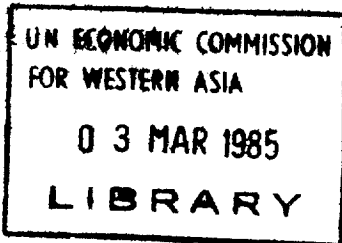




UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

E/ECWA/XI/7/Rev.1  
E/ECWA/XI/CP/11/Rev.2-  
10 May 1984

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Standing Committee for the Programme  
Second session  
22-26 April 1984  
Baghdad

ESCWA Documents converted to CDs.

CD # 1

Directory Name:

**EXPORTXI7REV1\_E**

Done by: ProgressSoft Corp., P.O.Box: 802 Amman 11941, Jordan

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE PROGRAMME

(22-26 April 1984)

84-0377

## CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE SECOND SESSION .....		1
A. Place and date of session .....	1	1
B. Attendance .....	2-6	1
C. Election of officers .....	7	4
D. Adoption of the agenda .....	8	5
II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS .....		6
A. Opening of the session .....	9-11	6
B. Deliberations of the Standing Committee .....	12-94	7
III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROGRAMME AT ITS SECOND SESSION .....	95	26

### Annex

I. List of documents submitted to the Standing Committee for the Programme at its second session .....		34
--	--	----

## I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE SECOND SESSION

### A. Place and date of session

1. The second session of the Standing Committee for the Programme of the Economic Commission for Western Asia was held at the Commission's permanent headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, from 22 to 26 April 1984 for the purpose of reviewing the work programme and priorities for the biennium 1985-1986 and making recommendations in that regard to the eleventh session of the Commission. Its work covered four meetings.

### B. Attendance(1)

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Committee:

Bahrain

Democratic Yemen

Egypt

Iraq

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Oman

Palestine Liberation Organization

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

---

(1) For the names of participants in the session, see document E/ECWA/XI/CP/INF.2.

United Arab Emirates

Yemen

3. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system attended the session:

United Nations (Headquarters)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

World Food Programme (Joint United Nations/FAO Programme)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

4. Representatives of the following regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the session as observers:

Arab Federation for Engineering Industries

Arab Federation for Food Industries

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

Arab Industrial Development Organization

Arab Institute for Planning - Kuwait

Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Studies

Arab Labour Organisation

Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology

Arab Petroleum Training Institute

Arab Regional Literacy and Adult Education Organization

Arab Telecommunication Union

Arab Union of Fish Producers

Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils

International Chamber of Commerce

Iraqi Fund for External Development

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry

League of Arab States

Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries

5. By virtue of article 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, the following States Members of the United Nations not members of ECWA participated in a consultative capacity in the work of the second session of the Standing Committee:

Algeria

Belgium

Czechoslovakia

France

German Democratic Republic

Germany, Federal Republic of

Hungary  
Indonesia  
Italy  
Japan  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
Philippines  
Poland  
Romania  
Spain  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
United States of America  
Yugoslavia

6. Representatives of the following States, non-members of the United Nations also participated in a consultative capacity:

Korea  
Switzerland

#### C. Election of officers

7. For the organization of its work, the Standing Committee took up item 2 of the provisional agenda and unanimously re-elected Mr. Ismail Al-Dulaimi, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning, Iraq, as Chairman of the session; it elected, also by acclamation, Mr. Ahmed Mekki, representative of Oman,

and Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry and Trade as Vice-Chairman; and Dr. Akram Jamil Karmoul, representative of Jordan, and Director of Industries as Rapporteur for the session. The Chairman of the Committee thanked the representatives of member States on behalf of the officers for their election.

#### D. Adoption of the agenda

8. At its first meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda (E/ECWA/XI/CP/1/Corr.1) as amended, after agreeing to a proposal to replace item 10 of the provisional agenda by another item entitled "Means of benefiting from regional and national institutions in the various development fields":

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Invitation of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the second session of the Standing Committee for the Programme.
6. Follow-up on Standing Committee resolutions 1(I), 2(I), 3(I), 4(I) and 5(I) and ECWA resolution 120(X).
7. Programme performance report for the biennium 1982-1983.
8. Updating the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.
9. The Commission's work in the areas of:
  - (a) Capital goods;
  - (b) New and renewable sources of energy;
  - (c) Food security;
  - (d) Information systems.
10. Means of benefiting from regional and national institutions in the various development fields.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

## II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

### A. Opening of the session

9. The session was opened by Dr. Mohammed Said Al-Attar, Executive Secretary of ECWA, with a statement in which he welcomed the convening of the second session of the Standing Committee for the Programme. He stated that the ECWA secretariat had been inspired by the guidelines laid down by the Committee in its implementation of a number of the important programme projects it had embarked upon in 1983, as exemplified by the holding of regional and international conferences; the adoption of measures relating to programme priorities, planning and evaluation, and programme follow-up; and the co-ordination of joint activities with regional organizations.

10. He pointed out that the ECWA medium-term plan had already been revised and updated on the basis of the provisions of the resolutions of United Nations bodies on the matter and in the light of the recommendations made by the first session of the Standing Committee. The Executive Secretary then stated that the secretariat had established an evaluation programme covering the technical aspects of ECWA programmes. He stressed the importance of setting up a mechanism for evaluation, responsible for following-up progress made in the achievement of the objectives of the medium-term plan.

11. The Executive Secretary then went on to address the subject of the complementarity of resources and of their distribution and concentration, stating that the matter was linked with two important questions. The first question was that of programme complementarity and resource management and the distribution of resources through the co-ordination and harmonization of ECWA programmes with programmes run by other regional organizations and United Nations bodies in order to avoid mutual interference and duplication, as set out in document E/ECWA/XI/CP/4. With regard to the other question connected with resource integration, the Executive Secretary said that it was linked with the ranking of relative priorities. In that connection, the Executive Secretary indicated that four priority areas had been identified for presentation to the Standing Committee at its current session in accordance with its resolution 3(I), namely capital goods; new and renewable sources of energy; food security; and information systems, a new priority area in view of the fundamental role played by information in the work of ECWA.



