

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED
AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF ESCWA
TUNIS, 18 SEPTEMBER 2014**

A. TUNIS DECLARATION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE ARAB REGION

1. We, the representatives of the member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, assembled in Tunis at the twenty-eighth ministerial session of the Commission, commit to social justice as a core value of the Arab and Islamic culture and a foundation for secure, cohesive and prosperous societies.
2. We shall strive to achieve equality and equity in our countries, eradicating poverty, securing environmental sustainability and building partnerships for development, as enshrined in international treaties and declarations.
3. We note with extreme concern the daunting challenges that the Arab region is facing in all aspects of human development. We affirm the importance of addressing threats to social cohesion and combating water scarcity, food and water insecurity, environmental pollution, climate change and the increasing debt of poor Arab countries, which further impede efforts towards social justice and sustainable development.
4. We are deeply alarmed by the escalating conflicts; the continuous loss of lives, livelihoods and resources; and particularly the religious and sectarian tensions that detrimentally affect large segments of our society and undermine social cohesion.
5. We strongly condemn the Israeli military offensives targeting Palestinian civilians and infrastructure, and the latest attack on the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014. We recognize that the Israeli occupation and its policies and practices of discrimination, racial segregation, apartheid and settlement-building and the Judaization of East Jerusalem undermine the basic rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the Syrian population in the occupied Golan Heights.
6. We denounce the revival of racist calls to religious purity of States – namely by the Government of Israel and extremist groups in the region – a concept which represents a flagrant violation of the rights of peoples to equality and non-discrimination.
7. We strongly condemn that are our societies face vicious waves of terrorism that limit their opportunities to achieve development and social justice goals, by threatening their resources and capabilities and destroying the development gains that their peoples and Governments secured over decades. We urge organizations in the Arab region to examine the dangers of all aspects of the economic blockade and of money laundering and its links to terrorism financing, and to propose measures to limit such dangers that threaten development, peace and security.
8. We also reaffirm that social justice is as a fundamental prerequisite for peace, security and social cohesion, all of which are, in turn, critical for realizing social justice.
9. We recall the Commission's resolution 304 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 on the role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development, in which it encourages member States to intensify their efforts to mainstream social justice into sustainable development strategies and address the concerns of all social groups.
10. We refer to the 2012-2016 action plan of the League of Arab States¹ and the Amman Declaration on Priorities of the Arab Region for Inclusive and Sustainable Development Post-2015,² which highlight the link between inclusive development and social justice in the region.

¹ The five year plan (2012-2016) stemmed from the second thematic session of the ministers of social affairs of the League of Arab States, held in Cairo, on 28 May 2012.

² Adopted by the Arab ministers of social affairs as an outcome document of the Conference on Priorities of the Arab Region for Inclusive and Sustainable Development Post-2015, held in Amman, on 11 May 2014.

11. We commend the efforts and progress made in ratifying relevant human rights treaties and instruments; in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and in participating in global processes leading to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

12. We affirm the commitment of Arab States to advancing youth development, especially for those with special needs, and stress the urgent need to overcome the obstacles to youth economic and social empowerment. We also stress the importance of empowering older persons and enhancing their contribution to the development process.

13. We stress the crucial role of sound macroeconomic policies in advancing the mutually reinforcing objectives of social justice and inclusive development, to combat inequalities among social groups within countries.

14. We shall reduce unemployment through indiscriminate means to create employment opportunities; developing productive sectors; addressing the mismatch between educational outcomes and the needs of the labour market; and improving economic governance systems.

15. We affirm the need to develop policies, establish mechanisms to combat violence against women and undertake special measures to increase women's effective participation in decision-making.

16. We shall develop strategies that expand social protection, without exclusion or marginalization to address the requirements of different population groups.

17. We recognize the importance of promoting participatory mechanisms that strengthen the role of civil society institutions and other stakeholders in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of sustainable development policies, especially social protection policies.

18. We shall promote the right to health and education, without exclusion or marginalization, as stipulated by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to empower individuals.

