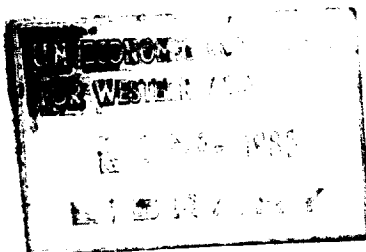




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UPDATING THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989

Note by the Executive Secretary

84-0152

A. Background

1. In May 1982, ECWA's Ad hoc Ad hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-term Plan examined the draft medium-term plan proposed by the secretariat. The report (1) of that Committee containing its recommendations on the Commission's programme priorities for the period 1984-1989 was adopted by the Commission at its ninth session. Based on the Committee's recommendations as reflected in its report, the Commission adopted resolution 114(IX) on the ECWA medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.
2. Bearing in mind the deliberations of the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee, the proposed ECWA medium-term plan was revised (2) and submitted for review to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC). The plan was substantially modified by CPC before its submission to the General Assembly. As was requested by CPC and the General Assembly, the plan is structured around objectives, and its various programmes and subprogrammes are designed to show the strategies which should be followed in order to achieve those objectives within the given resources. The plan, which covers both the political and the economic and social sectors, provides the policy framework for the formulation of the United Nations programme budget for the periods 1984-1985, 1986-1987 and 1988-1989. The plan was adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session and it appeared as an official document of the United Nations (3).
3. In its resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982 on programme planning the General Assembly adopted Regulations governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation. Regulation 3.11 states:

The medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes:....
The proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.
4. In the implementation of the regulations indicated in paragraph 3 above the Secretary-General had issued draft rules which were submitted for adoption to the General-Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. Reference is made to rule 103.11 which corresponds to Regulation 3.11 (annex 1).

8. Revisions to ECWA's medium-term plan

5. Since the adoption of the 1984-1989 medium-term plan many resolutions have been introduced by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the international conferences. Some of these resolutions have direct bearing on ECWA's programme of work and priorities for the period 1984-1989. These mandates are listed in annex 2 to this document. In compliance with instructions for updating and reviewing the 1984-1989 medium-term plan received from the office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination (United Nations Headquarters), in its review and updating of the medium-term plan the ECWA secretariat has borne in mind the provisions of pertinent mandates recently adopted, as well as the recommendations of the first session of the Standing Committee for the Programme on the secretariat's proposal for programme integration and resource concentration, both at the programme element and subprogramme levels (4). The secretariat wishes to propose for the consideration of the Standing Committee the following substantive and textual revisions to the medium-term plan, the implementation of which will be provided for in the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987.

6. Substantive revisions to the medium-term plan: Because of the recently adopted mandates, the secretariat proposes changes in the objectives and strategies of four major programmes: (a) Food and Agriculture; (b) Transport, communications and tourism; (c) Social Development; and (d) Statistics. Accordingly, only the existing subprogrammes within these major programmes, where appropriate, have been revised in order to include the provisions of the new mandates. Therefore, no new subprogramme has been proposed.

7. Small textual revisions to the medium-term plan: Small adjustments have been made in the text of the plan, where appropriate, in order to correct errors or provide a clearer mandate for activities that may be proposed in the programme budget 1986-1987.

8. The revised 1984-1989 medium-term plan proposed by the secretariat is contained in E/ECWA/XI/6/Add.1 which is before the delegates. Annexed to it is a summary analysis of the programmes and subprogrammes, the corresponding

subprogramme. ECWA's Ad hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 medium-term plan, in reviewing the draft plan in May 1982, approved the secretariat's proposal on the establishment of an order of priority for subprogrammes. Such ordering of priority subprogrammes is justified on the ground that in the event there are resource reductions, vacant posts, or the programme itself is considered as the highest priority,

resources can be concentrated on the relatively high subprogramme(s), and the implementation of relatively low priority subprogrammes can be either terminated or postponed for subsequent bienniums.

