

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE
TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF ESCWA**

BEIRUT, 10 MAY 2012

302 (XXVII) Request from the Republic of Tunisia, Libya and the Kingdom of Morocco to become members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting that the Republic of Tunisia, Libya and the Kingdom of Morocco have consistently participated, in the capacity of observers and through representatives, in all sessions of ESCWA since 2005 and in ESCWA meetings and activities,

Noting also that such participation has enhanced cooperation and strengthened the relationship between Tunisia, Libya and Morocco and ESCWA secretariat and member countries,

Taking note also of the request of Libya presented on 7 May 2012 and the request of Morocco presented on 8 May 2012 to become members of the Commission,

Taking note of the letters dated 7 February 2012 and 2 March 2012 addressed to the secretariat by the Embassy of Tunisia in Beirut, affirming the desire of Tunisia to increase cooperation with ESCWA and its member countries, and requesting to become a member of the Commission,

Referring to paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973, on the establishment of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, which stipulates that the members of the Commission shall consist of the States Members of the United Nations situated in Western Asia which (at that time) called on the services of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, and that future applications for membership by Member States shall be decided on by the Council upon the recommendation of the Commission,

Recalling that the Terms of Reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818(LV) do not limit the geographical location of countries which may become members thereof or proscribe a member of one regional commission from being at the same time a member of another regional commission,

Noting that most of the other regional commissions have member countries that are not located in the region that they serve,

Noting that both Egypt and the Sudan are dual members of ESCWA and the Economic Commission for Africa,

1. *Welcomes* the requests made by Tunisia, Libya and Morocco to become members of the Commission;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to submit a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council that those requests be approved;
3. Also requests the secretariat to invite all other Arab countries to become members of ESCWA and to coordinate with the relevant United Nations entities and the League of Arab States the redesignation of ESCWA to become the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Arab Region.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

303 (XXVII) Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 65/167 of 15 March 2011 on a new international economic order,

Referring also to the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹ the 2005 World Summit Outcome,² the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development³ and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴ all of which support and promote the concept of partnership in the development process,

Stressing the crucial role of sound macroeconomic policies, including but not limited to monetary and fiscal, taxation and trade policies, in support of achieving balanced and sustained growth and development and realizing the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that inadequate macroeconomic policies have strong adverse effects on regional, national and human development, on equitable economic growth and social and personal welfare, which in turn undermine development efforts and prevent the countries of the region from realizing their full development potential,

Realizing that macroeconomic policy decisions have significant impact beyond national borders and affect regional integration initiatives and that innovative solutions are needed to improve the performance, structure, behaviour and decision-making framework of the existing macroeconomic policy in order to benefit all people in the region,

Realizing also that the impacts of the global economic crisis and the challenges of the recent developments in the region necessitate governmental review of the legislative, regulatory and procedural environment for macroeconomic policy decisions,

Mindful of the complexity and uncertainty of the global economy which require macroeconomic policymakers to have updated information on the global economy, innovative thinking and new approaches to macroeconomic management,

Conscious of the need to create an environment conducive to sharing knowledge, expertise and best practice related to effective macroeconomic policy frameworks and their implementation,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to form an expert group to discuss macroeconomic policies in the region, facilitate the exchange of good practice between countries, and provide assistance in finding solutions to key macroeconomic issues;

2. *Also requests* the secretariat to provide specialized advisory and training services in the economic field, to disseminate information and to coordinate regional multistakeholders meetings;

3. *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-eighth session.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

¹ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

² General Assembly resolution 60/2.