19. We stress the urgent need for policies to ensure the preservation and management of increasingly scarce natural resources, in a manner that respects the environment and guarantees intergenerational justice.

20. We are determined to promote a sense of responsible citizenry and civic engagement in decision-making.

21. In this context, We request the Commission's secretariat:

(a) To incorporate the elements of social justice in its work on the preparation, monitoring and implementation of a post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, and establish clear implementation and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the achievement of national, regional and global development goals, in accordance with country capabilities;

(b) To strengthen the policy capacity of member States in all relevant fields through training, research and normative work, including through the production of reports on justice, poverty, inequality, social protection, social inclusion, women's empowerment, natural resource management, renewable energy subsidies, access to technology and good governance, as well as trade policies and their role in achieving development;

(c) To provide advisory services and technical support to member States to improve national policy responses so as to enhance social cohesion, tackle youth and women's development challenges, and promote youth and women's participation and empowerment in decision-making processes;

(d) To monitor the effects of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, its implications in the light of regional and international developments and its detrimental impact on the attainment of the multiple dimensions of justice in Palestine and the region as a whole, so as to uphold the human rights-based and legal efforts to condemn the Israeli occupation and support the Palestinians in demanding their rights;

(e) To create a measurement tool to monitor progress in the area of social justice in the Arab region and strengthen the capacity of member States and statistical agencies to collect, build, analyse and disseminate harmonized related indicators.

22. From Tunis, we reaffirm our commitment to social justice for our peoples as a vision of and path to a bright, dignified and prosperous future.

B. RESOLUTIONS

314 (XXVIII). The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) entitled “The future we want”,¹ especially paragraph 97 that acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and the ability of regional frameworks to complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level, and paragraph 84 on establishing a high-level political forum on sustainable development,

Referring also to General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, especially paragraph 7 (f) in which it decided that the meetings of the forum should benefit from regional preparatory processes, and paragraph 13 in which it acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Recalling its resolution 305 (XXVII) on sustainable development in the Arab region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference,

Recognizing current regional challenges and circumstances and the importance of tackling them through a balanced and integrated developmental approach,

Noting the efforts of Arab countries to achieve sustainable development,

Referring to the Dubai document for the Arab regional implementation of Rio+20² that emphasizes the important role of the regional commissions in the follow-up to the international processes launched by the Rio+20 Conference; and to the outcomes of the Arab High Level Forum on Sustainable Development, organized by the Commission in collaboration with the League of Arab States, the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Government of Jordan,³

Appreciating the efforts of the secretariat of the Commission in following up the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, in undertaking good regional preparations with respect to the international process on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals and in conducting regional preparations for the second session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and striving to include all relevant stakeholders and sectors in developing a clear Arab regional perspective that takes into account the priorities of the Arab region and the challenges it is facing;

1. *Encourages* member States to actively participate in intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, and in the upcoming annual sessions of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288.

² Issued at the Arab Regional Implementation Meeting for the Twentieth Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-20) – Follow-up from the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Dubai, 29-30 May 2013. Available from <http://css.escwa.org.lb/sdpd/2044/bd5.pdf>.

³ ESCWA. *Report of the Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development*. Amman, 2-4 April 2014, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/WG.1/6/Report.

2. *Invites* member States to widely participate in the sessions of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and achieve a balanced representation of governmental organizations in the Forum;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to hold sessions of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development periodically, in participation with the League of Arab States and other organizations concerned with sustainable development, in order to prepare for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, review the progress made in achieving the sustainable development goals and contribute to launching regional partnerships to advance sustainable development in the Arab region;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to monitor progress in achieving sustainable development in the Arab region and to prepare reports on the topic on the basis of official data for presentation at the sessions of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present a report, at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission, on the procedures undertaken to implement the present resolution.

