

1999/44. Relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to its permanent headquarters at Beirut

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 197 (XVII) of 31 May 1994 of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,¹¹⁵ in which the Commission decided to submit a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council that the permanent headquarters of the Commission be relocated to Beirut,

Recalling also its resolution 1994/43 of 29 July 1994 on the permanent headquarters of the Commission, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to take all steps necessary to effect the transfer of the permanent headquarters of the Commission to Beirut and to ensure that the transfer was financed within existing resources and primarily from extrabudgetary contributions,

Recalling further Commission resolution 207 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 on facilitating the relocation of the Commission to its permanent headquarters at Beirut,¹¹⁶ in which the Commission called on member States to take measures to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to secure the necessary resources for the implementation of resolution 197 (XVII),

Recalling Commission resolution 215 (XIX) of 7 May 1997 on progress made in facilitating the relocation of the Commission to its permanent headquarters at Beirut,¹¹⁰ in which the Commission requested the authorities concerned within the Secretariat to examine the possibility of utilizing the skills of local Commission staff at Amman in other areas within the United Nations or of finding ways to compensate them,

Cognizant of the note by the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the relocation of the Commission to its permanent headquarters at Beirut,¹¹⁷ which deals with all the legal, administrative, logistic and financial aspects of the transfer,

Commending the measures adopted by the Commission secretariat for the implementation of the relocation plan in accordance with a timetable that did not affect the implementation of its programmes and took into account the needs of the staff,

Commending also the measures adopted by the Secretariat to utilize the skills of the local staff at Amman in other areas within the United Nations or determine ways to compensate them,

1. *Endorses* the action taken by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the transfer of the permanent headquarters of the Commission to United Nations House at Beirut by 31 December 1997, in particular the conclusion of the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon concerning the headquarters of the Commission, signed on 27 August 1997, and the supplementary agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon relating to the occupancy and use of the United Nations premises at Beirut, signed on 9 October 1997;

2. *Also endorses* the action taken by the Commission secretariat to facilitate the transfer of other United Nations offices and agencies at Beirut to United Nations House on 1 December 1998, and to devise internal mechanisms for the sharing of common services and related costs;¹¹⁸

3. *Endorses with satisfaction* the financial arrangements related to the move, made by the Commission secretariat in compliance with Council resolution 1994/43, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the transfer was financed within existing resources and primarily from extrabudgetary contributions;

4. *Reiterates its expression of gratitude* to the Government of Lebanon for its financial contributions and its efforts to provide a headquarters that satisfies the requirements and needs of the United Nations and for its cooperation in complying with the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement signed on 27 August 1997;

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Kuwait for its financial contribution towards the transfer of the headquarters of the Commission, and to the Government of Saudi Arabia for the contribution which it made to supporting

¹¹⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 19 (E/1994/39)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 1995, *Supplement No. 19 (E/1995/84)*, chap. I, sect. B.

¹¹⁷ E/ESCWA/20/7/Rev.1.

¹¹⁸ Four tripartite memorandums of understanding relating to the occupancy and use of the United Nations premises at Beirut were signed by the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon with, respectively, three United Nations bodies (the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund) on 23 November 1998, and with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on 11 March 1999; and a memorandum of understanding concerning occupancy and use of common premises by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and United Nations offices and agencies at Beirut was signed on 24 November 1998.

the activities of the Commission following its transfer to its permanent headquarters;

6. *Reiterates its thanks* to the Governments of Iraq and Jordan for the facilities offered to the Commission during its stay at Baghdad and Amman, respectively, and to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for facilitating the movement of staff and equipment through its territory.

*44th plenary meeting
28 July 1999*