments at the regional level. A shorter version of the report will be incorporated in the annual Survey of economic and social developments in Western Asia, 1983.

84. Other activities include assistance to UNDP in the preparatory work in connection with the formulation of a project document for the establishment of a Regional Arab Institute in Banking and Financial Management.

2. Programme element: Financial planning and management in countries of Western Asia

85. The first draft of the study on "Aspects of financial planning and management in selected countries of Western Asia" was completed. The study analyses various aspects of financial planning and problems in a number of ECWA countries by concentrating on the approaches to and practices in financial planning. It also examines the over-all methodology and technique of national financial planning and presents a feasible proposal for an integrated system of national economic budget and flow-of-funds accounts.

86. The proposed inter-governmental meeting on financial planning and management was postponed. It is proposed that the Meeting be convened during the latter part of 1983 or early in 1984.

87. The study on the tax system of Jordan (carried over from the 1980-1981 biennium) was completed. It concentrates on various aspects of the income tax system.

3. Programme element: Public enterprises and economic development in countries of Western Asia

88. Work on this programme element has been initiated and will be completed in 1983. The study will focus attention on various financial and managerial aspects of public enterprises operating in selected ECWA countries representing different economic systems with varying stages of development.

4. Programme element: Financial resource availabilities and needs in ECWA countries

89. Work on this programme element will be initiated in 1983.

X. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A. Subprogramme: Regional co-operation in the transfer and development of science and technology1. Programme element: Development of consulting and engineering design (CED) capabilities in selected ECWA countries

90. During the reporting period, work on this programme element led to the completion of a case-study report on the role of consulting and engineering design (CED) in the development process. This report (E/ECWA/NR/82/3) was circulated in November 1982 to member States, and regional and international organizations for their comments and suggestions. It is essentially an analysis of the problems emanating from and the developmental implications for the existing structure of participation of local versus foreign technological capabilities in the initiation of selected industrial and infrastructural projects in one member State. This study, which has mainly a demand-side perspective, suggests a major research programme to be launched in this priority area in the region and it recommends certain corrective measures and mechanisms in this field at the national and regional levels. Preliminary work has also started on another case study report dealing with supply-side issue of CED services. A detailed outline and a Plan of Action have already been prepared. This second report, expected to be completed in December 1983, will include an in-depth analysis of the functioning and growth of selected Arab consulting and engineering firms operating in the ECWA region. Under this programme element, work also continued on the editing of the Proceedings of the ECWA Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States, which will be published in 1983.

2. Programme element: The international movement of highly qualified scientists and technologies with special reference to selected ECWA countries

91. Work commenced on this programme element in the fourth quarter of 1982. A preliminary outline and a Plan of Action have been prepared and a report on the subject is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 1983.

3. Programme element: Technological decision-making with the investment process

92. This project is nearing completion. The report, to be completed in the first quarter of 1983, comprises two case studies. The first one is about a refrigerator factory in one member State. It examines how the technology was acquired and developed and how the method of producing refrigerators has been adapted and as a result a comparative advantage established. The second case study is concerned with the electronics industry and particularly the manufacturing of television sets in another ECWA country. The case study deals with four integrated aspects of establishing such an industry in a developing country, namely negotiation, unpackaging, endogenization and development of technology.

93. Work continued for the preparation of a workshop on strategic problems involved in importing technology for industrial investment. This activity is part of a larger project financed jointly by ECWA and the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and entitled "Regional training programme for the development of technological capabilities in petroleum-based industries". In this connection, missions were undertaken to eight Arab countries for the purpose of identifying case studies, lecturers and participants. An international team has also been

engaged for the preparation of substantive material and supervision and development of the case studies. The workshop will be attended by 27 participants selected from the Arab countries and is expected to be held in October 1983 in Baghdad for a period of 25 days.

4. Programme element: The relations between processes of importing technology and the development of technological capabilities

94. Work on this programme element has not commenced yet. Implementation of this project is expected to start in the first quarter of 1983 and a report on the subject will be completed in December of the same year.

5. Programme element: Education and training of high level scientific and technological man-power

95. Work on this programme element commenced in the fourth quarter of 1982 and led to the preparation of an outline and a Plan of Action. A report on the subject is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 1983.

