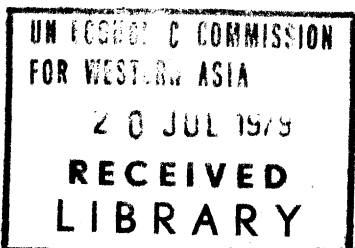




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Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The rules and procedures governing the establishment of subsidiary bodies at ECWA are set out in Rule 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the Commission's Provisional Rules of Procedure (E/ECWA/2/Rev.1) copy of which is enclosed. Under Rule 16 "the Commission may, after consultation with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such standing subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them".
2. Standing subsidiary committees generally deal with a specific technical field recommending to the Commission the relevant programme of work and priorities in that particular field and follow-up to the implementation of the programme. The practice of resorting to subsidiary bodies has been used in various degrees in other regional commissions. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have resorted extensively to the practice of subsidiary bodies, while the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has established some technical committees and is contemplating increasing them in the future.
3. The Secretariat is of the opinion that the Commission's activities will soon have reached a momentum requiring the establishment of subsidiary bodies at ECWA. General economic analysis, surveys and data collection

characterized most of the sectoral programmes of the Commission during the past four years. Completed work as well as Commission's Programme Budget 1978-1979 will constitute a solid basis for more profound work under ECWA's Draft 1980-1983 Medium-Term Plan (E/ECWA/56). This Plan, as considered under item 10 of the agenda, will be directed to a more in-depth consideration of possible cooperative development arrangements within the Region in a variety of areas. Subsidiary bodies in technical fields would greatly enhance the development of the Commission's programmes and would provide an important impetus to the Commission's mandate in the area of regional co-operation.

4. In its resolution 32/162 entitled "Institutional arrangements for international cooperation in the field of Human Settlements", the General Assembly called upon the regional economic commissions to consider the establishment of regional committees on human settlements at their next sessions.

The Secretariat is of the opinion, however, that rather than considering the establishment of this particular subsidiary committee only, the Commission may wish to review the need for setting up subsidiary bodies in a comprehensive manner, including the type and number of bodies required at ECWA, their terms of reference, the technical fields to be covered, the periodicity of meetings, the financial implications as well as the organizational aspects of subsidiary bodies. The Secretariat recommends therefore that the establishment of subsidiary bodies be studied in detail and that the required consultations on this matter be carried out so as to enable the Commission to take decisions on the matter at its Sixth Session.

5. A decision by the Commission on the establishment of subsidiary bodies during the Sixth Session would leave ample time for the actual establishment of such bodies from 1980 onwards. In view of the preparations for the 1980-1981 Programme Budget, provisional financial estimates will need to be included for an adequate number of subsidiary bodies expected to be functioning during the programme budget 1980-1981. Final provision can, however, only be included after consideration by the Commission of the detailed report on the matter at its Sixth Session.

6. It is foreseen that the financial implications of studying this matter, including consultations with member governments and specialized agencies and other U.N. organs and offices, is expected to amount to approximately \$10,000.-. Since no provision was made for such activity in the 1978-1979 Programme Budget, the Secretariat envisages the use of the ECWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities.