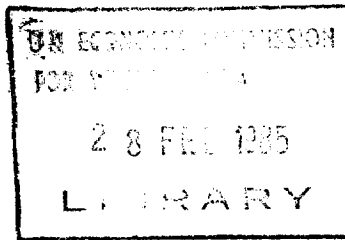




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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
COMMISSION: FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON  
THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

84-0199

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## INTRODUCTION

During 1982-1983 the secretariat took a number of measures toward the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission at its tenth session and at previous sessions and which do not fall under a separate agenda item. These resolutions are: 119(x) on the policy-making structure of the Commission; 115(x) on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1984-1985; 117(x) on international assistance to the earthquake-stricken area of Yemen; 118(x) on the programme of action in favour of the least developed countries; and 123(x) on the study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people. This document contains a summary of activities undertaken in pursuance of the above resolutions as well as certain observations thereto.

I. ECWA RESOLUTION 119(X) ON THE POLICY-MAKING  
STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

Proposed Amendment

1. It is recalled that the Commission in its tenth session decided in paragraph 2 of resolution 119(X) on the policy-making structure of the Commission, to have a meeting of experts to be held immediately prior to the Ministerial Meeting. Thus paragraph 2 reads as follows:

Decides that, immediately prior to the ministerial meeting, a meeting of experts should be held to discuss all agenda items and report its recommendations to the ministerial meeting for their adoption in final form.

2. In its attempts to apply the above, the secretariat of the Commission has been faced with many administrative obstacles and intricacies relating to the definition of the ministerial meeting, its official inaugural date, and, in particular, the expectation that a dignitary from the host country will be present for the inauguration.

3. The secretariat has asked the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters (Headquarters) to give its advice on this matter, but the advice received was inadequate for solving the problems encountered.

4. Hence, the Commission proposes that its resolution 119(X) should be amended to dispense with paragraph 2 that the annual ministerial meeting can proceed as it has in the past.

5. The amended resolution should read as follows:

119(X) The policy-making structure of the Commission

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 114(IX) establishing the Standing Committee for the Programme, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/64 adopting that resolution,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ECWA/161), particularly paragraphs 13-16,

1. Calls upon member States to be represented at the annual sessions at the ministerial level;

2. Decides that, for the purpose of rationalizing the work of the Commission, the Standing Committee for the Programme meets prior to the annual sessions and reports as appropriate to the ministerial meeting held thereafter on all programme matters falling within its terms of reference;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to include in the provisional agenda of future sessions a special item for discussion related to a priority theme, issue or problem facing the countries of the region.

II. ECWA RESOLUTION 115(X) ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1985

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 115(X), the Commission requests the Executive Secretary to report to its eleventh session the decisions of the legislative organs of the United Nations with respect to the ECWA programme of work and priorities for the period 1984-1985.
2. The programme of work and priorities for ECWA for the period 1984-1985 was submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at its twenty-third session, held from 9 May to 4 June and 29 August to 12 September 1983.
3. In its review, some members of the CPC commended the form of presentation of the ECWA programme of work, the redeployment of resources, the setting of priorities and the identification of obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective activities. However, they expressed concern about the high rate of vacancies of Professional posts which would impair the implementation of the work programme. Other issues of concern to the CPC included the high rate of inflation budgeted for in the programme budget, co-ordination of activities between the Commission and Headquarters and the decentralization of activities from Headquarters to the Commission.
4. The CPC was informed of the establishment and operation of the Commission's Standing Committee for the Programme, the agreements on co-ordination between the Commission and other United Nations and regional organizations, the new recruitment drive and the difficult situations the Commission had encountered in Beirut and upon its transfer to Baghdad.
5. In its programme-by-programme discussion, the Committee raised queries on the relationship between the FAO Near East Commission on Economic and Social Policy and ECWA with respect to the agricultural programme since it noted that most of the output was being submitted to that body; in the human settlements programme queries were raised on programme element 1.1 and 2.2; in industrial development concern was expressed that too much emphasis was placed on heavy industries; in labour, management and employment, the Committee took note of the transfer of that programme to population as a subprogramme; in the natural resources programme concern was expressed that most of the output was planned for 1985; and in science and technology, the priority assigned to programme element 1.5, as well as its lack of output, were of concern to some members of the Committee.
6. Following its discussions, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly approval of the Commission's programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1984-1985.