6. Programme element: Skilled man-power needs in the oil and gas sector

96. This programme element is a joint project between the Energy Resources subprogramme and the Science and Technology programme. The output of the latter is only intermediary in nature and reporting on the progress achieved in the implementation of this programme element appears in this document under the Energy Resources subprogramme.

7. Other activities

97. Work commenced during the second half of 1982 on the preparation of a manual for project evaluation encompassing criteria relating to technological development objectives. This was made possible through the financial assistance provided to ECWA by the Government of the Netherlands. So far a detailed outline and work plan have been prepared.

98. Under the Science and Technology programme, ECWA participated in a seminar held in Baghdad from 17 to 19 April 1982 and organized by the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils on scientific information and horizontal transfer of technology. ECWA prepared and presented to the seminar a paper entitled "The Regional Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology in the light of the prevailing socio-economic conditions in the Arab world".

XI. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Subprogramme: Monitoring and review of the social situation in the ECWA region1. Programme element: Analysis of the social situation, trends and policies

99. Under this programme element, data and information were collected on the basis of which a survey of the social situation was undertaken. This constituted an input to the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region 1982.

2. Programme element: Improvement of social integration and social welfare

100. A number of activities were carried out in connection with the World Assembly on Aging in 1982. A study entitled "Assessment of aging and aged persons in the ECWA region", (E/ECWA/SDHS/82/5) was completed during the period under review. A document entitled "Regional contribution to the World Assembly on Aging" (E/ECWA/155) was presented to the Commission at its ninth session. On the basis of that document the Commission adopted resolution 111 (IX) entitled "World Assembly on Aging" which adopted document E/ECWA/155 and requested the Executive Secretary to transmit it to the Secretary General of the Assembly as the contribution of the Western Asia region to the World Plan of Action on Aging. ECWA also participated in the second session of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging, held in New York from 16 to 22 February 1982.

101. The Commission also adopted at its ninth session resolution 112 (IX), requesting the Executive Secretary to convene a regional meeting on the International Youth Year (IYY) in 1983. In this

connection, the secretariat prepared a draft aide-memoire for the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the IYY. A study on the situation of youth in the region was also initiated during the period under review.

102. The secretariat continued to support activities for the follow-up on the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). Thus, ECWA participated in the fourth session of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons (5-14 July 1982) and the inter-agency meeting on IYDP (15-16 July 1982).

3. Other activities

103. Technical assistance was provided to three member countries in planning institutions and programmes for the aged.

104. Missions were undertaken to two member States to assist them in preparations for the IYY.

B. Subprogramme: Human resources development and social integration

1. Programme element: Assessment of integration of women in the development process

105. During the review period, a study was prepared assessing the status and role of women in rural areas of the region, with particular emphasis on education and employment.

106. The inter-governmental meeting which was scheduled to convene in the fourth quarter of 1982, to evaluate the progress achieved in the implementation of the ECWA Regional Programme of Action, was postponed. It is now scheduled to take place in 1984 in conjunction with the preparations for the World Conference for Women (1985).

107. Other activities include advisory services rendered to member States on policies and programmes for the integration of women in development.

2. Programme element: Development of national and regional capabilities for the identification, formulation and implementation of projects for the development of women

108. During 1982, the secretariat co-ordinated and provided substantive support to projects financed from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

3. Programme element: Integrated rural development

109. During 1982, a study entitled "Review of selected rural development projects in the Republic of Iraq" (September 1982) was prepared in collaboration with the joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division.

XII. STATISTICS

A. Subprogramme: Development of statistical services

1. Programme element: Dissemination of statistics

110. The 1982 (fifth) issue of the Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia was completed. This issue covers the period 1971-1980 and presents data profiles on the countries of Western Asia in the following areas: population, social statistics, national accounts, agriculture, forestry and fishing, industry, energy, foreign trade, finance and transport, communication and tourism.

2. Programme element: Standardization of national statistics

111. Work on this programme element will be initiated in 1983.

3. Programme element: International trade statistics

112. During the period under review, foreign trade data on the Western Asia member countries were compiled for the International Trade Bulletin of the ECWA Countries to be published in 1983. The first issue will cover the period 1970-1980 and present the main data on foreign trade for the countries of the ECWA region (volume and direction of trade, indices, etc.).