## B. Deliberations of the Standing Committee

12. The Standing Committee considered a number of background documents under agenda items 6-9 (E/ECWA/XI/CP/4 through E/ECWA/XI/CP/10).

13. The Standing Committee began its deliberations by considering agenda item 6, of which a summary was given by the Secretary of the Committee. The representative of Iraq suggested that consideration of all items including that one should be deferred to the second day so that delegations might have the opportunity to peruse the documents before them. The representative of Qatar expressed the same wish, adding that it was essential that documents be sent out well in advance. Acting on this proposal, the meeting was suspended.

### 1. Follow-up on the Standing Committee's resolutions (agenda item 6)

14. The Secretary of the Committee presented a summary of documents E/ECWA/XI/CP/4 and Add.1 containing the five resolutions adopted by the Standing Committee at its first session as well as a sixth resolution adopted by the Commission at its tenth session, namely Committee resolutions 1(I) on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1984-1985; 2(I) on priorities; 3(I) on co-operation with regional organizations; 4(I) on evaluation; 5(I) on preparations for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO; and ECWA resolution 120(X), on the role of the Commission in United Nations world conferences, meetings and negotiations. A discussion was then conducted on recommendations on those subjects.

#### (a) Committee resolution 1(I) on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1984-1985

15. The representative of Iraq, referring to Committee resolution 1(I) on the programme of work and priorities for the period 1984-1985, was of the view that the merging by the secretariat of that resolution with the one following it, relating to priorities, on the ground that they were linked, had taken place at the cost of not according the first resolution all the necessary follow-up. He referred in particular to the review of the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the first session.

#### (b) Committee resolution 2(I) on priorities

16. The same representative then took up Committee resolution 2(I) on priorities, and stated that the subject must be of prime

concern in the deliberations of the Standing Committee. He stressed that resource concentration which aimed at the achievement of the best possible results was a fundamental issue at all the stages in the programme. He said that flexibility was essential for the introduction of appropriate changes in programmes and supported the secretariat in stressing the precedence of the information sector in view of its important role in today's development operations. The representative of Iraq also emphasized the need to integrate the priorities of the countries of the region by identifying ECWA priorities on the basis of those already adopted by other regional organizations. He then made a suggestion concerning the preparation of one or two explanatory tables for the annexes to document E/ECWA/XI/CP/4/Add.1, covering changes affecting programmes as a result of their reordering.

(c) Committee resolution 3(I) on co-operation with regional organizations

17. A number of representatives discussed Committee resolution 3(I) on co-operation with regional organizations. Some noted that the measures of co-ordination adopted by the secretariat still fell short of desirable standards but commended the role of the secretariat in co-ordinating with certain regional organizations such as the Arab Industrial Development Organization. Under the same agenda item the representatives of some regional organizations (such as the Arab Industrial Development Organization; the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization; the Arab Regional Literacy and Adult Education Organization; the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Studies; and the Iraqi Fund for External Development) reviewed the areas of their co-operation and co-ordination with ECWA and some representatives made observations and suggestions concerning their experience in the field.

18. In that connection, the representative of the Arab Industrial Development Organization stated that relations of co-ordination between the organization and ECWA were so sound that they set an example worthy of emulation. The two organizations had signed a memorandum of understanding and formed a joint committee to study areas and forms of co-operation. He then mentioned areas for joint action and stated that there had been a number of meetings of the two organizations in which three areas of co-operation had been identified, namely capital goods; preparations for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO; and the programme of action in favour of the least developed countries. Co-ordination had also taken place in the preparation of investment feasibility studies. The representative went on to state that AIDO was currently drawing up its programme of work for the period 1984-1986 and that it would give consideration to programmes likely to lend themselves to joint implementation with ECWA.

19. The representative of Jordan enquired about the extent of complementarity and variance, from the standpoints of both organizations, in the programme priorities proposed by ECWA.

20. The representative of ALECSO said that his organization had identified six projects for co-operation with the Commission with a view to their incorporation into the latter's programme of work for the period 1984-1985. He added that ALECSO welcomed such co-ordination in principle, although it might prove difficult to accommodate additional programmes. He said that the Arab Regional Literacy and Adult Education Organization was concerned with certain aspects of social development and other matters closely connected with the Commission's fields of action.

21. The representative of the ALECSO Institute for Arab Research and Studies endorsed the remarks of the representative of ALECSO concerning that Organization's activities and mentioned other possible areas for co-operation between the Organization and ECWA. He said that both of the above subjects had been adopted in the formulation of the programmes of ECWA and of the Institute.

22. The representative of the Iraqi Fund for External Development reviewed the Fund's experience in terms of co-ordination with other Arab funding agencies. He stated that although the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran had forced the Fund to suspend the granting of loans to developing countries, co-ordination with other funds had enabled it to meet its obligations towards those countries through the substitution of loans granted by other Arab funds. He concluded that the importance of co-ordination among funds was therefore obvious for the purposes of concerting efforts, accelerating the achievement of desired objectives and establishing the time-frames of joint activities.

23. The same representative stressed the need for co-ordination between ECWA and the planning authorities of its member States with a view to ordering priorities on the basis of a comprehensive, rather than bilateral, approach to the needs of those States in such a way as to take into account both the development and policy objectives of the States of the region.

24. In reviewing the item under consideration, the representative of the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Studies proposed the addition of a recommendation on co-ordination in the field of statistics with regard to training, research and translation programmes.

(d) Committee resolution 4(I) on evaluation

25. With regard to Committee resolution 4(I) on evaluation, the representative of Iraq said that the tripartite evaluation process in its various forms was absolutely essential to ensure sound programme implementation. He expressed satisfaction at the secretariat's scheme to establish new norms for the evaluation procedure. The representative endorsed the Executive Secretary's statement to the effect that the evaluation procedure constituted the first decisive step towards the determination of the extent of the adequacy of programme activities and consequent achievements. Referring to the need to overcome organizational impediments to the filling of vacancies at the Commission, he called upon the secretariat to refine the mechanism for filling those vacancies in order to provide the secretariat with the appropriate staff.

