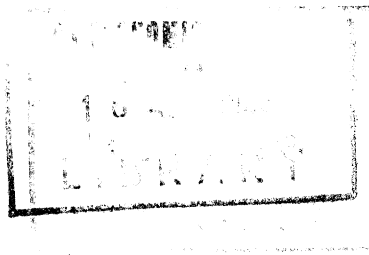




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Tenth session

7-11 May 1983

Baghdad, Iraq

Item 7(c) of the provisional agenda

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

Follow-up action on the implementation of ECWA
resolution 107(IX) on international assistance to the
flood-stricken areas of the People's Democratic Republic
of Yemen

Note by the Executive Secretary





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Corrigendum

Page 1, paragraph 4, line 7

For (E/ECWA/166) read (E/ECWA/162).



Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 107(IX) on international assistance to the flood-stricken areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the secretariat accorded high priority to implementation of the resolution by taking the following actions:

1. Assistance was extended to the Government of Democratic Yemen in connection with the formulation and adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/59, which endorsed the request contained in ECWA resolution 107(IX) for the urgent establishment of a programme for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas of Democratic Yemen. This resolution also requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to assist the government of Democratic Yemen in the preparation of a comprehensive programme within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) in favour of the least developed countries.
2. A framework was prepared to assist Democratic Yemen in the formulation of a programme for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas. This framework (Annex) which outlines, inter alia, a number of proposals for action by ECWA, was transmitted by the secretariat to the Government of Democratic Yemen. The secretariat is presently consulting with the Government on possible forms of assistance to be extended by the Commission.
3. Within the limits of ECWA's resources for 1982-1983 and the provisions of the 1984-1989 medium-term plan of the Commission, priority was given to reflecting some of the above-mentioned proposals in the 1982-1983 and 1984-1985 work programmes.
4. A consolidated Draft Programme of Action in Favour of ECWA's Least Developed Countries is being prepared, incorporating the proposals embodied in the framework together with other proposals. Upon completion of this Draft Programme, it will be submitted to the governmental authorities of Democratic Yemen and Yemen for their approval. For a detailed account of all the activities carried out in favour of the Least Developed Countries, reference is made to the secretariat's progress report on the implementation of the work programme (E/ECWA/166).

Annex

A FRAMEWORK FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE FORMULATION AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAMME FOR THE REHABILITATION
AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FLOOD-STRICKEN AREAS OF
THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

I. Background

The Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen experienced the "worst floods in living memory", on the 29th and 30th of March 1982, which caused heavy losses in human life and property and destruction of economic and social infrastructures in almost all governorates of the Country. Friendly countries, regional and international organizations as well as voluntary agencies extended aid to the flood-stricken areas in support of government efforts to relieve the suffering of the victims.

On 23 April 1982, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1982/6 which, inter alia, urged all countries to participate in the relief operations, and in the implementation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme.

The Economic Commission for Western Asia at its ninth session adopted, on 11 May 1982, resolution 107(IX) requesting the Economic and Social Council to adopt a resolution calling for the urgent establishment of a programme, including the creation of a special fund, for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas.

Accordingly, the Economic and Social Council endorsed ECWA resolution 107(IX) and adopted resolution 1982/59 calling for the urgent establishment of a programme for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas. It requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to assist the Government in the preparation of a comprehensive programme within the framework of the SNPA.

II. Proposed components of the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme

In the light of the above resolutions, the Government is expected, in co-operation with the international community, to develop the scope of the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme and to assess the nature, extent and duration of international assistance to be provided. The following could constitute some of the components of the programme:

1. Continuation of the necessary relief assistance over a specified period of time. The nature and extent of the assistance and its period to be specified by the Government following the most recent assessment of the situation;
2. Rehabilitation of the displaced population of the flood-stricken areas;
3. Rehabilitation of agricultural land and compensation for livestock and other property destroyed by the floods;
4. Reconstruction of destroyed and damaged physical infrastructures;
5. Developing a disaster warning system;
6. Replacement of the resources of development programmes which have been redeployed to meet the immediate relief requirements;
7. Budgetary support to recover losses in production and transport cost and meet balance of payments deficits over a specified period of time.

The Government could, in consultation with other international organizations, identify other issues as additional components of the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme. The Government also needs to specify a time horizon for the programme along with a schedule of priorities. A period of five years may be a realistic one. This will allow the Government to bring a reorientation in the objectives and strategy of the current Five Year Plan which has just been introduced and accordingly modify its programmes and projects. This will also enable the international community to plan its contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme.

III. Proposed follow-up action by ECWA

In line with the mandate of the Commission, the provisions of SNPA in general and those of ECWA resolution 107(IX) and ECOSOC resolution 1982/59 in particular, ECWA secretariat could make the following contributions to the preparation and implementation of the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme:

1. Participation in the assessment of the present situation. After more than a year of the disaster, it is necessary to reassess the situation with the view to ascertaining the effectiveness of the relief operations and the rehabilitation of displaced population and physical infrastructures, as well as the effect of redeployed resources on on-going development programmes and projects and their long-term needs.
2. Participation in the formulation and establishment of the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme. In this respect, ECWA could participate either in an inter-agency mission, if such an approach is followed, or a national team to be set up for this purpose. In either case, ECWA could make the services of its relevant competent staff (Professionals and Regional Advisers) available on a priority basis. Whether an inter-agency mission or a national team or a combination of both approaches is followed, the UNDP, serving also as resident co-ordinator should play a cardinal role in the establishment and implementation of the programme. As for ECWA's contributions, the "focal point" will be responsible for the internal co-ordination of these contributions and contacts with the UNDP Resident Representative.
3. Identification of activities (both research and advisory services) that can be undertaken by ECWA within the framework of its 1982-1983 Work Programme and the 1984-1989 Medium-term Plan to the extent that its resources will permit. These activities will be consolidated into the Programme of Action

established in favour of the least developed countries of the Region and presented to the member countries of the Commission, as well as to the tenth session of ECWA seeking their special contributions aimed at augmenting the meagre resources allocated to ECWA in connexion with the implementation and follow-up of the SNPA.

4. ECWA could further assist Democratic Yemen to bring the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme to the attention of donor countries and institutions in regional and international fora seeking their active support and contribution to its successful implementation.