7. In its review of the proposed programme budget of the Commission for the biennium 1984-1985, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) commented that the Commission's budget was 51.6 per cent higher than it had been in the biennium 1982-1983; the rate of inflation estimated at 36 per cent was too high, and the vacancy rate, estimated at more than 27 per cent for the proposed budget, had increased by two per cent from the 1982-1983 biennium. However, the ACABQ was informed that the rate of real growth was calculated at 3.8 per cent over the revalued base.

8. Following its discussion, the ACABQ recommended a reduction in the Commission's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 from \$US 29,584,500 to \$US 27,079,800, a reduction of \$US 2,504,700, by increasing the turnover deduction from 5 to 13 per cent, by reducing the number of international General Service staff allowed and by not approving a new P-4 post for the Electronic Data Processing Unit (EDPU). With respect to the latter, the ACABQ recommended that, in the light of the high rate of vacancy, the resources requested for the EDPU, a P-4 and a P-3, should be provided through redeployment for the P-4, and through the use of a vacant post for the P-3.

9. The recommendations of the CPC and the ACABQ were approved by the General Assembly. The programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 contains one new P-4 post for the programme of industrial development, and one P-4 and one local-level post for the population programme. Total human resources, by posts, approved by the General Assembly for the biennium 1984-1985, under section 14 of the regular posts budget, consist of 106 Professional posts and 207 local-level posts.

III. ECWA RESOLUTION 117(X) ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO  
THE EARTHQUAKE-STRICKEN AREA OF YEMEN

1. In its resolution 117(X) of 11 May 1983 the Economic Commission for Western Asia appealed to all Member States of the United Nations system and to the international, regional and national organizations, institutions and funds to contribute generously to the provision of the necessary financial and technical support for the implementation of the reconstruction and rehabilitation programme in the earthquake-stricken areas of Yemen. The Commission also urged the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to continue, within the limits of its capabilities and resources, the follow-up of the implementation of the reconstruction and rehabilitation programme. It further requested the Executive Secretary to follow-up the implementation of the resolution and to submit a report thereon to the eleventh session of the Commission.

2. Follow-up action by the Commission was undertaken in two phases: the first in the mid-1983, and the second in February 1984:

(a) During the first follow-up exercise, nearly seven months after the catastrophe, the picture was bleak. Only 20 per cent of the anticipated cost of reconstruction of those demolished houses that could be rebuilt through the tender process was available. That cost did not include other completely demolished houses in scattered smaller villages, and the partially demolished houses; nor did it include destroyed facilities such as water wells, schools, mosques, health care centres, etc. Expectations for assistance was centered on a decision by the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) which was scheduled to meet in August 1983;

(b) During the second follow-up exercise the situation had improved tremendously. The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) had decided to grant a donation that would cover the remaining needs for reconstruction work intended to be executed through tenders, leaving even some surplus for other houses either totally or partially demolished. In addition it provided for loans in sufficient amounts to cover the requirements of the remaining demolished houses. Such loans would be available for the next phase, where as this phase is concentrating on reconstruction in the larger populated areas where damage was widespread.



3. Following is a brief review of the two follow-up exercises.

A. First follow-up phase, mid-1983

4. The first follow-up phase reviewed the cash contributions received from donors up to mid-1983, and made an estimation of the fiscal resources levied for reconstruction purposes under law No. 15/1983, and a comparison of the total available resources from these two sources as against the requirements of the reconstruction programme. It also reviewed briefly the two supporting projects financed by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, together with the steps taken and the phased plan of action for the implementation of the programme.