9. Based on this argument, in the revised 1984-1989 medium-term plan, the secretariat has proposed the termination of two subprogrammes:

- (a) Programme of Natural Resources:
Subprogramme 1: Mineral resources
- (b) Programme of Transport, Communications and tourism
Subprogramme: Development of tourism

The resources released from the above subprogrammes are redeployed to the relatively high priority subprogrammes:

- (a) Programme of Energy Issues:
Subprogramme 1. Energy planning;
Subprogramme 2. Energy conservation.
- (b) Programme of Transport, Communications and tourism
Subprogramme 1. Development of integrated transport

Similarly, the implementation of the following subprogrammes has been postponed to subsequent bienniums:

- (a) Programme of Transport and Communications:
Subprogramme 2. Communications
- (b) Programme: Human Settlements:
Subprogramme 3. Survey analysis and evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of prefabrication
Subprogramme 4. City management.

The resources released from the above subprogrammes will be utilized during the biennium 1984-1985 to implement the relatively high priority subprogrammes listed above of the programme of energy issues and the programme of transport and communications.

10. ECWA's fifteen substantive programmes in the revised medium-term plan constitute thirty-six subprogrammes which compares with the same number approved by the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the 1984-1989 Medium-term Plan in May 1982.(5) However, while two subprogrammes, namely, Development of tourism and Mineral resources are terminated as of 1 January 1984, two subprogrammes are added within the programme of transnational corporations. In the original proposed medium-term plan as submitted to the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Expert Commit-

tee, the transnational corporations Ad_hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee, the transnational corporations programme contained only one subprogramme, namely, Transnational corporations in the ECWA region. After the submission of the plan to CPC the objectives of the transnational corporations programme were restructured around the following three subprogrammes:

(a) Securing an effective code of conduct and other International arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations.

(b) Minimizing the negative effects of transnational corporations and enhancing their contribution to development.

(c) Strengthening the capability of host developing countries in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations.

11. Only two professional posts or 3 per cent of the total number of seventy professional posts (see annex 3) are allocated to the programme of transnational corporations to achieve the objectives of three subprogrammes. The secretariat proposes that for an effective implementation of these subprogrammes their relative weights should be determined by the Standing Committee as has been done for other subprogrammes. Details on this issue are the subject of a discussion under agenda item 6(a) of the eleventh session of the Commission.

Annex I

ARTICLE 3: MEDIUM-TERM PLAN

In the implementation of regulation 3.11. The corresponding rule 103.11 states:

- (a) Revisions to the plan are required, inter alia,
- (i) When intergovernmental mandates passed after the adoption of the plan call for new or substantially modified subprogrammes;
 - (ii) When the programme mandates in the opinion of the Secretary-General have become obsolete;
 - (iii) When changes in the amount of voluntary resources available result in programme changes
 - (iv) When the Secretary-General deems it necessary to propose new activities at the subprogramme level not covered by existing legislative mandates;
- (b) Proposed revisions submitted by Executive Heads to the Secretary-General should be identified as:
- (i) completely new programmes or subprogrammes;
 - (ii) substantive revisions of existing subprogrammes;
 - (iii) other revisions.
- (c) Substantive revisions shall be those which propose a change in the objectives and/or the strategy of the programme or subprogramme.

Annex II

RESOLUTIONS

General Assembly, 1982 and 1983

1. 37/57 Integration of women in development, 3 December 1982
2. 37/58 United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 3 December 1982
3. 37/59 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, 3 December 1982
4. 37/53 Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 3 December 1982
5. 37/48 Population activities in the regional commissions, 17 December 1982
6. 37/136 International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace 3 December 1982
7. 37/166 Assistance to Yemen, 17 December 1982
8. 37/134 Assistance to the Palestinian people, 17 December 1982
9. 37/150 Assistance to Democratic Yemen, 17 December 1982
10. 37/212 Industrial development co-operation, 20 December 1982
11. 37/163 Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, 17 December 1982
12. 37/252 Immediate measures in favour of the developing countries, 21 December 1982
13. 38/148 International Conference on Population, 1984, 19 December 1983
14. 38/152 International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 19 December 1983
15. 38/22 International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, 22 November 1983
16. 38/195 Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 20 December 1983
17. 38/6 Co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, 28 October 1983
18. 38/168 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, 19 December 1983
19. 38/204 Assistance to Yemen, 20 December 1983
20. 38/206 Assistance to Democratic Yemen, 20 December 1983

