

**240 (XXII). THE ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA OF A COMMITTEE ON WOMEN**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Aware of the importance of action relating to the empowerment of women and the improvement of their status, and of making available equal opportunities for their empowerment and increased participation at all levels of the development process,

Aware also of the importance of coordination with regard to the empowerment of women and of respect for the particularities, customs and culture of each Arab country in order to harmonize Arab positions at global conferences and following up the global conferences organized by the United Nations with a view to incorporating the regional dimension in international documents,

Affirming the importance of the involvement of the interested parties in ESCWA member countries in the planning, development and follow-up to implementation of secretariat programmes relating to the empowerment of women and of mainstreaming the gender perspective in activities and policies,

Guided by the action taken by the other United Nations regional Commissions that have established special committees on women,

Taking into consideration the recommendation made by the Committee on Social Development³ at its fourth session, held in Beirut from 3 to 5 July 2002, concerning the establishment within ESCWA of a committee on women,

1. *Decides* to establish within ESCWA a committee on women comprising representatives of member countries who are specialists in women's issues, to be responsible for the following:

(a) To identify the women-related priorities of the ESCWA programmes of work and medium-term plans;

(b) To monitor developments with respect to the status of women and evaluate indicators and statistics with a view to formulating an integrated policy for the advancement and empowerment of women;

(c) To monitor the progress made in ESCWA secretariat women-related activities;

(d) To follow up global and regional conferences and the participation of member countries therein and coordinate the endeavours of member countries and regional organizations with regard to implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at such conferences;

(e) To coordinate action at regional level towards the adoption of unified positions on the issue at international gatherings and in follow-up to the performance by member countries of the undertakings to which they made a commitment in human rights instruments concerning women;

(f) To prepare and implement field projects for the advancement and empowerment of women in ESCWA member countries and find the necessary funding for such projects;

(g) To accord the requisite importance to women in regions, in which wars and conflicts are prevalent and, in particular, to Palestinian women, who are suffering in the conditions in which the Palestinian people is living under the continuing Israeli occupation;

2. *Decides also* that the committee on women shall hold its sessions biennially, with effect from 2004, and that an inaugural session should be held before the end of 2003;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to establish a women's centre within the secretariat with the responsibility for acting as the secretariat of the Committee on Women;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on the matter to the Commission at its twenty-third session.

6th plenary meeting
17 April 2003

³ Report on the Fourth Session of the Committee on Social Development (E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/9).