(e) Committee resolution 5(I) on preparations for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO

26. With regard to Committee resolution 5(I), the representative of Iraq spoke highly of the form of co-ordination which had been established between ECWA and UNIDO, as a new and practical approach to the development of co-ordination at all stages. He added that the Commission's role in that respect should not stop at participation in the discussion of studies on the subject, rather it should extend to the preparation of regional studies by means of which ECWA could contribute to such international conferences.

27. Referring to the document under consideration concerning the proposal to defer the formulation of a unified position for the Arab States at UNIDO IV until the convening of the Sixth Arab Industrial Development Conference, the representative of Jordan inquired as to whether the ECWA countries would wait until then to do so.

28. The representative of the Arab Industrial Development Organization for his part, said that UNIDO IV was a matter of considerable importance in view of which the AIDO council had, at its last session, adopted a resolution on the formulation of a unified and consistent position for the Arab States with regard to the issues to be considered at UNIDO IV. He added that ECWA and AIDO had co-operated in the utilization of the background papers which they had prepared, in order to produce a working paper of practical purport, intended to set out the concerted positions to be taken by the Arab States at the Sixth Conference for Industrial Development in the Arab States due to be held shortly with a view to the adoption of that paper.

(F) ECWA resolution L20(X) on the role of the Commission in United Nations world conferences, meetings and negotiations

29. In his review of the resolution on the role of the Commission in United Nations world conferences, meetings and negotiations, with particular reference to UNCTAD VI, UNIDO IV and the Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and Pacific (1984-1994), the representative of Iraq stated that the measures taken by ECWA in that field still fell short of what was desired in respect of the formulation of positions for the region. In addition, he drew attention to the importance of the question of the evaluation of the Third United Nations Development Decade and expressed the wish either to examine the document prepared by ECWA on its contribution to the evaluation of the Decade or to make a reference to it in order to revert to it later. The same representative also called attention to important meetings that had gone unmentioned in the document under consideration, including that of the Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee of the Group of 77 to be held in Columbia in September 1984. With regard to UNCTAD VI, he commented on the extremely cursory manner in which the report of the secretariat had dealt with the meeting and stressed the need to give due consideration to such matters. In his remarks on the subject, the representative of UNCTAD expressed great appreciation to ECWA for its efforts to co-operate with UNCTAD, particularly in the field of transport.

30. In the course of his statement on the Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific, the representative of Iraq noted that the subject had not yet been discussed within the ECWA region. However, he added that his observation might be premature in view of the lack of relevant material available to specialized institutions in the region. In that connection, the secretariat urged that related documents should be sent out to the technical institutions in the ECWA region so that they could be studied in preparation for consideration at the next session. The Chief of the ECWA Transport and Communications Division said that the Decade would, of course, cover a 10-year period, and that preparations for it were therefore not a matter of urgency. He added that ECWA's participation in the Decade was essential in view of the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council to that effect. He referred to the readiness of the secretariat to consult with member States on that subject during the regional intergovernmental meeting to be held at the end of 1984 to discuss modes of participation in the Decade.

2. Programme performance report for the biennium 1982-1983  
(agenda item 7)

31. The Secretary of the Committee, introducing that item, pointed out that, as indicated in document E/ECWA/XI/CP/5, programme implementation amounted to 54 per cent of what had been provided for. The Chairman of the session observed that the programme for the biennium 1982-1983 had been formulated without overall regard to available capacity, a fact responsible for conceptual shortcomings in the planning process, prior to the establishment of the ECWA evaluation unit. The Chairman therefore stressed the importance of planning the Commission's programmes on the basis of usable capacity. He pointed out that the new approach adopted by ECWA, based on co-operation with and openness to technical and scientific institutions, could contribute to the achievement of its objective to implement more projects to serve the region. The representative of Jordan asked whether expenditure on programmes already implemented had been proportionate to their rate of implementation of 54 per cent. He also inquired about prospects for greater progress being achieved in the period 1984-1985 as a result of efforts to fill vacancies.

32. In reply to the first query, the secretary of the Committee said that expenditure on the implementation of programmes had accounted for 60 per cent of the budget for 1982-1983 and that a further 37 per cent of the total budget had been spent on the transfer of the Commission's headquarters.

33. The representative of Democratic Yemen said that, in his opinion, the percentage of implementation achieved by ECWA during the biennium 1982-1983, was low and that was largely the result of digression from the Commission's established work programme. He stressed the need to tackle the problems encountered during the previous programme and urged the Commission to provide representatives with the documents in good time.

34. The representative of Qatar inquired about the possibility of entering into agreements with the other regional and national organizations and specialized institutions in the technical field in order to remedy the low rate of programme implementation.

35. In reply, the Secretary of the Committee said that the possibility existed in respect of resources allocated to advisory services under the budget but that the level of implementation had, in fact, fallen short of the Commission's expectations, a fact which could be attributed to a number of factors, including

the large number of technical posts that had remained vacant, difficult conditions in Lebanon before the relocation of the Commission to its present headquarters and the obstacles entailed by the transfer process. However, he added that a number of those difficulties had been overcome since the establishment of the Commission at its permanent headquarters in Baghdad. Referring to the contradiction between compliance with the system of post quotas assigned to ECWA and its obligation to implement established programmes, he pointed out that it had been overcome through the reconsideration and amalgamation of programmes on the basis of established priorities and available capacity.

36. In connection with the question on prospects for filling post vacancies, both the Chairman and the Secretary of the Committee appealed to member States, and, in particular, to those which had not yet filled their quota at the United Nations, to consider the possibility of nominating professional staff to work in the Commission.

37. Participants endorsed the proposal by the representative of Saudi Arabia to supply a list of the vacancies and required skills to member States in order to facilitate necessary nomination procedures.

38. The representative of Iraq called for a reduction in the number of programme elements, of which there were currently 147, so as to keep it in proportion to the Commission's capacity in terms of staff.

39. Commending the new policy pursued by ECWA and aimed at greater co-operation with specialized organizations and institutions in the region, the representative of Iraq said that it was likely to lead to the achievement of a higher rate of programme implementation.