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315 (XXVIII). Establishing an intergovernmental committee on technology for development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the 2005 World Summit Outcome in which the United Nations Member States recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technology, are vital for the achievement of the development goals; and to Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 of 5 November 2004 concerning science and technology for development,

Referring also to the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003-Tunis 2005), in particular the Tunis Agenda on the Information Society (Tunis Agenda 2005) and the international mechanisms and forums it generated,

Referring further to goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals which includes a target on making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technology,

Recognizing the importance of increasing the participation of the Governments of ESCWA member States in identifying priorities and planning and improving the ESCWA programme of work in the field of technology for development,

Recognizing also the need to enhance coordination and integration between ESCWA and Arab regional organizations regarding technology-for-development policies and programmes, to meet the needs of member States and develop this technology to achieve inclusive development in the Arab region,

Taking into consideration the recommendations resulting from the evaluation undertaken by ESCWA of its working mechanisms, including a proposal to establish a committee on technology for development,

Stressing the important role of ESCWA in promoting information and communications technology sectors and related industries and enhancing their role in development, information society and digital economy in member States and linking them to the international process of the World Summit on the Information Society and the mechanisms and international forums it generated for Internet governance; and invigorating the role of member States at the international level in those international forums,

Stressing also the important role of the ESCWA Technology Centre in the fields of science and technology and in networking scientific and technological research with major economic sectors in member States,

Taking into consideration the efforts undertaken by ESCWA under subprogramme 4, “Information and communications technology for regional integration”, and its achievements in those fields to advance the information and communications technology sector and scientific and technological research,

Guided by the work of other United Nations regional commissions regarding the establishment of specialized committees on technology for development,

1. *Endorses* changing the name of subprogramme 4, from “Information and communications technology for regional integration” to “Technology for development and regional integration”;

2. *Decides* to establish an intergovernmental committee to be named “Committee on Technology for Development”, comprising representatives from ESCWA member States with experience in the field, which would replace the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation, use the resources allocated to it and undertake the following:

(a) Identifying priorities of the ESCWA programme of work and medium-term plans regarding technology for development, including scientific research and innovation, digital economy and information society, knowledge economies and emerging areas;

(b) Monitoring the progress achieved in the field of technology, including information and communications technology, Internet governance, digital economy and the information society on the one hand, and areas related to scientific research and transfer of technology on the other hand; and formulating recommendations to strengthen the development of those fields;

(c) Following up regional and international processes, conferences and forums relevant to subprogramme 4, and coordinating regional efforts to implement decisions and recommendations of those conferences;

(d) Supporting the secretariat to continue to follow up the implementation of the Tunis Agenda adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005) and to participate in the activities and projects related to the World Summit beyond 2015;

(e) Advancing the work of the secretariat in supporting cooperation with the ministerial councils and the organizations and unions of the League of Arab States, including the Council of Arab Ministers of Communications and Information Technology, the Arab Administrative Development Organization and other specialized organizations, in harmonizing policies and strategies, supporting communication and partnerships and coordinating positions at the international level in addition to building capacities;

3. *Also decides* that the Committee shall hold its sessions once every two years, with effect from 2016;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session.

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316 (XXVIII). Support for the Palestinian people

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012 concerning the status of Palestine in the United Nations, in which it accorded to Palestine the status of non-member observer State in the United Nations,

Referring also to General Assembly resolution 68/12 of 26 November 2013, in which it proclaimed 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People,

Referring further to General Assembly resolutions 68/14 concerning the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, 68/13 concerning the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat and 68/12 concerning the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, all of which adopted on 26 November 2013,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/26 of 11 July 2014 concerning the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Recalling its resolutions 307 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 and 292 (XXVI) of 19 May 2010, in which it reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, supported the efforts of the Palestinian people and Palestinian Authority towards the establishment of a Palestinian State that extends its authority over all its territory on the basis of United Nations resolutions, and called for intensifying efforts to raise awareness on the rights of the Palestinian people and on the violations of those rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations prepared by the ESCWA secretariat in 2014 on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,¹ which highlights the continuing deterioration of the economic and social conditions as a result of persistent Israeli practices and policies that violate international law, especially collective punishments against the Palestinian people, the Gaza blockade, the illegal expansionary settlements on Palestinian territory in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the construction of the separation wall, denying Palestinians and their institutions the right to access and use their natural resources, including agricultural land and water resources, in addition to the excessive use of force by the Israeli army and security forces, the continuous destruction of Palestinian houses and institutions with impunity, and violence committed by Israeli settlers against the Palestinians and their properties and religious sites,