1. Cash contributions

5. In addition to the relief contributions in kind, and aid in the form of various support programmes and development projects, some cash contributions have been received. These are recorded in a list with the Executive Bureau of Reconstruction. The contributions were received in large and small amounts of different currencies from governmental and non-governmental donors. Some donors paid in consecutive instalments.

6. The ECWA secretariat has summarized the cash contributions as follows:

(a) Total cash amounts received till mid-1983 were about 184.0 million Yemen rials, or about \$US 40.4 million. This does not include the anticipated assistance from the Gulf Co-operation Council;

(b) The major part of the monetary assistance came from Saudi Arabia, whose contribution amounted to 71.9 per cent of the total, followed by Qatar, who provided 13.9 per cent of the total contributions.

7. The cash contributions are tabulated as follows:

Summary of contributions to the earthquake-stricken areas as at 3 May 1983

Donors	Rials (million)	US\$ (million)	Percentage
Saudi Arabia	132.3	29.1	71.9
Qatar	25.6	5.6	13.9
Expatriates and individuals	19.0	4.2	10.3
Others	7.1	1.5	3.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>184.0</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>100</b>

8. It is to be noted that the major part of the donations from individuals came from Yemeni expatriates through the Embassy of Yemen in Kuwait. These donations represent 69.1 per cent of the total amount donated by expatriates (13.2 million Yemen rials) or about 7.2 per cent of the total cash contributions.

2. Estimated resources from taxes levied for reconstruction purposes

9. The Government issued law No. 15 of 1983 whereby it levied a tax for the benefit of those affected by the earthquake. This included an additional tax of 1 per cent on all imports, 2 per cent on kat and 1 per cent on industrial and commercial profits, in addition to a specified amount imposed on the issuance of passports, identity cards, driving licenses, air tickets, building permits, work permits, commercial registration and municipality work permits.

10. Estimates made by the ECWA secretariat on the basis of data contained in the Statistical Yearbook of 1982, (adequate data were available for all estimates except for driving licences, commercial registration and municipality work permits which were arbitrarily estimated) show that income from such additional taxes for the biennium 1983-1984 may reach 173.0 million Yemen rials, of which about 155.0 million rials come from additional dues on imports (89.6 per cent), about 7.2 million rials from the additional tax on kat (4.2 per cent), 3.1 million rials from the additional tax on profits (1.8 per cent), and the balance (4.4 per cent) from other dues.

11. The following table summarizes those estimates in (millions of Yemen rials).

<u>Type of tax</u>	<u>Estimates for 2 years</u>
1 per cent on imports	155.0
2 per cent on kat	7.2
1 per cent on profits	3.1
Others	7.7
TOTAL	<u>173.0</u>

### 3. Total available cash resources

12. On the basis of the above calculations, it is expected that by mid-1985 the Government will have at its disposal around 360.0 million Yemen rials, of which about 185.0 million will have come from donations and 175.0 million from the additional taxes. In mid-1983, the Executive Bureau had collected 280.0 million rials.

13. Such amounts are indeed very small if compared with what was proposed by the reconstruction programme prepared by the joint mission (\$US 2.8 billion).

14. It seemed, as a result, that probably external and internal loans were necessary to finance the reconstruction operations, in which case a revolving capital fund would be generated from loans and recoveries from the beneficiaries over the construction period. Likewise it would be necessary to extend the reconstruction period beyond the time period suggested by the programme, particularly in view of the long period required to recover the loans from beneficiaries and to recirculate them. It was expected, however, that the Gulf Co-operation Council would allocate new funds for the earthquake-stricken areas during August 1983.