4. Programme element: Social and demographic statistics

113. Work on this programme element will be initiated in 1983.

5. Programme element: Assistance in the improvement of the statistical capabilities of ECWA countries

114. Under this programme element, the secretariat participated in the 8th meeting of the Statistical Committee of the Council

of Arab Economic Unity, held in Amman, Jordan, 19-21 September 1982 and in the second meeting of the heads of national statistical organizations of the member States of the Islamic Conference Organization, held in Istanbul, Turkey, 12-16 October 1982.

B. Subprogramme: Development of national accounts, price and finance statistics

1. Programme element: National accounts and related price and finance statistics

115. During the review period, the secretariat completed the fourth bulletin of the series Studies on Prices and Index Numbers in the ECWA Region. This bulletin covers the period 1971-1981. It presents in part I, retail price index numbers for the ECWA region as a whole and by country; in part II, retail prices for selected commodities; and in part III some research material on the comparative costs-of-living of the ECWA countries.

116. Owing to post vacancies and disruption of work at the time of the move of ECWA headquarters to Baghdad, the 1982 issue of the series National Accounts Studies was not completed; it will be published at the same time as the 1983 issue.

2. Programme element: International real income comparisons for the ECWA countries

117. A study on the above-mentioned subject was undertaken and constituted an input to the fourth issue of the bulletin Studies on Prices and Index Numbers in the ECWA Region. This programme element received support from the Government of France which made available funds for the services of an associate expert for the year 1982.

3. Programme element: Assistance in the improvement of the national accounts, price and finance statistics of the ECWA countries

118. Under this programme element, the secretariat provided assistance to the Governments of Democratic Yemen, Qatar and Saudi Arabia in developing national accounts and improving the implementation of the United Nations system of national accounts in these countries.

III. TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM

A. Subprogramme: Development of integrated transport

1. Programme element: Inter-country and regional transport projects

119. This programme element was supposed to deal with the implementation of certain transport projects recommended by the Inter-governmental Meeting on the Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia held in Beirut in March 1980. A report on the Meeting (E/ECWA/121) had been submitted to the Commission at its eighth session in Sana'a, May 1981, and consequently the programme element was highly dependent on the type of resolution adopted during the session. The deliberations of the session, however, resulted in a resolution of a general nature calling upon member States to give the recommendations of the Inter-governmental Meeting the attention they deserve within the framework of their plans for the development of the transport sector. Accordingly, and since the training issue assumed high priority among the recommendations of the Inter-governmental Meeting, it became clear that the only feasible way to carry out such recommendations would be through a flexible policy concentrating on training. Therefore, it was decided to terminate this programme element and concentrate resources on activities dealing with the training needs of the region.

2. Programme element: Transport harmonization and standardization of documents

120. Further to the report on "Transport harmonization and standardization including application of international and regional conventions" (E/ECWA/TCTD/WP-2) which was completed and distributed at the end of 1981, and as part of the continuous endeavours towards a more efficient overland transport and a speedier delivery of merchandise, work was started late in 1982 on this new programme

element. Difficulties encountered at border crossings will be investigated with a view to facilitating the existing practices at crossings and standardizing documents. For this purpose a questionnaire has been designed and dispatched to the respective Governments of the ECWA countries. Field missions are also scheduled early in 1983 for the purpose of discussing with government authorities their replies to the questionnaire on this problem. The final output of this element is expected to be completed by the end of 1983.

3. Programme element: Training needs in specific fields of transport

121. No final output was envisaged under this programme element during the current biennium. The ultimate objective of the activities dealing with the issue of training is the establishment of a regional training institution and improving suitable existing centres. During the biennium attempts for co-operation and joint activities with other United Nations and regional organizations were initiated. Chief among these is the Commission's association with the TRAINMAR project sponsored by UNCTAD for training development in the field of maritime transport. The project document submitted to UNDP for financing is currently under consideration. Its objective is to strengthen the capability of maritime training institutions in the region and to develop courses specifically adapted to the special needs of the region.

4. Programme element: Development of national merchant marines and promotion of multinational shipping enterprises

122. A report on the need and potential for developing national merchant marines is scheduled for completion by the end of 1983.

