

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Realizing the importance of coordinating statistical work at the regional level and in that connection, standardizing statistical methods and concepts in accordance with the circumstances and potentials of the countries of the region and their requirements for economic and social development, which induced other United Nations regional commissions to establish standing statistical committees to undertake the coordination of statistical work in their regions,

Aware of the necessity of supporting the participation of the statistical organizations of member States of the Commission in planning and developing statistical activities and in identifying the priorities of statistical plans and programmes of the Commission,

Aware also of the need to strengthen coordination and integration of statistical policies, programmes and activities between regional Arab organizations and the Commission, with a view to meeting the needs and requirements of statistical organizations in member States and developing these organizations to serve the goals of economic and social development of the countries of the region,

Noting that the meetings of heads of central statistical organizations of the Commission's member States, which were held in 1985, 1987 and 1989, have proved effective in directing, coordinating and evaluating the Commission's statistical programmes and in associating them with the statistical programmes and activities of regional Arab organizations and of member States,

Stressing the need for meetings of heads of central statistical organizations of the member States to assume a permanent institutional form,

1. Decides to set up a statistical committee consisting of heads of the central statistical organizations of member States of the Commission to undertake the following activities:

(a) Acquaint itself with the statistical activities in the Commission's member States, also following up the progress made in these countries in the development of their statistical programmes, drawing up recommendations regarding the status, implementation and evaluation of programmes of statistical work, and organizing symposiums, workshops and seminars related to statistics;

(b) Study international statistical systems, classifications and projects, adapting them to suit the conditions and priorities of the countries of the region;

(c) Provide advice on the statistical training requirements in member States of the Commission, proposing training programmes in coordination with appropriate regional institutions as needed;

(d) Standardize national statistics to make them more comparable at regional and international levels, taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations and other relevant bodies;

(e) Coordinate the exchange of statistical data and information between the Commission and its member States for the benefit of all concerned;

(f) Coordinate the statistical programmes of member States, particularly in matters relating to statistical surveys and censuses and dates of implementation;

2. Decides that the Statistical Committee will hold meetings biennially;

3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to follow up this resolution and submit a report on the achievements of the Statistical Committee to the Commission at its seventeenth session.

5th plenary meeting
2 September 1992