#### 4. The World Bank Project and the UNDP Project

15. Both organizations have submitted a support project. From a practical point of view, they can be considered one project since both are concerned with extension units, and the World Bank would be the executing agency for the UNDP project. That would add an amount of \$US 500,000 as an input to the World Bank Project which is estimated at \$US 1.5 million, and the two projects would become one project at a cost of \$US 2.0 million. The UNDP project includes allocation of \$US 475,000 over a period of 18 months for a sub-contract to make available the services of six experts for a total of 36 man/months (civil engineer, architect, mechanical and electrical engineer, surveyor, town planner and sanitary engineer). The balance is for the purchase of two vehicles and for sundry expenses.

16. The World Bank Project makes provisions for the construction of twenty standard earthquake-resistant buildings as a pilot project for demonstration to neighbouring villages in the areas not covered by the plan. It also provides for six extension teams, each comprising an engineer, a masonry instructor, two technical assistants and a representative of the Agro-Co-operative Bank through which loans would be granted. The tasks of the teams would be to supervise the implementation of the construction of the twenty buildings, to determine the range of damage in the cracked buildings and to supervise the implementation of repairs on the new buildings.

17. The project includes the establishment of a central unit as an extension nucleus in the Executive Bureau. The unit could comprise a technical manager, an administrative assistant, a guidance and information materials officer, an accountant, a video technician and a secretary. It could be provided with 9 vehicles and 8 video sets.

#### 5. Interim plan of action

18. The Executive Bureau has concentrated on the reconstruction of houses and has not been involved so far in the reconstruction of public facilities or in establishing new infrastructure and services projects in the affected areas.

19. Owing to the extensiveness of the stricken area and the widespread damage in the villages, most of which have a small number of dwellings, priority has been given to popular concentrations which contain relatively large numbers of demolished houses, where reconstruction operations can be carried out by bids. The selection is based on two criteria:

(a) Villages that contain 25 houses or more;

(b) 75 per cent or more of the houses are damaged by the earthquake.

20. Thus, 124 concentrations have been identified, which include 13,000 completely demolished houses. The ECWA secretariat has compiled and tabulated the fragmented data relating to the concentration to which the reconstruction operations by bids would be applied. They show that there are 9,325 completely demolished houses and 9,242 cracked houses, or 18,567 houses in total. It appears that a number of cracked houses have been considered completely demolished (perhaps four thousand), thus raising the number of completely demolished houses to about 13,000 and decreasing the number of houses which are considered cracked to about 5,500. The joint mission's report had estimated the number of completely demolished houses in all affected areas at 15,000 and the number of partially demolished at about 27,000. It appears that the picture now is almost reversed. The number of completely demolished houses in all afflicted areas is now estimated at 25,000 and that of the partially demolished houses about 17,000. In other words, the number of completely demolished houses in the selected villages represents about half of the completely demolished houses in the whole Dhamar region.

21. In order to accelerate the implementation of the reconstruction programme in the selected villages, the affected area has been divided into 80 sites. The selected villages are situated in 14 of them.

22. It has been decided to invite bids for the selected areas and at the same time the Executive Bureau will undertake a study of the qualifications and capabilities of the contractors. It is to be noted that the bidding regulations specify that 60 per cent of the manpower should be local workers. Consequently around 40 per cent of the total cost will be in Yemen rials.

23. A revised model has been selected from among the alternatives proposed in the reconstruction programme, according to which a house will consist of three rooms, a bath and a kitchen, to be built on 50 m<sup>2</sup>. The estimated cost for one house is about 70,000 Yemen rials. Thus the total cost of bids will be around 900 million Yemen rials, of which only about 280 million rials, or about 31 per cent, is available at present.

24. It is expected that all bids have been opened in October 1983, whereby the precise and final cost per house should be known. Consequently, the same amount per house can be allocated for operations outside the frame of bids.

25. The cost of the remaining completely demolished houses is also estimated at about 900-1,000 million Yemen rials, while repairs will cost about 400 million Yemen rials. Services and facilities require 400-600 million Yemen rials. The total cost, therefore, is estimated at around 2,800 million Yemen rials.