To this end, questionnaires on the various aspects of the problem have been communicated to the companies and governmental authorities concerned. In this respect, two types of questionnaires concerning oil tanker fleets and the bulk liquid exporting trade were distributed to the companies and favourable responses have already been received. A field mission in Kuwait compiled information and discussed the problem with the major companies associated with the transport of oil. Additional information will be obtained through two other questionnaires to be dispatched early in 1983. These will elicit detailed information on the commodity level of the principal sea-borne trades of ECWA countries and on the current situation of the national merchant fleets of these countries. Other field missions are also scheduled in 1983.

5. Programme element: Development of inland waterways and coastal shipping

123. Work on this element is a follow-up to the preliminary report completed in 1981 which was concerned with the basic aspects of coastal shipping and inland waterways in the ECWA region. During the current biennium the problem will be considered in a detailed way with particular emphasis on inland waterways. Iraq and Egypt are the two main countries in the ECWA region with significant potential regarding this mode of transport. Contacts have been established with the State organizations in charge of river transport in Iraq. A questionnaire on the use of waterways in Egypt was also prepared and dispatched to the authorities concerned, and will be followed by a field mission in 1983.

6. Programme element: Improvement of road maintenance in the ECWA region

124. This programme element is oriented towards preserving a high-standard regional highway network and is a continuing activity

to be completed in the next biennium. Work on the element was started late in 1982 with a questionnaire designed to collect information on the current institutional and organizational set-up as well as other related aspects such as equipment in use, technical know-how and available manpower. Five countries will be visited to interview officials in charge of road maintenance and to discuss relevant aspects of road maintenance in the countries of the ECWA region.

7. Programme element: Integration and improvement of railway networks in the ECWA region

125. This programme element was terminated because of vacancies.

8. Programme element: Monitoring of developments in the field of transport

126. Work under this element is of a continuous nature and has proceeded throughout the period under review. Quantitative and factual information on development and planning aspects of the different modes of transport in the ECWA region were compiled and updated using various sources. This information base is used in various activities of the Division; a survey of recent developments in the field of transport in the ECWA region was completed in 1982 and constituted an input to the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region, 1982.

127. Furthermore, contacts were made with the shipping division of UNCTAD on the subject of a maritime information system for monitoring trade and port traffic in the ECWA region. The subject is currently under careful study. A preparatory document on the subject was worked out after extensive consultations with UNCTAD, and the document is being considered by UNDP for approval and support.

9. Programme element: Low-cost road construction in rural and arid areas

128. Owing to vacancies, this programme element, which was given the lowest priority, was terminated.

B. Subprogramme: Development of tourism

1. Programme element: Strategy for the development of tourism in the ECWA region

129. This programme element aims at formulating a new development strategy for tourism in Western Asia, which will gradually lead to the preparation and implementation of a master tourism plan for ECWA countries. To this effect a first study, "Tourism development potential in the northern ECWA sub-region," was distributed in December 1981. The second part of the survey, "Tourism development potential in the southern ECWA sub-region," was completed and distributed in December 1982 to all focal points and authorities concerned.

130. During the year under review, the subprogramme also concentrated on monitoring tourism flows, payments and policies in the region and on promoting various contacts established with tourism authorities in the ECWA countries. In this connection a bibliographic note on tourism development planning and a short tourism questionnaire were forwarded to the national tourism organizations of the various ECWA countries in April and June 1982. Furthermore, field missions to Egypt, Oman and the United Arab Emirates were undertaken. Some of the results and findings of these activities were incorporated in the Transport Communication and Tourism Division's (TCTD) contribution to the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region, 1982.

131. In 1983, the report on a strategy for the development of tourism in the ECWA region will be completed and published as a final output in conformity with the 1982-1983 work programme, thus allowing for the expert group meeting on the subject to be held early in 1984.

2. Other activities

(a) Co-operation with ECE

132. During 1982, the ECWA secretariat took part in the promotional activities for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods drafted by the group of experts on customs questions of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The Convention has a direct bearing on the flow of goods between the two adjacent regions of Western Asia and Europe. To this end two sets of documents related to the above convention were distributed by the ECWA secretariat to the thirteen countries of the region in January and in August 1982.

133. Furthermore, contacts were initiated with ECE to establish joint activities particularly in the field of development and improvement of transport infrastructures and procedures in East Mediterranean countries. These activities would be geared to the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) project which passes through 10 European countries terminating at the frontiers of the ECWA region.