Economic and Social Council 1983

1. 1983/66 Promotion of interregional economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, 29 July 1983
2. 1983/69 Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific, 29 July 1983
3. 1983/57 Water resources development: progress and prospects in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 28 July 1983
4. 1983/60 Development of the energy resources of the developing countries, 28 July 1983
5. 1983/61 Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries, 28 July 1983

ECWA 1982

1. III(IX) World Assembly on Aging, 12 May 1982
2. 112(IX) Regional activities for International Youth Year, 12 May 1982
3. 109(IX) Census of the Palestinian Arab People, 11 May 1982
4. 113(IX) Regional food security, 12 May 1982

Standing Committee for the Programme 1983

1. 3(1) Co-operation with regional organizations, 9 May 1983
2. 5(1) Preparation for the Fourth Conference of UNIDO, 9 May 1983

Annex III

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF ECWA MEDIUM-TERM PLAN SUBPROGRAMMES
(1984-1989)

Secretariat unit responsible for Programme(s)	Programme	Total number of professional posts allocated to programme as at Jan. 1984	Percent age of total number of posts	Subprogrammes	Relative weight of subprogramme within programme†
ECWA-FAU Agriculture Division	1. Food and Agriculture	6(a)	9	1. Monitoring and Management of agricultural development and agricultural resources	1
				2. Food planning and policy	2
				3. Support to the agrarian reform and rural development programme	3
Development Planning Division	1. Development Issues and Policies	7	10	1. Special measures in favour of the least developed countries of the region	1
				2. Perspective planning	2
				3. Review and analysis of economic trends	3

2. International Trade and Development	2	3	1. Trade expansion and diversification	1
3. Public administration and finance(b)	2	3	1. Financial resource mobilization and management	2
4. Transnational corporations	2	3	1. Securing an effective code of conduct and other international arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations 2. Minimizing the negative effects of transnational corporations and enhancing their contribution to development 3. Strengthening the capability of host developing countries in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations	3
Human Settlements Division	1. Human Settlements	7	1. Integration of physical planning with economic and social planning	4
	5(c)		2. Building materials	
			3. Survey analysis and evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of prefabrication	
			4. City management	

ECWA-UNIDO Industry Division	1. Industrial development	8(d)	12	1. Development of selected industrial branches and identification of regional projects	1
				2. National planning and regional co-ordination of the industrial sector	2
				3. Trade in manufactured products and financing of industrial development	3
Natural Resources Science and Technology Division	1. Natural Resources	2	3	1. Water resources	
	2. Science and Technology	5	7	1. Strengthening of national Scientific and technological capabilities	1
	3. Energy issues	6	9	2. Transfer of technology	2
				1. Energy planning	1
				2. Regional co-operation on research, development and demonstration of new and renewable sources of energy	2
				3. Energy conservation and efficiency	3

Social Development and Population Division	1. Population	7(e)	10	1. Population education and information (publications and clearing-house)	1
				2. Demographic data analysis	2
				3. Employment promotion and manpower	3
				4. Population and development policy	4
	2. Social development	3(f)	4	1. Social integration and change	1
				2. Human resources development	2
Statistics	1. Statistics	7	10	1. Statistical development	2
				2. National accounts and economic statistics	2
				3. Social demographic and environmental statistics	3
Transport, Communications and Tourism Division	1. Transport, communications and tourism	7	10	1. Development of integrated transport	1
				2. Communications	2
Environment Co-ordination	1. Environment	1(g)	2	1. Environmental problems and concerns in the ECWA region	

* Subprogrammes are ordered in terms of their relative weights within the programme. (Refer to Report of the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee on the Medium-term Plan for the period 1984-1989, 9-12 May 1987 (E/ECWA/142/Rev.1) 11 May 1982, annex I).

(a) In addition, four professional posts are expected to be contributed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

(b) This programme concentrates on development finance.

(c) In addition, two professional posts are expected to be contributed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat).

(d) In addition, two professional posts are expected to be contributed by the United Nations Industrial Organization (UNI-
DU).

(e) In addition, four professional posts are expected to be contributed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Also included in the total number of posts are two posts deployed from the Prog. Labour, Management and Employment.

(f) In addition, one professional post is expected to be contributed by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (VFUNDN).

(g) Two professional posts are expected to be contributed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).