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August – 4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development*, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

304 (XXVII) The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Keeping in mind General Assembly resolution 65/312 of 26 July 2011 in which it adopted the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,

Affirming its commitment to General Assembly resolution 65/186 of 21 December 2010 on realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond,

Also affirming its commitment to General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 20 December 2010 concerning the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Guided by the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ and the Millennium Development Goals,²

Referring to the ten commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, in particular: promoting social integration based on the promotion and protection of all human rights; promoting full employment as a fundamental public policy goal and to achieve equality and equity between women and men; and creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development,³

Recalling its resolution 285 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 concerning integrated social policy, in which it encouraged member countries to adopt and institutionalize integrated social policy and seek harmony and balance between economic priorities and social outcomes,

Taking note of the recommendation made by the Committee on Social Development at its eighth session, which was held on 24 and 25 March 2011 that the capacity of member countries to design and implement social policies and institutional mechanisms to achieve equal and inclusive social development, should be enhanced,⁴

Reaffirming that ESCWA can contribute to the exchange of views and the sharing of information on good policies and practice for mainstreaming social inclusion into social and economic policies at the national, regional and international levels aimed at achieving equity, equality and social protection and cohesion,

Considering the continuous need of member countries to strengthen their capacity to develop rights-based social policy that promotes social integration, social protection, the provision of adequate social services and employment generation, using a participatory approach with national stakeholders,

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. 1, resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ ESCWA, *Report of the Social Committee on its eighth session*, E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/6/Report.

1. *Calls upon* ESCWA member countries to:

(a) Explore the possibility of expanding contributory social security systems to cover all social groups and to establish a social protection floor for all groups that cannot be included quickly into contributory social security schemes;

(b) Encourage the representation and participation of youth, women and all social groups in national committees, parliaments and other elected bodies responsible for shaping public policy at local and national levels;

(c) Strengthen participatory dialogue and social partnerships, ensure free and fair elections and implement, monitor and assess the implementation of the international human rights instruments and social development initiatives;

(d) Intensify their efforts to mainstream social justice and the concerns of all social groups into sustainable development strategies including economic strategies aimed at poverty reduction, employment and the environment making efforts to ensure an equitable geographic balance;

(e) Enhance transparency and accountability in the provision of social services and adopt a participatory approach that delineates clear distribution of responsibilities between the State, the private sector, and civil society;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to:

(a) Assist member countries in developing employment strategies that are integrated with economic, education and social protection policies while paying special attention to informal sector workers and youth unemployment;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of member countries to mainstream the concerns of older persons, youth and persons with disabilities into national development plans and engage them in the formulation and implementation of those plans;

(c) Assist member countries in exploring adequate instruments for expanding social security coverage, including insurance and social protection;

(d) Assist member countries in strengthening participatory social dialogue and building public, private and civic partnerships aimed at enhancing the delivery and accessibility of social services with a focus on accountability and transparency;

(e) Strengthen cooperation with member countries to collect data on all social groups, disseminate good practice and exchange experience in designing policies and programmes aimed at promoting social inclusion and providing equal opportunities in all aspects of life;

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

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

305 (XXVII) Sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 66/220 concerning agricultural development and food security, 66/201 concerning implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa, 66/199 concerning the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and 66/197 concerning the Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development dated 22 December 2011; resolutions 65/154 on the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013, and 65/151 on the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All dated 20 December 2010; and other relevant resolutions,

Referring also to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/50 concerning the Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in achieving the internationally-agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Recalling ESCWA resolutions 281 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 concerning addressing climate change issues in the Arab region, 269 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 concerning the role of ESCWA in the light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and the subsequent change process;

Noting the global and regional challenges, including the financial crisis and food crisis, the impact of climate change, the problems in the supply of energy and water, and the current circumstances in the region and their implications,

Welcoming the ministerial statements and declarations issued by countries of the region over the past decade concerning the achievement of sustainable development, in particular the decisions of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit which was held in Kuwait on 19 and 20 January 2009 and the Arab Ministerial Water Council concerning the adoption of a mechanism to follow up progress in the achievement of water and sanitation targets, and those issued by of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment,

Noting efforts made by Arab countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and the progress achieved,

Referring to the Arab Declaration issued by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment on 19 April 2012 which was based on the outcome of the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which was held in Cairo, on 16 and 17 October 2011, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia, and ESCWA, in particular the provisions stipulating that the concept of green economy shall not be used as a pretext to create trade barriers and environmental standards, as a precondition for providing financial support and aid to recipient countries, or as a means to restrict the right of developing countries to utilize their natural resources according to their own development priorities,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the ESCWA secretariat in analysing, monitoring and following up sustainable development issues, carrying out a significant role in the preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, and involving stakeholders and different sectors in identifying the priorities and challenges in the Arab region,

Commending the efforts of member countries to reach a common position in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference,

1. *Calls upon* member countries to adopt the Arab Declaration issued by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment on 19 April 2012 as a reference for the negotiations concerning the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference;

2. *Also calls upon* member countries to take an active part in the upcoming preparatory meetings to be held in New York on 29 May 2012, which will be an important stage in the development of the negotiations, and to participate actively in the Rio+20 Conference;

3. *Urges* member countries to review policies, strategies and national frameworks with a view to making them more responsive to the demands of sustainable development, to promote implementation of ministerial statements and declarations issued in that regard, and to review institutional frameworks with a view to integrating the three economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to submit a report on the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference that includes proposals regarding matters of concern to the region, and to assist member countries in building their capacity to address those outcomes;

5. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue to coordinate and cooperate with Arab governments, United Nations organizations, and the League of Arab States and its specialized committees to take measures to achieve sustainable development, and in particular to provide support to the energy, water and environmental sectors on climate change issues and in promoting regional institutional frameworks for sustainable development;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on measures taken to implement this resolution.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

306 (XXVII) Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and sustaining efforts in the Arabic domain names field

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010 concerning the information and communications technologies for development, in which it decided to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further five years, from 2010 to 2015,

Also referring to General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 April 2006 concerning the World Summit on the Information Society,

Further referring to paragraphs 35-37 and 69-72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, concerning Internet governance issues and the need for enhanced cooperation between Governments,¹

Emphasizing the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue on public policy issues related to Internet governance and to promote the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet,

Recognizing the importance of the joint initiative of ESCWA and the League of Arab States concerning the Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance, and its two strategic outputs,² which were adopted by the Arab Telecommunications and Information Council of Ministers at its fifteenth session:

Noting the achievements of ESCWA at the regional and international levels in the field of internationalized domain names and Arabic Top-Level Domains and its substantive and strategic efforts aiming at the acquisition of the Top-Level Domains “.arab” and “?.??.”, and at the establishment of a management and operating system for their respective international registry which is sponsored by the United Arab Emirates,

Recognizing the importance of regional Internet Governance Forums established from 2008 to 2012 in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa, and the need for a similar forum in the Arab region,

Noting the outcomes of the Conference and Public Consultations to Establish the Arab Internet Governance Forum held in Beirut, on 31 January and 1 February 2012, which stressed the need for an Arab Internet Governance Forum and set the scene for launching the multi-stakeholder process of establishing the Forum; and noting also the endorsement of those outcomes by the Executive Bureau of the Arab Telecommunications and Information Council of Ministers at its thirty-first session,

1. *Encourages* Governments of member countries to actively participate in the process of establishing the Arab Internet Governance Forum in coordination with the League of Arab States;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the establishment of the Arab Internet Governance Forum in partnership with the League of Arab States and in cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations and the United Nations regional commissions;

¹ United Nations, World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis, 16-18 November 2005, Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, WSIS-II/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)-E.

² ESCWA and the League of Arab States, Expert group meeting on the Arab Regional Road Map for Internet Governance, Beirut, 26 October 2010, *The Call of Arab Stakeholders: Towards Promoting Arab Cooperation for Internet Governance Regionally and Internationally*; and *The Arab Regional Road Map for Internet Governance: Framework, Principles and Objectives*.