(b) Co-operation with ITU

134. The ECWA secretariat was involved during 1982 in the promotional and preparatory activities for the World Communications Year (WCY) 1983 which was proclaimed in General Assembly resolution A/RES/36/40 of 19 November 1981. An inter-agency committee including ECWA has been established to co-ordinate activities in the Plan of Action

for the year. Various publications were circulated in April and November 1982 by the ECWA secretariat to the focal points in the countries of the region to introduce the Year, and stress the importance of the participation of the countries in its various activities, particularly in the establishment of national committees for the WCY.

(c) Co-operation with regional organizations

135. On the regional level, TCTD continued to maintain and strengthen co-operation with the regional organizations concerned with the transport sector. In 1982, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) completed a regional study of the inland transport sector in the Arab world ("Study on a general framework for inland transport in the Arab world" AFESD, 1982). Upon the invitation of the AFESD, the chief of the TCTD and the transport regional adviser took part in the review of the study at the headquarters of the Fund in Kuwait from 22 to 28 May 1982. Mutual co-operation prospects were also discussed and certain directives for future activities were proposed in TCTD's report on the study. ECWA also participated in sessions held by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) in Amman regarding co-ordination and co-operation in the field of transport.

XIV. TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

A. Subprogramme: Policy analysis1. Programme element: Transnational corporations and international financial transfers

136. A report entitled "Operations of transnational banks in Lebanon" has been completed. Similar studies on Bahrain and Jordan are being completed. The report on Lebanon assesses the role of transnational banks in the mobilization of savings and the composition of lending activities between national and Arab banks and national and other foreign banks. It examines the role of transnational banks in the over-all financial system and capital markets in the light of those banks' policies with respect to the allocation of resources within the host country and the government policy on their activities.

2. Programme element: Impact of transnational corporations in the ECWA region

137. Under this programme element a report entitled "The operations of transnational corporations in the ECWA region" was prepared for inclusion in the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region, 1982. It analyses the involvement of transnational corporations in the development of the countries in Western Asia. The sectoral role of transnational corporations in the light of the policies pursued by ECWA member countries, as well as the prospects and need for reformulating national policies, is also briefly discussed.

B. Subprogramme: Comprehensive information system

1. Programme element: Information on laws, regulations and policies relating to transnational corporations

138. Under this programme element information on laws, regulations and policies relating to transnational corporations was gathered and sent to the Centre on Transnational Corporations as an input to a report prepared by the Centre.

2. Programme element: Information on contracts and agreements relating to transnational corporations

139. This programme element was terminated because of vacancies.

3. Programme element: Survey of research on transnational corporations

140. This programme element was terminated because of vacancies.

4. Programme element: Bibliography on transnational corporations

141. This programme element was terminated because of vacancies.

5. Programme element: Industry analysis

142. Work on this programme element will be initiated in 1983.

6. Other activities

143. The joint CTC/ECWA Unit on Transnational Corporations completed a study entitled "Technology and management dependence in the oil industry in the ECWA region," which was carried over from the 1980-81 work programme. After reviewing the historical background, the study examines the dependence of ECWA oil-producing countries on transnational corporations in the areas of technology,

management and marketing. It also surveys the framework of legal relations between transnational corporations and the ECWA host countries, assesses the transnational corporations' degree of concentration and extent of control over vital areas of oil technologies, and investigates the barriers to entry into oil technology by state petroleum enterprises. Finally, it makes certain recommendations for strengthening the bargaining power of the ECWA countries vis-a-vis transnational corporations, through the reinforcement of manpower and the acceleration and improvement of the conditions of the transfer of oil technologies.

144. At the request of the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the joint Unit submitted a write-up entitled "Transnational corporations in Western Asia" for inclusion in The CTC Reporter No. 13, Fall 1982.

145. At the request of the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the joint Unit contributed a summary of the study entitled "The operations of transnational shipping enterprises in the ECWA region" for publication in the next issue of The CTC Reporter, to be submitted to the ninth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

146. Preparations are under way for a visit to the ECWA member countries with a view to apprising the Governments of progress made in the drafting of a code of conduct on transnational corporations and of outstanding issues for consideration at the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations in March and May, 1983. In this connection, the preparation of a background paper has been initiated.