

265 (XXIII). Regional Cooperation in the Field of Road Traffic Safety

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/9 dated 19 November 2003 concerning the global road safety crisis,

Recognizing that the lack of safety on the roads is responsible for a huge number of dead and injured persons at the global level, and that this problem is ever-increasing in the developing countries, bringing social consequences and direct economic costs,

Affirming the importance of the endeavours exerted by the relevant United Nations agencies, particularly at the regional level, with a view to improving road safety,

Recognizing the importance of the agreement concluded between the United Nations regional commissions and the World Health Organization at a meeting held in March 2005, respecting the five priorities for action in the field of road safety, namely, safety belts; helmets for motor cyclists; reduced speed; not driving while under the influence of alcohol; and good road infrastructure,

Believing that it is important to carry out technical studies on road traffic safety issues, in the light of which priorities can be established for work in that field in the ESCWA region, which may differ from the priorities set forth above,

Welcoming the alacrity with which the Executive Secretary of ESCWA responded to requests for road traffic safety in member countries to be improved, by adding new activities to the Commission's programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium and proposing related activities in the programme of work for the 2006-2007 biennium,

1. *Calls upon* member countries to link the issue of road safety to their development programmes, with a view to increasing awareness of traffic safety measures through the audio-visual and written media, educational curriculums, especially for children and youth, cooperation with relevant regional and international institutions and allocating the budgets necessary to promote the needs of road traffic safety;

2. *Also calls upon* member countries to participate in the activities that ESCWA will undertake, including the preparation of studies, regional workshops on good traffic safety practices and preparations for the international traffic week that is scheduled for 2007;

3. *Expresses* its appreciation to the ESCWA secretariat for the speed of its response to the need to improve road safety in member countries;

4. *Hopes* that member countries will provide the material and moral support to the ESCWA secretariat that will enable it to implement activities in support of national efforts to achieve components of road traffic safety;

5. *Adjures* member countries to participate effectively in any General Assembly discussions on this issue that may be held in September 2005;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.

5th plenary meeting
12 May 2005