40. The representative of UNICEF stressed the need for co-ordination with international as well as regional organizations.

41. The representatives of Saudi Arabia and Qatar requested that ECWA documents be prepared first in Arabic and then be translated into the other languages since the Commission primarily served the Arab region. The Chairman of the Committee supported that proposal.

3. Updating the medium-term plan for the  
period 1984-1989  
(agenda item 8)

42. The Secretary of the Committee called attention to document E/ECWA/XI/CP/6 containing information on the Commission's programmes and subprogrammes.

43. The representative of Democratic Yemen expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the ECWA secretariat in preparing the important plan in question. However, among the programmes it contained, there was no separate reference, as in the case of the other economic sectors, to two important sectors, namely fisheries and construction. He stressed that fisheries could play a prominent role in the economic and social development of the region and accordingly suggested that those sectors be included separately in the Commission's programme.

44. The representative of Egypt said that according to the programme performance report which had been submitted there might be a need to revise the medium-term plan and reformulate a plan on the basis of programme components that could realistically be implemented.

45. The Chairman of the session also stressed the importance of selecting programmes feasible from the point of view of their implementation.

46. The representative of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development asked whether there was co-ordination between ECWA and the Gulf Co-operation Council concerning the communications subprogramme since there was at least similarity, if not complete coincidence between the ECWA programme and a parallel study project undertaken by the Arab Fund in favour of the States of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

47. With regard to the possibility of revising the medium-term plan, the Secretary of the Committee said that the plan in question was an integral part of the Third United Nations Development Decade and was accordingly updated every other year; four programmes had thus been rectified, namely those concerning food and agriculture, transport and communications, social development, and statistics.

48. In that connection, the representative of Egypt made some observations on the substance of document E/ECWA/XI/CP/6. He said that what was contained under the heading "Strategy" in the subprogramme on agricultural development, was in effect a study of market conditions, and was concerned with the publication of bulletins, etc. which hardly qualified as a strategy for agri-



cultural development; in fact the document was more like an account of information activities.

49. The representative of ECWA said that the purpose of the activities constituting that subprogramme was to prepare a sound basis for the formulation of a strategy likely to make it easier for the Commission to obtain sufficient information and establish co-ordination with the other regional organizations. He added that the consideration of problems and, subsequently, the investigation of appropriate solutions through various means and approaches was the procedure followed at the General Assembly of the United Nations, hence the appellation "Strategy" for tackling problems.

50. Both the Chairman of the Committee and the representative of Saudi Arabia supported the representative of Egypt in his reservations on calling activities associated with the publication of magazines and bulletins, and training, a strategy for the monitoring and management of agricultural development and resources.

51. The representative of Iraq suggested that the expression "Plan of action" be substituted for "Strategy" in the paragraph in question on agricultural development.

52. The Secretary of the Committee pointed out that the medium-term plan would be completely revised within the framework of a meeting due to be held in 1985 for the purpose of evaluating the Development Decade. He added that the proposals made by representatives on that subject should be deferred until that time because the programme for the medium-term plan had already been adopted and what was currently being considered were the updating and rectifications effected by the Commission in respect of that programme.

53. The representative of Egypt went on to say that the earlier adoption of the programme by the Commission did not preclude the possibility of amending it if necessary.

54. Inquiring about the updating of the plan, the representative of Iraq pointed out that it had proceeded, in accordance with document E/ECWA/XI/CP/6, on the basis of resolutions adopted by a large number of bodies in the United Nations system. Yet, despite the large number of resolutions and recommendations which had been adopted with regard to the updating of the plan, updating had only been effected in four areas. And since the plan remained essentially unchanged, the representative of Iraq proposed that a table should be compiled in order to present both the rectifications introduced in some of the programme elements and the reasons for which they had been introduced, in order to facilitate discussions.

55. The Secretary of the Committee endorsed that observation and said that it would have been preferable to present rectifications in that manner so as to bring newly introduced paragraphs into sharper focus. In the course of the updating of the plan for the period 1986-1987, the representative of Qatar said that rectifications introduced into four main programmes, namely food and agriculture; transport and communications; social development; and statistics called for discussion in depth because of their vital importance for the medium-term plan. He also proposed that section 2 of document E/ECWA/XI/CP/6 on food planning and food policy should include the following basic points: (a) assessments of the production and consumption of main foodstuffs in the countries of the ECWA region in particular, and in the Arab countries in general; (b) an account of advisory assistance provided in respect of the strategic stocking of foodstuffs to guarantee a reliable supply of those products; (c) studies on factors associated with the increase in agricultural output in the Arab world, both horizontally and vertically, such as land reform, the production and marketing of fertilizers, the improvement and utilization of road networks, etc., and (d) the stimulation of Arab investment in the member countries in the areas of food and agriculture.

56. The representative of the Arab Planning Institute asked why the manpower programme had been presented as a subprogramme in view of the special importance of that subject.

57. The representative of the Arab Labour Organisation stressed the need to promote activities relating to manpower, adding that due importance should be attached to that programme.

58. The Chairman of the Standing Committee reiterated that statement, pointing out that within the context of manpower planning there was a need to concentrate on the development of human resources rather than play down their importance.

59. On the subject of international trade and development, the representative of Qatar said that the volume of trade between the Arab countries accounted for no more than 10 per cent of their total imports and approximately 6 per cent of their total exports, i.e. an extremely small proportion. He therefore proposed that the programmes of the Economic Commission for Western Asia should provide for technical and advisory assistance aimed at increasing the level of trade between the Arab countries in general and between the ECWA countries in particular.

- In this connection the representative of Qatar also pointed out the fact that deterioration in the terms of trade of the region was largely attributable to an increase in standard import prices as against standard export prices and he requested ECWA to give special consideration to that question.

- With regard to the programme on transnational corporations, the representative of Qatar observed that the programme had only been allocated two professional posts and might therefore fall behind schedule or be postponed or even cancelled.