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to support policies and directions concerning the implementation of the subprogrammes of the Arab Regional Road Map for Internet Governance under the umbrella of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and to support efforts for the acquisition of Arabic Top-Level Domains;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

307 (XXVII) Support for the Palestinian people

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 66/146 of 19 December 2011 concerning the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and 66/118 of 15 December 2011 concerning assistance to the Palestinian people, and 66/15 concerning a division for Palestinian rights of the Secretariat and 66/16 concerning the special information programme on the question of Palestine in the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat dated 20 November 2011,

Referring also to Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/41 dated 28 July 2011 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 260 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 concerning development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions, 271 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 concerning strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development, 282 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 concerning mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries, and 292 (XXVI) of 19 May 2010 concerning upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division, all of which stress the inalienability of Palestinian rights and support the efforts of the Palestinian people and its leadership towards the establishment of an independent State on the basis of United Nations resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations prepared by ESCWA 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,*

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

Noting the upgrading of the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division, and the enhancement of its capacity and resources for promoting the activities of ESCWA in support of the Palestinian people,

1. *Welcomes* Palestine's full membership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

2. *Calls upon* member countries to:

(a) Raise the level of their support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to obtain their full rights and establish an independent Palestinian State in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

(b) Support Palestine's efforts to obtain full membership in international forums, organizations and bodies;

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

* A/66/78-E/2011/13.

3. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to support the Palestinian people and its institutions in accordance with the priorities and needs defined by that people and its institutions, through the following:

(a) Raising awareness of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and disseminating information on Israeli violations of those rights;

(b) Monitoring and documenting the practices of the Israeli occupation and their negative economic, social and environmental repercussions, and submitting periodic reports on the subject to the ministerial sessions of the Commission;

(c) Increasing cooperation between ESCWA and regional and international bodies, including the League of Arab States and the relevant United Nations organizations, in assisting and supporting the Palestinian people and building and reinforcing Palestinian institutions;

(d) Supporting the efforts of Palestine to obtain full membership in international forums, organizations and bodies;

(e) Developing and implementing initiatives and projects to support the Palestinian people and mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on living conditions;

(f) Mobilizing resources and building regional and international partnerships for the implementation of projects, programmes and initiatives to support the Palestinian people in their struggle for their full rights;

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

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

308 (XXVII) The regional dimension of development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the importance of the regional dimension of development for an effective and coordinated response to an ever-growing number of transboundary challenges and issues and the increasing importance of regional measures as a buffer against global shocks and crises,

Emphasizing that measures taken at the regional level constitute essential pillars of the world order, as they provide a link between the global and national levels, especially in the context of the ongoing discussions concerning an integrated approach to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda,

Stressing the important role played by the regional commissions as part of the institutional landscape through norm-setting and dissemination, undertaking analytical functions, articulating regional perspectives on global issues and building regional consensus,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 14 March 2008 concerning the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it encouraged the United Nations development system to strengthen collaboration with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and regional banks, as appropriate and consistent with their respective mandates, and requested the regional commissions to further develop their analytical capacities to support country-level development initiatives at the request of member countries, and to support measures for more intensive inter-agency collaboration at the regional and subregional levels,

Referring also to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 in which it noted that the leadership role of the regional commissions calls for their holding regular inter-agency meetings in each region with a view to improving coordination among the work programmes of the United Nations organizations in that region,

Noting the independent study on the regional dimension of development and the United Nations system sponsored by the regional commissions,

1. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the independent study, and invites the United Nations bodies working at the global and regional levels to support their implementation;

2. *Requests* the secretariat, in consultation with regional and subregional organizations and with the Regional Coordination Mechanism where appropriate, to ensure implementation of those recommendations, so that the engagement of the United Nations system with regional and subregional organizations is coherent and coordinated, contributes to the realization of strategic goals and fits into a larger comprehensive approach in support of regional integration efforts;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the implementation of this resolution.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

**309 (XXVII) Adoption of the amendments introduced to the programme of work
for the biennium 2012-2013**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking note of the progress made in 2012 in implementing the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013,

Taking note also of the amendments introduced to the programme of work,

Expressing satisfaction with the achievements made,

Noting that the proposed amendments to the programme of work are justified in order to give it sufficient flexibility in addressing current changes and emerging developments,

1. *Adopts* the amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013;*
2. *Requests* the secretariat to follow up the implementation of the programme of work and, if necessary, include activities to address any challenge that emerges in the ESCWA region;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convey to member countries information on further amendments that may be introduced to the programme of work, in the report on progress made in implementing the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 that will be distributed to member countries.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

* As presented in document E/ESCWA/27/6(Part II).