Also taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, published on 13 January 2014,² and the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,³ which was “particularly appalled at the hermetic character of the separation of two groups, who live on the same territory but do not enjoy either equal use of roads and infrastructure or equal access to basic services and water resources,” and considered that this

¹ A/69/81-E/2014/13.

² United Nations, Human Rights Council, twenty-fifth session, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Richard Falk, 13 January 2014, A/HRC/25/67.

³ United Nations, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, eightieth session, 13 February – 9 March 2012, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16.

constitutes a breach of article 3 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and a violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to economic and social development,

Referring to decisions 594 and 595 adopted by the League of Arab States at its twenty-fifth summit on 26 March 2014, which reiterate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the right of return of the Palestinian refugees, and the categorical refusal of the recognition of Israel as a Jewish State,

Noting with appreciation that, despite all difficulties, the Palestinians are persistently exerting all efforts to build their institutions, realize development and achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of their legitimate rights under international law in the occupied territory,

Also noting with appreciation the efforts of the ESCWA secretariat to support the Palestinian people, build its institutions and raise the awareness of the international community of Palestinian rights as guaranteed by numerous international resolutions, charters and conventions,

Taking into consideration the increasing needs of Palestinian institutions and bodies in the process of building a state and achieving development despite occupation, as indicated by the number of requests for technical cooperation received by the secretariat from the Palestinian Government,

1. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 67/19 in which it accorded to Palestine the status of non-member observer State in the United Nations;

2. *Also welcomes* General Assembly resolution 68/12 in which it proclaimed 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;

3. *Calls on* the international community to support the Government of National Conciliation which was formed according to the Palestinian National Reconciliation achieved in May 2014, asserting the unity of the Palestinian people;

4. *Condemns with the strongest terms* the Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip, being another Israeli attempt at breaking the will of the Palestinian people; and stresses that targeting civilians and their houses and infrastructure, as seen in Gaza, constitutes further violations of the International Humanitarian Law, which emphasizes the need to hold Israel accountable for those crimes;

5. *Condemns* the practices and policies of the Israeli occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which amount to apartheid, cause a continuous deterioration of their economic and social conditions and violate the collective and individual rights of the Palestinian people;

6. *Calls upon* member States:

(a) To raise the level of their support for the Palestinian people in their efforts to obtain their full rights, to put an end to Israeli violations of their rights and of the international law, to end the Israeli occupation and to establish an independent Palestinian State in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

(b) To support Palestine's efforts to obtain full membership in all specialized international agencies and to join international charters and protocols as an inherent right of the State of Palestine;

(c) To enhance efforts to support and reinforce the resilience of the Palestinian people, so as to ensure their continued existence on their land and mitigate the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation and related policies;

(d) To observe the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People through new or scheduled activities, in particular cultural ones;

(e) To observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November through special activities and/or ensure the highest possible level of representation in the activity organized by the ESCWA secretariat in that regard;

(f) To encourage Arab and foreign civil society organizations to launch initiatives to enhance the capacities of the Palestinian people and support their effort to obtain their full rights and provide moral and material support for those initiatives where possible;

(g) To support the efforts of the Arab humanitarian and charitable associations to help the Palestinian people;

(h) To contribute to the mobilization of international support for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip and effectively participate in the international donors conference to be held in Egypt in October 2014;

(i) To encourage the subsidiary bodies of ESCWA to give special attention to the conditions of the Palestinian people;