26. A topographic survey of the affected areas is currently being undertaken for the preparation of technical specifications for the bids. Most of the conditions have been finalized and office work will begin upon completion of the survey.

#### 6. Conclusion

27. From the above, it is evident that the burden of reconstruction far exceeds what the Government of Yemen can afford. International support is still needed in a stronger and more intensive form. It is extremely important that the international community be reminded of its responsibility towards the alleviation of the consequences of this disaster that struck one of the least developed countries in the region. Yemen cannot be left alone to shoulder the burden of the disaster, whose effects will continue to be felt for a long period and will eat up a large part of the country's resources. Such resources are badly needed to improve the standard of living of its citizens and to achieve progress in the field of socio-economic development.

#### B. Second follow-up phase, February 1984

28. The picture has greatly improved since June 1983. Tenders have been analysed for 14 sites which were selected for reconstruction by contractors.

29. Yemen has, in fact, analysed ten bids, for ten sites, while Saudi Arabia has undertaken the analysis for the other four sites, for which a grant of 250 million Saudi riyals was given. The grant will enable the building of 4,000 houses as well as the necessary schools and facilities. The four sites selected are: Dhaman, Maabar, Rasaba and Dhoran.

30. The GCC's decision has provided another \$ US 43 million as follows:

	\$US (milions)
Saudi Arabia	15
Kuwait	10
United Arab Emirates	8
Qatar	5
Oman	5
TOTAL	<u>43</u>

31. The GCC has also provided loans amounting to \$ US 145 million under the terms of the development funds of the oil countries. This amount may not be needed immediately, since donations and other available resources are sufficient for the present stage of operations.

32. Contributions have been received from Arab donors as follows:

Saudi nationals	75 million Saudi Arabian riyals
Kuwaiti nationals	4.5 million Kuwaiti dinars
Abu Dhabi nationals	10.0 million UAE dirhams, to be dispersed through the Abu Dhabi Fund
Qatar nationals	4.0 million \$US

33. The following donations have been received from non-Arabs:

European Economic Community (EEC) and the Netherlands	10.0 million Netherlands guilders
Federal Republic of Germany	10.0 million DM
U.S.A.	3.0 million \$ US

in addition to 5 million guilders from the Netherlands for the rehabilitation of the Central Hospital at Dhamar and 5 million deutsche marks from the Federal Republic of Germany for rural water development. The Islamic Bank has also undertaken the building of a number of schools in the area. Certain countries have forwarded donations in kind. Socialist countries of Eastern Europe including the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have contributed an amount of iron and wood; Japan has contrib-

uted 30,000 tons of iron for reconstruction purposes, and India has provided technical assistance.

34. The UNDP contributed \$ US 2 million. UNICEF has contributed first aid services.

35. Total cash aid now amounts to 850 million Yemen rials, and together with loans the amount equals 1.6 billion rials.

36. At the time of the mission, the Central Bank had 400 million rials both from donations and taxes levied for reconstruction (taxes are now estimated at 100 million rials per year, or 200 million in two years).

37. The final amount that will be at the disposal of the Government will be 1.25 billion rials in addition to 750 million rials in loans.

38. It was finally decided to have 9,600 houses built by tender, in addition to a maximum of 3,000 by other means, bringing the total to 12,600 houses.

39. Average cost per house is estimated at 80,000 rials. This covers bricks, sanitary supplies, paint, electricity, and iron windows.

40. Quotations were received from 136 firms. A team of 16 engineers and architects evaluated the bids and selected these offers for each site; except for two sites where there was only one bid.

41. The problem of repairs remains unsolved. No solution is yet in sight.

42. In addition the World Bank's and the UNDP's projects seem to be faltering. The final decision is still in doubt.



IV. ECWA RESOLUTION 118(X) ON THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION  
IN FAVOUR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, which was adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Paris from 1 to 14 September 1981, and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981, ECWA adopted resolution 118 (x), which calls for a number of measures in support of the SNPA and its implementation at the regional level.