310 (XXVII) Adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered the revised draft strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015, *

Bearing in mind that the draft strategic framework was amended following the discussion of subprogrammes during the sessions of the specialized intergovernmental committees as well as the sixth meeting of the Technical Committee,

Noting that the draft strategic framework was based on the economic and social development priorities of member countries,

1. *Adopts* the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to distribute the strategic framework in the form adopted by member countries;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress made in implementing the strategic framework as well as the amendments introduced thereto.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

* E/ESCWA/27/7.

311 (XXVII) 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 the work of ESCWA in their respective domains, and for upholding the best interests of member countries,

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-sixth and the twenty-seventh sessions of the Commission, namely: Report of the Statistical Committee on its ninth session;¹ Report of the Committee on Energy on its eighth session;² Report of the Committee on Social Development on its eighth session;³ Report of the Committee on Women on its fifth session;⁴ Report of the Technical Committee on its fifth meeting;⁵ Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its ninth session;⁶ Report of the Committee on Transport on its twelfth session;⁷ Report of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region on its seventh session;⁸ Report of the Technical Committee on its sixth meeting;⁹ and Report of the Committee on Transport on its thirteenth session,¹⁰

1. *Adopts* the recommendations contained in those reports, excluding decisions made by the Commission in the course of the twenty-seventh session;

2. *Calls upon* member countries to cooperate with ESCWA in initiating and implementing measures to ensure that those recommendations are put into effect.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

¹ E/ESCWA/SD/2010/IG.1/10/Rev.1.

² E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/6.

³ E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/6/Report

⁴ E/ESCWA/ECW/2011/IG.1/7/Report.

⁵ E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/8/Report.

⁶ E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/8/Report.

⁷ E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/7/Report.

⁸ E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/7/Report.

⁹ E/ESCWA/2011/C.6/7/Report.

¹⁰ E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/8/Report.

312 (XXVII) Evaluation of the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the need to fully implement General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 concerning the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it recognized the need to optimize the linking of evaluation to performance in the achievement of development goals, and encouraged the United Nations development system to strengthen its evaluation activities, with particular focus on development results, the systematic use of monitoring and evaluation approaches at the system-wide level and the promotion of collaborative approaches to evaluation, including joint evaluations, and further encouraged the United Nations Evaluation Group to make progress in system-wide collaboration on evaluation, in particular harmonization and simplification of methodologies, norms, standards and cycles of evaluation,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 concerning further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Noting the report of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010,¹

Noting also the report on the lessons learned from the evaluation of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies presented to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session,²

Taking note with satisfaction of the report on the Evaluation of the Work of ESCWA presented to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session,³

Recognizing that the evaluation policy of ESCWA is in line with the norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group,

Recognizing also that the evaluation policy of ESCWA is also in line with the Secretary-General's Bulletin on Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,⁴

Commending the ongoing efforts of the Executive Secretary to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the secretariat through subprogramme evaluations, technical cooperation activities and job audits of various aspects of the Commission,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in the report on the evaluation of the work of the Commission and requests that they be implemented;

2. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to continue efforts to improve the performance of the secretariat through, inter alia, evaluation of the work of the secretariat and review of its internal structure to achieve the highest standards of effectiveness and efficiency;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress made in implementing this resolution.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012

¹ E/2010/41 - E/ESCWA/26/9/Report.

² E/ESCWA/26/6(Part I)/A.

³ E/ESCWA/27/6(Part I)/A.

⁴ ST/SGB/2000/8.

313 (XXVII) Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Mindful of its resolution 290 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 concerning the follow-up on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in member countries,

Recalling its resolution 219 (XX) of 27 May 1999, concerning the frequency of sessions of the subsidiary bodies of ESCWA, stipulating that the sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region shall be held biennially,

Recalling also its resolution 214 (XIX) of 7 May 1997, which provided for the establishment of a technical committee on liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region, whose meetings are held annually,

Aware of the role of foreign trade and financing for development in promoting economic growth and strengthening regional integration,

Decides that the ESCWA Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development shall hold its sessions annually rather than biennially, taking effect in 2013.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012