

**247 (XXII). THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL WORK  
IN THE ESCWA REGION**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Cognizant* of the need to provide statistics prepared in a scientific manner in order to assist countries in formulating the economic and social policies necessary for the national development process,

*Noting* the need of the countries of the region to develop national statistical bodies and update mechanisms for and methods of preparing and analysing their economic and social data and indicators,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to assist the countries of the region in adopting and applying the scientific standards employed internationally for amassing, analysing and disseminating statistical data and indicators, with a view to enabling those countries to formulate economic and social policies and monitor progress towards the achievement of national development objectives;

2. *Also requests* the secretariat to encourage the countries of the region and provide them with the necessary technical support to enable them to become parties to the Special Data Dissemination Standard applied by the International Monetary Fund;

3. *Urges* member countries to participate in the project for the development of national gender statistics programmes.

6<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
17 April 2003