2. Resolution 118 (X) affirms the need for ECWA to endeavour, within the limits of its resources and capabilities, to implement as far as possible the SNPA for the least developed countries in the region. It calls upon the secretariat to focus its advisory activities to the greatest possible extent on the least developed countries of the region, to utilize its resources to strengthen infrastructures and to expand training opportunities therein and to plan, monitor and implement joint ventures between those countries. It further requests the secretariat to diligently seek to explain and support the needs and requirements for development and for the implementation of development plans in the two least developed countries of the region in international forums and meetings which it attends and in the studies and reports which it prepares or helps to prepare for submission and to accord priority to those countries in the joint programmes proposed or implemented by the secretariat.

3. It also urges States Members of the United Nations and, in particular, the member States of the Commission to support, bolster and strengthen the secretariat's ability to implement the provisions of this resolution.

4. Pursuant to these provisions, the efforts of ECWA, as the focal point for the implementation of the SNPA at the regional level, were therefore, directed, on a priority basis, in favour of the two least developed countries of the region. Accordingly, within the framework of a programme of action, a number of activities were undertaken in favour of Democratic Yemen and Yemen.

A. Regular programme activities

5. Within the framework of ECWA's regular programme of work, assistance to the two least developed countries was rendered in the areas of development planning; financial management; industrial development and industrial project identification, formulation and appraisal; transportation and communication; demography; agricultural development; and statistics.

6. In the field of development planning, a team of two regional advisers and one consultant undertook a mission to Democratic Yemen and prepared a comprehensive country presentation for a donors' review conference, tentatively scheduled to be held in 1984 with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serving as the lead agency. With a view to facilitating the convening of the conference, ECWA is in contact with the Government of Democratic Yemen and the United Nations agencies concerned. During the same mission and at the request of the Government, the team also prepared a project document for UNDP technical assistance to the Ministry of Planning. The objective of the project is to build-up the institutional and technical capabilities of the Ministry in plan formulation and implementation and national accounts.

7. In February 1984, a mission was undertaken by the regional adviser in development planning to assess the economic situation in Yemen in the light of the deterioration in foreign exchange reserves and the continuous balance of payments deficits. The report submitted to the government discussed overall fiscal and monetary policies. It reviewed priorities for government current and capital expenditures and offered proposals to increase revenues. Proposals were also made to achieve a better balance in reserves and foreign exchange.

8. In fulfilling its mandate with respect to the monitoring of the implementation of SNPA at the regional level, ECWA prepared a report on the implementation and follow-up of the SNPA in the two countries. It examines the difficulties, achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of the SNPA by the two countries as well as by donor Governments and organizations and it recommends remedial actions. In carrying out this activity, ECWA has maintained contacts with various United Nations and regional organizations and will intensify these in connection with preparations for the mid-term review of the SNPA.

9. In the field of financial management, assistance was extended to Yemen during a mission in which programme budgeting as a necessary tool for the implementation of the five-year plan was introduced. Also, elaborations were given regarding a proposal for the preparation of a macro-econometric model for Yemen, including a detailed work plan and means of co-operation between the Government and ECWA.

10. Following the devastating earthquakes of late 1982, follow-up action was taken on ECWA resolution 117 (X), on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the earthquake-stricken area of Yemen (See report to item 6 (b-iii) of the provisional agenda).

11. In the field of industrial development and industrial project identification, formulation and appraisal, assistance was provided in connection with the New Delhi Declaration adopted by the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to assist the least developed countries to establish comprehensive inventories of their resources and prepare industrial programmes to support endogenous exploitation of these resources.

12. The Industry Division has formulated a resource based-industrial development programme in Yemen and Democratic Yemen to be carried out mainly through extrabudgetary resources. The programme aims at identifying national and subregional industries based on the natural resources in both Yemens. The project document has already been submitted to concerned offices in ECWA to be transmitted to potential donors.

