

**222 (XX). Draft programme of work and priorities
for the biennium 2000-2001**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 concerning programme planning, in which the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 is considered as the principle general policy directive which should serve as the framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets,

Noting with appreciation the consultations conducted by the ESCWA secretariat with the member States and the entities concerned within the United Nations¹ in planning the priorities proposed by the secretariat for each of the five substantive subprogrammes,

Noting also with appreciation the consultations conducted by the ESCWA secretariat with the Advisory Committee² in connection with the defining of priorities for the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001,

Noting the comments and proposals made by the delegations concerning the priorities of the proposed programme of work,

1. *Reiterates* its conviction that early consultation regarding programme planning is the basic mechanism for arriving at a common view of the region's priorities and for rationalizing the activities undertaken by the various United Nations entities;

2. *Adopts* the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2000-2001 after emendation in accordance with observations and proposals made by the delegations;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to distribute this programme to the ESCWA member States and to the United Nations entities concerned once it has been approved by the General Assembly.

2nd plenary meeting

27 May 1999

¹ Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the ESCWA member States, UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States, United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Population Fund.

² The Advisory Committee is composed of the heads of the diplomatic missions or their representatives in the host country of ESCWA and a representative of the host country.