

233 (XXI). THE STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and, in particular, paragraph 18.1,

Recognizing the importance of developing cooperation between member countries in order to ensure optimum use of its meager water resources,

Appreciative of the fruitful cooperation between member countries with regard to groundwater resources,

Taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Expert Group Meeting on Legal Aspects of the Management of Shared Water Resources, held from 8 to 11 June 2000,

Recalling also the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 of the Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division in the field of water resources, and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003, which was adopted by the Committee on Water Resources at its fourth session, held from 14 to 17 November 2000, which includes the development of appropriate mechanisms, similar to those applied in other United Nations regional commissions, for strengthening cooperation between member countries in the field of water resource management in general and shared groundwater in particular,

1. *Urges* member countries to increase the level of their cooperation in the field of water resources and, in particular, with regard to shared groundwater, water-related legislation and the management of demand, by creating within the Committee on Water Resources working parties specialized in the various technical aspects of the field, with a view to harmonizing methodology with respect to the management of such resources;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to facilitate the work of those parties through the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources.

3rd plenary meeting
11 May 2001