7. *Requests* the ESCWA secretariat to raise the level of its support for the Palestinian people and their institutions at all levels, including the enhancement of human resources for subprogramme 7 to support the implementation of the following:

(a) Providing normative and technical assistance to the Palestinian institutions according to the Palestinian needs;

(b) Developing more activities on Palestine and organize special events in observance of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, with the aim of raising awareness and mobilizing support for the Palestinian people in Palestine and abroad, and securing the widest media coverage for those events;

(c) Submitting periodic reports to the ministerial sessions of the Commission on the practices of the Israeli occupation that violate the economic and social rights of the Palestinian people and other rights guaranteed by international law, charters and conventions;

(d) Monitoring the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation, mobilizing regional partners to support the Palestinian people and their institutions in Palestine and abroad, assisting them in achieving development and exerting pressure and advocacy to help them obtain their full rights as guaranteed by United Nations resolutions and international conventions and charters;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and report on progress made in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session.

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317 (XXVIII). Adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered the revised draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017,¹

Bearing in mind that the draft strategic framework was amended following the discussions of subprogrammes during the sessions of the specialized intergovernmental committees as well as the eighth meeting of the Technical Committee, and taking into consideration the comments received from member States prior to and following the meeting, and during the high-level segment of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission,

Noting that the draft strategic framework reflects the economic and social development priorities of member States,

1. *Adopts* the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to distribute the strategic framework in the form adopted by member States.

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¹ E/ESCWA/28/7.

318 (XXVIII). Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Affirming the importance of the role played by its subsidiary bodies in designing, coordinating and following-up its programme of work in their respective domains, and for upholding the best interests of member States,

Recognizing the importance of implementing the recommendations made by those bodies to enable ESCWA to undertake its duties in the competencies falling within the remit of its subsidiary bodies,

Having considered the recommendations contained in the reports of the subsidiary bodies on their sessions held in the period between the twenty-seventh and the twenty-eighth sessions of the Commission, namely: the report of the Statistical Committee on its tenth session;¹ the report of the Committee on Energy on its ninth session;² the report of the Committee on Social Development on its ninth session;³ the report of the Committee on Women on its sixth session;⁴ the report of the Technical Committee on its seventh meeting;⁵ the report of the Committee on Water Resources on its tenth session;⁶ the report of the Committee on Transport on its thirteenth session;⁷ the report of the Committee on Transport on its fourteenth session;⁸ the report of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization and Financing for Development on its eighth session;⁹ and the report of the Technical Committee on its eighth meeting,¹⁰

1. *Adopts* the recommendations contained in the reports of the subsidiary bodies with the amendments agreed on during the twenty-eighth session of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a paper on the reasons and justifications of the requests concerning annual meetings of the sessions of the Statistical Committee, the Committee on Water Resources and the Committee on Energy;

3. *Calls upon* member States to implement measures to ensure that those amended recommendations are put into effect.

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¹ E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/10/Report.

² E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/7/Report.

³ E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/6/Report.

⁴ E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/7/Report.

⁵ E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/8/Report.

⁶ E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/8/Report.

⁷ E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/8/Report.

⁸ E/ESCWA/EDGD/2013/IG.1/7/Report.

⁹ E/ESCWA/EDGD/2013/IG.2/10/Report.

¹⁰ E/ESCWA/2013/C.8/10/Report.

319 (XXVIII). Adoption of the proposed amendments to the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking note of the progress made in 2014 in implementing the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015,

Expressing satisfaction with the achievements made during the previous biennium,

Referring to the proposed amendments to the programme of work,

1. *Adopts* the amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015,¹ with consideration given to the remarks made by member States during the twenty-eighth session;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to follow up the implementation of the programme of work and, if necessary, include activities to address any challenge that may emerge in the Arab region.

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¹ E/ESCWA/28/6(Part II).

