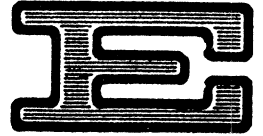




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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA**

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Amman

Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE
COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION**

- (iv) Resolution 168(XV) on suitable projects for regional and subregional cooperation in the ESCWA region on new and renewable sources of energy

Appropriateness and suitability of renewable-energy projects for the specific conditions of the region have been constantly of concern to the ESCWA secretariat. In the formulation and implementation of renewable-energy projects, this is particularly reflected in the importance the ESCWA secretariat attaches to: the selection of project sites; introduction and use of economically and socially viable and environmentally sound technologies; local manufacturing of systems components; and training. Actual and projected needs of specific communities in specific areas are, of course, taken into consideration at the initial stage of preparation for the ESCWA secretariat's renewable-energy projects.

The report presented to the Commission on the implementation of renewable-energy projects formulated in the course of 1988-1989 is revealing in this respect: all the projects of the "Regional Programme for the Development of Renewable Sources of Energy" are based on such considerations as selection of suitable sites, application of appropriate technologies, and the specific conditions of the region.

Exchange of information and knowledge gained from experience in setting up renewable-energy projects has become somewhat easier following the establishment of the "Regional Information Network on New and Renewable Sources of Energy" and the recent issuance of the Directory on renewable-energy projects and institutions and specialists involved in the development of renewable energy resources in the region.

As training on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of renewable-energy systems is a major factor in the implementation of suitable renewable-energy projects, significant resources have been allocated to cover these aspects in several renewable-energy areas.

In addition, intensive contacts have been made with national, regional and international organizations dealing with renewable energy for assessing the appropriateness of projects implemented and for evaluating their performance. The outcome of these contacts has been of great help in directing the activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat and member States towards a more realistic assessment of the feasibility of renewable-energy projects in the region.