

**248 (XXII). THE PARTICIPATION OF ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE
INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAMME**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Cognizant of the importance of the seventh session of the International Comparison Programme developed for the period 2003-2005, and of its benefit to member countries with respect to the use of actual economic standards when making economic comparisons between various countries and regions of the world and when concluding trade and investment-related bilateral and multilateral agreements with other member and non-member countries,

Cognizant also of the overwhelming importance of this Programme when measuring the various levels of poverty and standards of living and for making sound economic comparisons that facilitate the taking of prudent decisions,

Considering that this Programme has a positive impact on raising the level of statistical and economic capacities in member countries,

Appreciative of the response of member countries who have expressed their desire to participate in this important Programme and to appoint representatives for purposes of coordination,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* that ESCWA has joined the Programme in its capacity as the party responsible for its implementation in the Western Asia region;
2. *Urges* all member countries who have not yet indicated a desire to take part in the Programme to join it forthwith, support it, cooperate with those responsible for it, and, when possible, provide it with financial support;
3. *Recommends* that the secretariat includes activities related to the International Comparison Programme in its programmes of work.

6th plenary meeting
17 April 2003