13. Technical assistance, through regional advisory services, was extended to Democratic Yemen with respect to the following issues:

(a) Solar sea-salt complex: Evaluation of the most recent proposals submitted by a consultant were carried out, and recommendations for its rehabilitation and modernization were submitted;

(b) Mini-steel plant: The feasibility study prepared by Dastur International on establishment of a scrap-based mini-steel plant, was evaluated and a report submitted;

(c) Glass industry: Terms of reference for conducting an opportunity study for the development of an integrated glass plant have been formulated;

(d) Ceramic industry: Various reports were analysed to ascertain the availability and suitability of different raw materials, and recommendations were submitted;

(e) Electric sector study: Analysis of a consultant's offer to carry out a detailed study of the electric sector in Democratic Yemen was made and a report incorporating recommendations was submitted.

14. In the areas of transport and communication, assistance was provided to Democratic Yemen in evaluating the present status

and future prospects of the transportation aspects of a salt production complex in Aden.

15. With respect to demographic issues, ECWA assisted the Government of Yemen in the analysis of the 1981 demographic survey and in the preparation of the 1985 population census. In connection with the latter, ECWA participated in a Tripartite Review Meeting, held in Yemen in December 1983, and inter alia discussed possibilities of further participation in the 1985 population census.

16. In Democratic Yemen, ECWA rendered assistance in developing proposals for a survey of household economic activities.

17. In the field of agriculture, ECWA conducted a number of studies for UNDP covering both Yemens and dealing with grain quality control, food preservation, diet improvement on the family level, as well as price policies in agriculture in Yemen and rural poverty alleviation in Democratic Yemen. The secretariat participated in a FAO/ECWA Regional Intergovernmental Consultation on Rural Development in the Near East Region as follow-up to WCARRD and in the Expert Group Meeting on Review of Experiences with Rural Development Projects in Countries of Western Asia.

18. In the area of statistics, ECWA continued rendering assistance to both countries within the framework of a national household survey capability programme in which both countries are progressing in the execution of surveys and related work. Within the framework of the development of statistical services in Yemen, regular statistical activities and socio-economic surveys continued to be undertaken during the period under review. These included an agricultural household survey, a survey on women's participation in economic activities in rural areas, a report containing proposals to improve and extend systems of data collection for the purpose of follow-up and evaluation of annual development plans, two comprehensive studies on foreign trade statistics, and data-processing procedures for the field surveys.

#### B. Activities of ECWA, supported by other United Nations agencies

19. Activities were carried out with financing by or as joint actions with other United Nations agencies. The emphasis in this category of activities was placed on statistics, household surveys and demographic surveys and was concentrated on Yemen. Thus, in the context of the UNDP-supported household project, assistance was provided to Yemen in areas of an agricultural household survey, a household income and expenditure survey, guidelines for a household survey, training of staff,

data-processing and use of computers in a socio-economic survey.

20. With the assistance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), advisory services were provided by ECWA in the identification of joint industrial projects between Yemen and Democratic Yemen. A mission was undertaken to both Yemens to discuss the candidate joint project with the officials concerned. The idea was well received and accordingly a report was prepared incorporating several joint industrial project ideas together with a tentative plan of action. Although more than 15 joint projects were suggested, it was recommended that only four projects be implemented at this stage, in order not to overburden the concerned departments.

21. With the assistance of the International Labour Organisation, ECWA developed, in the area of labour statistics, tabulation plans for the agricultural household survey and a questionnaire on the employment of women.

22. During the reporting period, the Commission executed and administered projects, financed from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. The main activities undertaken during 1983 included: (a) case studies on the position of women in the national plan of Democratic Yemen; (b) a study in Democratic Yemen, in co-operation with the General Federation of Yemeni Women, assessing the situation of women, identifying needs and formulating activities for meeting those needs; (c) a training workshop in Democratic Yemen on the production of communication and audiovisual material for the female extension programme; and (d) a training workshop for 25 women, leaders of non-governmental institution building. In addition, ECWA provided technical support to a one-year training and production project, executed by UNDP for developing skills of women workers in national handicrafts in Democratic Yemen.