- Referring to the programme on human settlements, the representative of Qatar noted that subprogramme 3 on the evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of prefabrication had been postponed to the following biennium. He went on to express his belief that prefabrication had become characteristic of contemporary techniques and that many States facing acute housing shortages had resorted to it; for that reason he requested that the question of postponing the programme be reconsidered.

- With regard to section one of the document under consideration, which referred to an increase in the level of integration in the engineering industry, the same representative inquired about the reasons for concentrating so narrowly and pointedly on engineering industries given the fact that they could hardly be considered one of the leading industries in the developing countries. He added that it might be more advisable to aim for an increase in the level of integration among existing industries and planned-for industries.

- With regard to the paragraph on common intergovernmental objectives, concerning the promotion of direct trade exchanges, the representative of Qatar expressed the hope that the developing countries would increase their share in international trade; he also emphasized the fact that the subject should be included in the programme on international trade and development rather than come under industrial development.

- With regard to the population programme and the programme on social development, the representative of Qatar suggested, in spite of the emphasis he had placed on the importance of manpower, that it might be preferable to amalgamate the substance of section three of the first programme on the development of manpower with section two of the second one on the development of human resources in order to produce a single section which would be entrusted to a single division, in view of the common objective of both sections.

- With regard to the programme on statistics, the representative of Qatar spoke highly of the strategy for statistics in the ECWA programmes. However, he pointed out that the statistical bulletins published by the Commission had been compiled from data that were out of date and available only up to 1980 and 1981, a fact which limited their usefulness in spite of their significance. He said that efforts should be made to avoid such time lags in the collection of statistical data.

- With regard to the programme on transport and communications, the representative of Qatar requested that the programme should in future cover transport by air in view of the current importance of such means of transport. He concluded his observations by stressing the need for co-ordination between the divisions and sections of the Commission in order to avoid the duplication of work, and, finally, he drew attention to the fact that the accomplishments of the medium-term plan during 1984 would be discussed during the following year, in the light of the practical experience that would be derived from the implementation of the plan and that would enable the Commission to effect rectifications on a factual basis.

60. The representative of Egypt pointed out the inappropriate use of the term "rural poverty" in the description of the two least developed countries of the region, namely Yemen and Democratic Yemen, as presented in the subprogramme. He said that it would be preferable to describe them as being two of the poor countries in the region, a preference shared by the representatives of both Yemen and Democratic Yemen.

- The representative of Egypt raised a number of questions as to the ambiguous use of the Arabic term for "spatial planning". He went on to say that the econometric models were not primarily suited to the conditions and requirements of long-term planning in the developing countries and that they did not contribute to development as provided for in the document but merely to the improvement of planning methods. The representative of Egypt then drew attention to the relation of inverse proportion between the time span of the plan and the identification of objectives in the planning process. He explained that short-term planning was conducive to a finer breakdown of objectives whereas long-term planning entailed a more comprehensive and generalized approach. He then spoke in favour of future planning and the adoption of long-term perspectives. He added that the formulation of development plans was geared to the exploration of the distant future, illustrating his statement with the example of a planning commission, consisting of thinkers and philosophers, which had been set up in Egypt to formulate perspectives of the future configuration of society.

61. In the course of the review of points raised by representatives in connection with certain terms or the phrasing used in the document under consideration, the representative of ECWA proposed that the expression "rural poverty" be replaced by "poor rural areas". However, he said that he basically saw no reason why the first expression should not be used.

- In reply to earlier queries concerning the Arabic term for "spatial planning", he gave some clarification as to the use of that expression in the given context, in which "spatial planning" also provided for the possibility of eliminating small

outlying communities. Referring to the term "perspective planning", the representative of ECWA said that the Commission was quite prepared to replace the expression if a preferable substitute were found. The representative of ECWA also emphasized the importance of econometric models for the ECWA States, indicating that a number of them had already expressed a wish to appeal to ECWA for assistance in the preparation of econometric models.

62. The representative of Saudi Arabia took exception to the document's description of the method and technical standard of planning in member countries on the grounds that most of them had already formulated and implemented a number of development plans, a fact particularly true of Saudi Arabia which had already implemented three five-year development plans and was about to proceed with the implementation of the fourth. As a result, Saudi Arabia had recorded very high standards of technical performance and planning and the representative requested that the planning division should refrain from generalization when describing the planning mechanisms of member States.

63. Both the representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Egypt stressed the fact that the reservations which had been expressed were substantive rather than formal.

- The representative of Egypt reiterated his recommendation to the effect that econometric models should not be relied upon too heavily and that it was preferable to focus on studies and techniques lending themselves to implementation under the conditions prevailing in the developing countries rather than to become enmeshed in theoretical studies which should not be given priority in that field.

64. In that connection the Chairman of the Standing Committee stated that although mathematical models had been used successfully as a means of planning in a number of States in the region, including Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, that did not necessarily imply that they should be applied systematically in all the ECWA States.

65. In reply to the question raised by the representative of Egypt as to whether or not the terms of reference of the Standing Committee included the introduction of changes into the medium-term plan, the secretary explained that the Standing Committee was so authorized but that, owing to lack of time, it had been unable to effect such rectifications immediately. He indicated that it would be preferable to refer such rectifications to the conference due to be held later that year to review the Third United Nations Development Decade. The Secretary of the Committee added that it was necessary to provide the Committee with the legislative basis required to carry out the tasks entrusted to it under the projects initiated by other United Nations bodies in which the Committee had already been

instructed to participate. He went on to say that the Standing Committee had already adopted that plan and that the subject under consideration was not the adoption of the plan but the adoption of the rectifications proposed by the Standing Committee for the purpose of updating the plan. In case the rectifications were not adopted, the plan which had been adopted previously would remain in effect.

66. The Chairman of the Standing Committee proposed that the plan should be changed within feasible limits and that the introduction of further rectifications should be postponed until the next session of the Standing Committee for the Programme.