**320 (XXVIII). Redesignating the Technical Committee as the “Executive Committee”
and amending its terms of reference**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to its decision made on 11 May 2006 during its twenty-fourth session concerning the establishment of a technical committee which should meet once every six months to follow up the implementation of the programme of work,¹

Referring also to the terms of reference of the Technical Committee as revised at its fifth meeting, held on 6 and 7 April 2011, which stipulate that the Technical Committee shall hold three meetings per biennium, in support of the ministerial session of the Commission, to advise and assist the secretariat in planning and implementing the programme of work and to take action on any other matters,

Having considered the recommendation of the Technical Committee at its seventh meeting to amend the mandate of the Technical Committee in order to facilitate its work and strengthen its ability in taking decisions and responding to regional and international developments,²

Having also considered the recommendation of the Technical Committee at its eighth meeting to redesignate the Technical Committee as the “Executive Committee” and amend its terms of reference, so that it may play a greater role in steering and coordinating the activities of the Commission,³

Noting the increasing global and regional challenges and the need to develop swift regional responses to them,

Underscoring the importance of strengthening the intergovernmental engagement of member States in the decision-making processes of the Commission, in particular to ensure an integrated approach to the work of the Commission,

1. *Decides* to redesignate the Technical Committee as the “Executive Committee”;
2. *Also decides* to revise the role of the Technical Committee and its terms of reference, with immediate effect, as set out in annex to the present resolution;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex

Terms of reference of the Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall submit a report on its activities to the Commission at its sessions.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene three meetings in the period between the biennial sessions of the Commission;

¹ ESCWA, *Report on the twenty-fourth session*, 8-11 May 2006, E/ESCWA/24/10, para. 49.

² ESCWA, *Report of the Technical Committee on its seventh meeting*, 18-19 March 2013, E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/8/Report, para. 7 (q).

³ ESCWA, *Report of the Technical Committee on its eighth meeting*, 10-12 December 2013, E/ESCWA/2013/C.8/10/Report, para. 6 (g).

3. The Executive Committee shall be entrusted with submitting resolutions and reports to the Economic and Social Council, on matters excluding the terms of reference of the Commission.
4. The Executive Committee shall undertake the following:
 - (a) Organize the sessions of the Commission;
 - (b) Review and adopt the programme of work of the subsidiary committees on the basis of criteria defined by the Executive Committee;
 - (c) Ensure consistency between subprogrammes;
 - (d) Deal with all matters related to programme planning.
5. The membership of the Executive Committee shall mirror that of the Commission.
6. The chairs or vice-chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission can be invited to the meetings of the Executive Committee.
7. The Executive Committee may propose amendments to its terms of reference, which shall be considered for adoption by the Commission.
8. The Executive Committee shall be chaired by a representative of the country chairing the Commission.

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321 (XXVIII). Redesignating the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the “Economic and Social Commission for Arab States”

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973, in which the Council established the Economic Commission for Western Asia and set out its terms of reference,

Referring also to the Council resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, in which the Council decided to change the name of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to the “Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia” and to amend its terms of reference to reflect the new name,

Recalling its resolution 302 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012, in which it requested the secretariat to coordinate with the relevant United Nations entities and the League of Arab States the redesignation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to become the “Economic and Social Commission for Arab States”,

Having considered the recommendations of the Technical Committee at its seventh¹ and eighth² meetings concerning the redesignation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the Economic and Social Commission for Arab States,

Having taken note of the communications made by the secretariat with the League of Arab States and the United Nations office of Legal Affairs,

Bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission to address economic and social challenges in member States and its unique role in promoting regional integration among them,

1. *Recommends* the Economic and Social Council:

(a) To redesignate the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the “Economic and Social Commission for Arab States”;

(b) To amend the terms of reference of the Commission as set forth in its resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, in line with the new designation;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and submit a report on the progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session.

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¹ ESCWA, *Report of the Technical Committee on its seventh meeting*, 18-19 March 2013, E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/8/Report, paras. 6 (a) and (b).

² ESCWA, *Report of the Technical Committee on its eighth meeting*, 10-12 December 2013, E/ESCWA/2013/C.8/10/Report, para. 6 (b)