#### C. Assistance from other sources

23. A number of countries not members of the Commission as well as institutions also extended assistance to ECWA for a number of projects in favour of the two least developed countries of the region.

24. In co-operation with the Agence Francaise pour la Maitrise de l'Energie (AFME), ECWA is involved in rendering advisory services in several projects in Yemen which cover training for the use of solar energy, architectural design for community centres in rural areas (for a World Health Organization/ UNDP project) and the investigation of non-baked brick technology. The latter activity, if found successful, will also be conducted in Democratic Yemen.

25. Also in co-operation with AFME, ECWA is expected to undertake a pilot project on computerizing data on wells. The objective of the project is to study the application of solar energy to small appliances (water pumps) in Yemen, which, if found successful, will certainly attract a number of other similar projects in both Yemens.

26. The Government of the Netherlands is supporting ECWA by financing a project for a study on integrated agricultural development in a particular mountain region of Yemen. For this project an expert meeting is planned, in which ECWA will participate.

27. An understanding between ECWA and the Arab Industrial Development Organization has recently been reached on co-ordination of activities, setting-up of joint programmes and formulating priorities and identifying areas of assistance to be rendered to both Democratic Yemen and Yemen.

V. ECWA RESOLUTION 123(X) ON THE STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION AND POTENTIAL OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE

1. During its tenth session, the Commission considered the item on the study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people. The Commission based its consideration on the information submitted by the secretariat in document E/ECWA/166 and the contents of the report prepared by the consultant, TEAM, entitled "Final report on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia", which was submitted to the tenth session as document E/ECWA/166/Add.1. However, the TEAM report was not distributed early enough because the consultant had had difficulties in its finalization due to the events in Lebanon. Moreover, the documents annexed to the study were not ready for the session for the same reasons. In addition, certain delegations thought it would be useful to submit the findings of the study to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held at Paris (the site was subsequently changed to Geneva) in August 1983.

2. Therefore it was agreed in the session, following deliberations on the various aspects of the subject, to adopt resolution 123(x) of 11 May 1983, which provides, inter alia:

(a) To refer the report contained in document E/ECWA/166/Add.1 of 5 May 1983 entitled "Final report on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia" to member States for study with a view to the submission of their observations or amendments to the ECWA secretariat not later than 15 June 1983;

(b) To establish, in accordance with the desire of member States for the submission of adequate information on the situation of the Palestinian people to the International Conference due to be held at Paris from 16 to 27 August 1983 at UNESCO headquarters, a sub-committee composed of the following members; Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine Liberation Organization, Saudi Arabia and any other member States wishing to participate therein, which will meet from 28 June to 1 July 1983 at the headquarters of the ECWA secretariat at Baghdad in order to redraft the report mentioned in document E/ECWA/166/Add.1, in the light of the observations received from member States and the deliberations of the sub-committee and with the omission of the list of documents contained on pages 131 and 132 of the said document, and to put the report into final form as a document issued by the Economic Commission for Western Asia for submission to the above-mentioned International Conference on the Question of Palestine;

(c) To request the Executive Secretary to send the study prepared by TEAM, the Arab engineering and management consultancy firm, on "The economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia," together with the documents annexed thereto, to the member States for study prior to its discussion at the eleventh session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia;

3. The sub-committee held a number of meetings at ECWA headquarters and agreed on a brief study on the subject to be submitted to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine. Copies of the study were circulated to member States at that time.

Members have now been provided with a complete set of the annexes to the TEAM report mentioned above for their perusal prior to the consideration of the item in the eleventh session, as required by resolution 123(x) of 11 May 1983.