4. The Commission's work in the areas of capital goods, new and renewable sources of energy, food security and information systems  
(agenda item 9)

67. The Secretary of the Standing Committee made an introductory statement, successively addressing each of the four sub-items constituting that item. In that connection the secretariat indicated that it was endeavouring to modernize its mechanisms in order to activate the Commission's work in those priority areas and identify means of co-ordinating the activities of the secretariat with those of other organizations in those areas. Member States were called upon to present their observations concerning the proposals made by the Standing Committee for the Programme in that connection, contained in documents E/ECWA/XI/CP/7 through E/ECWA/XI/CP/10.

(a) Capital goods

68. Opening the discussion with observations on the recommendations contained in document E/ECWA/XI/CP/7, the representative of Jordan inquired about the extent of co-ordination between the secretariat and the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) with regard to the establishment of the priorities proposed by ECWA on the basis of the recent studies prepared by the Organization.

69. The Chief of the Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division replied that AIDO and ECWA were constantly in touch. In addition ECWA had preceded the Arab Industrial Development Organization in the preparation of feasibility studies on some of the 18 projects on which the Organization had conducted research. The representative said that it was time to proceed with the implementation of some of the investment options which had been identified.

70. Turning to the question of the recommendation on the establishment by AIDO of a joint Arab company for electrical appliances in co-operation with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social

Development, the representative of Jordan said that the establishment of companies was clearly not within the terms of reference of AIDO and that the task of the Fund was to finance projects, not to carry them out.

71. The representative of the Fund clarified that the Fund was co-operating with the Arab Industrial Development Organization in respect of the electrical appliances industry, in accordance with the recommendation of the 8th Arab Energy Conference. Pursuant to that recommendation, the Fund, in co-ordination with the Organization, had organized a meeting of the representatives of the ministries of electricity of the Arab States which had recommended the establishment of the company in question. Moreover, in co-operation with the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting, both the Fund and the Organization were going to conduct a study on market conditions in connection with the establishment of the company using the results of ECWA studies, with a view to presenting the study to the Ministers of Industry prior to submitting it to the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States.

72. The representative of Jordan endorsed the proposal to concentrate on the promotion of projects and the condensation of research studies.

73. The same representative expressed the view that the proposal calling for the holding of ad\_hoc technical conferences to discuss those subsidiary subjects, including capital goods, should be disregarded. Instead, the competent bodies in ECWA should endeavour to follow up on those subjects with member States and, if necessary, convene a meeting of the proposed intergovernmental commission. He then went on to stress the need to reinforce co-operation between UNIDO and ECWA.

74. The representative of Jordan said that the competent Jordanian authorities had, at the regional level, conducted a study of both cable projects referred to in the document under consideration. Clearly, both projects were unfeasible from the point of view of marketing and, consequently, he recommended that the marketing study associated with the two projects should be updated prior to the commencement of their implementation.

75. The Chief of the ECWA Industry Division said that the study referred to above did not comprise a survey of the market of all the Arab States and therefore ought to be reconsidered.

76. In reply to the question raised by two of the representatives in connection with the need to determine the standards and specifications of the capital goods to be produced, the secretariat stated that it always took that consideration into account and that its economic feasibility studies on such projects rested upon assessments of the size of the market. The

secretariat further indicated that the participation of a large number of Arab countries in the production of capital goods was a guarantee of feasibility, provided that the States of the region adopted the specifications of the goods in question and endeavoured to make use of the various types of goods produced. In that connection, the representative of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development drew attention to the fact that the joint study in which the fund was involved also covered the subject of the standardization of specifications.

77. The representative of the Arab Industrial Development Organization mentioned that the Organization had also conducted a study on capital goods with a view to their development and improvement in the Arab countries up until the year 2000. The main conclusions reached in that study indicated that although industrial production in that sphere was still limited, the Arab market offered a very broad outlet for such industries. He went on to stress the importance of the participation of all the Arab States in the establishment of such industries and said that such participation constituted one of the main grounds for co-operation between ECWA and AIDO.

(b) New and renewable sources of energy

78. The representative of Jordan welcomed the Commission's recent initiative in undertaking activities in that field; he then inquired about the tangible accomplishments of those activities. In reply, a representative of the ECWA secretariat said that most of the member States had not yet made their position clear with regard to the regional report and the recommendation submitted by the secretariat to the Governments of those States. He requested that ECWA be empowered to ensure liaison in the sphere of new and renewable sources of energy in the region so that the ECWA States would not implement their projects in isolation from one another.

79. Comparing a proposal to set up a new organ in charge of activities related to energy with the possibility of entrusting that task to the ECWA Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division, the representative of Jordan expressed a preference for the latter. On the subject of the establishment of a mechanism to follow-up activities in the sphere of energy in the region, the representative of AIDO suggested that the Arab Centre for Energy should be commissioned to assist ECWA in that respect.

80. The representative of Qatar suggested that the activities of the secretariat should focus first of all on solar energy, in view of the facility with which that source of energy could be tapped in the region, and only in the event of success should it move on to the other sources of energy. On that subject, the representative of ECWA drew attention to the fact that the sec-



retariat had, in effect, concentrated its activities on that area, particularly in the light of Saudi Arabia's pioneering experience in the utilization of solar energy in rural areas including, in particular, its technological applications in agricultural production processes such as greenhouses and food industries etc.

81. The representative of Egypt also proposed that discussions should be held to investigate suitable options for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the States of the region with particular reference to the current controversy on that subject in Egypt, in connection with certain aspects of industrial and environmental safety. In addition he called for the preparation of a concise study on that subject.

82. In that connection, the representative of ECWA observed that the subject of nuclear energy had been neither discussed at the Nairobi Conference nor classified as "new and renewable". He added that ECWA was going to discuss the subject of nuclear energy in the course of its regional preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy scheduled for 1986.

#### (c) Food security

83. A number of representatives commended the document which ECWA had presented on the subject of food security. In the course of discussions on that document, representatives considered the concept of food security as well as means of achieving it and elaborating a strategy in that respect. The representative of Egypt said that the concept of food security must be understood in the broad sense as involving not only the agricultural sector but also, in practical terms, interacting with all the other sectors such as industry, trade, etc. He added that it was equally essential to consider the question of food security from the point of view of the rationalization of consumption patterns in the States of the region. He was supported in his view by other representatives who also pointed out that food security was the joint responsibility of all sectors, and was related to operations entailed by the rationalization of consumption and the elimination of wastefulness.

84. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization pointed out that according to the definition given by FAO, food security referred to the ability to procure foodstuffs locally at any given time and under any given circumstances.

85. The representative of Saudi Arabia objected to the Commission's inquiry about the definition of the concept of food security on the grounds that the same subject had been under discussion since 1973.

86. The representative of Iraq drew attention to the various geographical regions with a view to ensuring the diversification of production, emphasis on quality in the production of grain, the rationalization of consumption, exchanges of food surpluses among member States and the development of manpower in such a way as to reinforce agricultural extension programmes.

87. The representative of Qatar called upon the Commission not to stop at the publication of studies on that subject but also to monitor both favourable and unfavourable developments in order to bring to the attention of member States any risks they might be running in that respect.

88. In addition the representative of Saudi Arabia called upon the Commission to prepare a draft resolution embodying the three proposals made by member States in the course of discussions concerning the subject of food security, namely the marketing, processing and exporting of foodstuffs.

89. The representative of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development made a statement in the course of which he briefly reviewed the activities of the Organization, which had completed more than 600 studies on various subjects in agriculture during the past ten years. He said that food security could be achieved by narrowing the gap between requirements and output in foodstuffs, through the provision of technical advisory services to the member States as well as through co-operation with specialized Arab and international organizations and associations, including ECHA, with which the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development had recently signed a memorandum of understanding. He added that the organization's contributions in that sphere included a number of studies on the current situation and perspectives in respect of food in the Arab countries as well as the formulation of a strategy for Arab food security until the year 2000.

#### (d) Information systems

90. Turning to that subject, the representative of Jordan observed that although the resolution concerned with the setting up of an information centre had been approved as early as 1974, its implementation was still not forthcoming. He proposed the establishment of a subsidiary information centre within ECHA, connected with all the information centres of existing organizations and bodies in the region, using visual display units.

91. The representative of Iraq drew attention to the need to elaborate a pre-information system within ECHA, to be linked to the systems of certain other countries in order to provide the information essential to the work of the Commission. He indicated that Iraq was endeavouring to set up a data bank within

its Central Statistical Organization to store the basic information needed for development which would give ECWA and the other organizations easy access to essential information within the framework of exchanges of information for purposes of economic and social development.

92. The representative of the International Telecommunication Union proposed the establishment of a network of communications for the transmission of data between the Arab States. He also proposed the adoption of a recommendation urging member States, the ECWA secretariat and the Arab Telecommunication Union to concert their efforts to set up a network of that type.

5. Means of benefiting from regional and national institutions in the various development fields  
(agenda item (10))

93. The representative of Saudi Arabia suggested that the item be inserted into the agenda. With regard to the item itself, the Chairman of the Standing Committee proposed to the member States that the consideration of that subject should be postponed and that ECWA should formulate a specific conception on the matter with a view to its presentation to the Standing Committee at its next session for consideration.

94. In concluding the deliberations, the Chairman of the Standing Committee instructed its rapporteur to prepare draft resolutions embodying the recommendations which had emerged from discussions and to attach them to the draft report for subsequent distribution to participants.

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR  
THE PROGRAMME AT ITS SECOND SESSION

95. At its final meeting, held on 26 April 1984, the Committee adopted the following resolutions:

I(II) Programme planning and co-ordination within the  
ECWA secretariat

The Standing Committee for the Programme

Recalling ECWA resolution 114(IX) by which it established the terms of reference of the Committee,

Recalling also General Assembly Resolution 37/234 which adopted the regulations governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation,

Appreciating the reports presented by the Executive Secretary in response to its resolutions 2(I), 3(I) and 4(I),<sup>\*</sup> and on the programme performance report for the biennium 1982-1983<sup>\*\*</sup> and the updating of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989,<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

Convinced of the need to improve the programme planning process within the secretariat in order to enhance programme performance and effectiveness,

I.

Programme priorities

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to reallocate resources from low-priority to high-priority programmes whenever

---

\*E/ECHA/XI/CP/4 and Add.1

\*\*E/ECHA/XI/CP/5

\*\*\*E/ECHA/XI/CP/6 and Add.1

necessary, in order to ensure the dispatch of priorities laid down in the Commission's work programme for the period 1986-1987;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to continue the identification of obsolete, ineffective or only marginally useful activities included in the work programme for the coming biennium in accordance with documents E/ECWA/XI/CP/4 and E/ECWA/XI/CP/4/Add.1, and to submit recommendations accordingly to the Standing Committee;

## II.

### Programme structure

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure:

(a) A more suitable adaptation of the Commission's next work programme to the requirements imposed by social and economic variables affecting development efforts in the region;

(b) The consideration, in studies and activities, of issues arising from global economic conditions and challenges affecting regional development and the search for appropriate ways to face such conditions and challenges;

(c) The consolidation of correlation between the various programme elements with a view to the achievement of greater efficiency in programme performance and the optimal utilization of resources;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit an annual report on post vacancies in the secretariat, on the effect of such vacancies on the implementation of the programme, and on efforts made to solve that problem;

## III.

### Co-ordination and co-operation

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to intensify efforts aimed at co-ordination and co-operation with the Arab regional organizations and international organizations with a view to the promotion of joint work in the formulation, implementation and appraisal of development programmes and projects in accordance with the priorities approved by the Commission;

2. Calls upon Arab and regional organizations to formulate their programmes in such a way as to ensure their co-ordination and integration with the programmes of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and provide, as far as possible, for joint work at the stage of implementation, in order to prevent duplication and the uneconomic use of resources;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit to each session of the Commission an explanatory report on activities undertaken on the basis of joint work with Arab, regional and international organizations;

#### IV.

##### Evaluation

1. Adopts the proposed method for the evaluation of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 as presented by the Commission in documents E/ECWA/XI/CP/4 and E/ECWA/XI/CP/4/Add.1;

2. Decides to review programme performance reports on a regular basis;

3. Urges the bodies concerned in the States members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to intensify regular co-operation with the secretariat with regard to the evaluation of programmes and activities carried out and to devote greater attention to the various questionnaires prepared by the secretariat for that purpose;

