

**261 (XXIII). Strengthening the Cooperation Between ESCWA and the League of Arab States
in the Field of Economic and Social Development**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 56/40 of 7 December 2001, 57/46 of 21 November 2002 and 59/9 of 22 October 2004 on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,

Noting the recommendation of the general meeting on cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States, held in Cairo from 10 to 12 February 2004, to the effect that cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States should be continued and further strengthened in pursuance of economic and social development goals,

Noting also the recommendation of the same meeting that the model of cooperation between the League of Arab States Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia and ESCWA in the preparations of the Arab region for the World Summit on Sustainable Development should be applied in other areas in which the League of Arab States and the United Nations system are engaged,

Taking into account the Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (A/59/565) and, in particular, Part two, chapter III, in which economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation are identified as one of the six clusters of threats with which the world must be concerned now and in the decades ahead,

Taking into account also the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", which emphasized the need for the United Nations and regional organizations to play complementary roles in facing challenges to international peace and security, and expressed the intention to use memorandums of understanding between the United Nations and individual regional organizations to govern the sharing of information, expertise and resources, as appropriate in each case,

Further taking into account the existing cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States, and confident that the forms and levels of understanding between the United Nations and the League of Arab States can be developed, particularly in the fields of economic and social development,

Having considered the Executive Secretary's report on cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States (E/ESCWA/23/8),

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Executive Secretary of ESCWA and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States for their efforts to strengthen channels of communication between the two organizations as part of their joint work in the service of member countries;
2. *Calls for* a strategic partnership to be forged between ESCWA and the League of Arab States based on the comparative advantages enjoyed by each organization;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the League of Arab States her views on means of developing their cooperation in all economic and social sectors, in order to confront the emerging challenges in those sectors, whether at the general policy or technical level;
4. *Urges* Governments and donor agencies, international financial institutions, members of the United Nations system and the private sector to support joint projects between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in the economic and social development fields;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a copy of her proposals with a report to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session on the progress of the cooperation arrangements between ESCWA and the League of Arab States.

5th plenary meeting
12 May 2005