#### V.

##### Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989

1. Recommends that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) should adopt the proposed rectifications to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue the analysis of the structure and objectives of the subprogrammes on the basis of the outcome of the ECWA regional meeting scheduled for 1984 in order to follow-up the programme implications of the mid-term review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

5th meeting  
26 April 1984

2(II) Subject-specific intergovernmental technical meetings of the representatives of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in the fields of statistics, capital goods, new and renewable sources of energy and food security

The Standing Committee for the Programme,

Reaffirming the need for the more active participation of the specialized technical bodies of member States in the study of the Commission's programmes with a view to their adaptation to the requirements of development in the region as well as their integration with the activities of Arab organizations operating in those fields,

Cognizant of the reports of the Executive Secretary on the Commission's work in the fields of statistics(1), capital goods(2), new and renewable sources of energy(3), and food security(4) which constitute priority areas in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989,

Considering the number of technical studies, including the training projects prepared by the secretariat, on specific subjects in those fields involving consultations with the experts concerned in member States,

1. Decides to convene four intergovernmental technical meetings during the biennium 1986-1987 to review and consider the studies prepared in those fields in co-ordination with the Arab organizations;

2. Decides also that the Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Programme in consultation with the Executive Secretary, will be in charge of the organization of work and will set the dates of the intergovernmental technical meetings.

5th meeting  
26 April 1984

- 
- (1) E/ECWA/XI/CP/4  
(2) E/ECWA/XI/CP/7  
(3) E/ECWA/XI/CP/8  
(4) E/ECWA/XI/CP/9

3(II) Transport and Communications Decade in Asia  
and the Pacific

The Standing Committee for the Programme,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/69 of 29 July 1983 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994, and, in particular paragraph 5 thereof calling upon the Economic Commission for Western Asia to take appropriate action to collaborate with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the incorporation of the region of Western Asia in the programme of action for the Decade,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/36 of 5 December 1980 on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and, in particular, its references to development objectives in the sectors of transport and communications,

Recognizing the important role of transport and communications in the overall social and economic development of the ECWA region,

Taking further note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the possible incorporation of the ECWA region into the scope of the Decade\*,

Emphasizing the need for closer interregional co-operation with regard to sectoral development of the transport and communications sectors,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a programme of action in that field, covering all the States of the region and including an assessment of the potential for co-operation with other regions;

2. Calls upon member States to participate more actively in meetings held on that subject;

\* E/ECWA/XI/CP.4



3. Requests further the Executive Secretary to submit for approval to the third session of the Committee a draft programme of action for the Transport and Communications Decade in the region of Western Asia.

5th meeting  
26 April 1984

**4(II) The promotion of studies and activities  
in the field of manpower development**

**The Standing Committee for the Programme**

**Recalling ECWA resolution 55(V) on labour migration in the ECWA region and 59(V) on the brain drain from the ECWA region,**

**Recalling also the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and, in particular, the need to achieve full employment by the year 2000 as well as to train and teach skills to the indigenous labour force with a view to more active participation on its part in the development effort,**

**Reaffirming the substance of the Pan-Arab Economic Charter, adopted by the Arab Kings and Presidents during the Eleventh Arab Summit, which stressed the need to facilitate labour movements, safeguard the rights of the labour force and afford it such facilities and assistance as may be necessary for its advancement,**

**Cognizant of both the importance of the development of human resources for the growth of the main economic sectors of the ECWA countries, and the priority given to the development of human resources in the Commission's work programme for the 1984-1989 medium-term plan,**

**1. Requests the Executive Secretary to give due consideration to the formulation of studies and activities concerning manpower in the ECWA region with a view to the promotion of its participation in the regional development process;**

**2. Urges the Executive Secretary to intensify efforts aimed at co-ordination with the various Arab and international bodies operating in this field.**

**5th meeting  
26 April 1984**

5(II) Information system at the Economic Commission  
for Western Asia

The Standing Committee for the Programme,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/63 on the strengthening and co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 36/237 of 18 December 1981 on the establishment of an information systems unit in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations,

Mindful of the essential services that an information system at ECWA could provide for members of the Commission and other potential users,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the Commission's work in the field of information systems,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to elaborate a comprehensive programme of work to develop the secretariat's information infrastructure within the context of the 1986-1987 programme of work and priorities;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary to co-operate with Arab, regional and international organizations for the purposes of co-ordinating the information programme, ensuring complementarity and preventing duplication;

3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the fourth session of the Standing Committee for the Programme on the programme of work for the development of the information system.

5th meeting  
26 April 1984

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE PROGRAMME AT ITS SECOND SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda_item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/XI/CP/1 E/ECWA/XI/CP/1/Corr.1	3	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/XI/CP/1/Rev.1	3	Agenda
E/ECWA/XI/CP/1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECWA/XI/CP/2	4	Organization of work
E/ECWA/XI/CP/3	5	Invitation of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the second session of the Standing Committee for the Programme
E/ECWA/XI/CP/4 E/ECWA/XI/CP/4/Add.1	6	Follow-up on the Standing Committee's resolutions: 1(I), 2(I), 3(I), 4(I) and 5(I) and ECWA resolution 120(X)
E/ECWA/XI/CP/5	7	Programme performance report for the biennium 1982-1983
E/ECWA/XI/CP/6	8	Updating the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989
E/ECWA/XI/CP/6/Add.1	8	Updating the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989: main and subprogrammes
E/ECWA/XI/CP/7	9(a)	The Commission's work in the area of capital goods development

E/ECWA/XI/CP/8	9(b)	The Commission's work in the area of new and renewable sources of energy
E/ECWA/XI/CP/9	9(c)	The Commission's work in the area of food security
E/ECWA/XI/CP/10	9(d)	The Commission's work in the area of information systems
E/ECWA/XI/CP/11	--	Draft report of the Standing Committee for the Programme
E/ECWA/XI/CP/INF.1		List of documents
E/ECWA/XI/CP/INF.2		List of participants