

**269 (XXIV). The role of ESCWA in the light of the 2005 World Summit  
Outcome Document and the subsequent change process**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Referring* to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/50 on the Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in achieving the internationally-agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

*Guided* by General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

*Reaffirming* that ESCWA can provide valuable contributions in pursuit of the global priority issues identified in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, including the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustained economic growth, employment, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), migration and development, good governance and the rule of law, gender equality, the provision of public goods, rural development, and science and technology for development,

*Taking note* of the debate and recommendations of the high-level expert group meeting on the role of ESCWA in serving the countries of the region to 2010,<sup>1</sup>

*Noting with concern* that critical unemployment rates, especially among youth, warrant that urgent attention should be given to the creation of an environment that is conducive to the provision of productive and decent work for all and, in particular, youth,

*Having* reviewed the ESCWA draft strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009<sup>2</sup> and the proposed changes to the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007,<sup>3</sup>

*Taking note* of the mandate review requested by the States Members of the United Nations and its possible implications on the future work of the different United Nations entities,

*Acknowledging* the efforts of the secretariat to support member countries in their economic and social development endeavours,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the role ESCWA plays as the regional arm of the United Nations in Western Asia, in supporting social and economic cooperation between the countries of the region, and its efforts in promoting the development process in those countries and achieving regional integration;

2. *Affirms* that regional integration, particularly economic and social integration, is the overriding objective of the Commission;

3. *Also affirms* that through regional cooperation and integration member countries will be able to confront the challenges of globalization and avoid marginalization;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the draft strategic framework for 2008-2009<sup>4</sup> addresses the main critical areas of importance to the region of Western Asia, and the priorities identified in the 2005 World

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<sup>1</sup> E/ESCWA/24/4(Part I).

<sup>2</sup> E/ESCWA/24/6(Part III).

<sup>3</sup> E/ESCWA/24/6(Part II).

<sup>4</sup> E/ESCWA/24/6(Part III).

Summit Outcome and in the report of the high-level expert group meeting on the role of ESCWA in serving the countries of the region to 2010;<sup>5</sup>

5. *Adopts* the draft strategic framework for 2008-2009, with the understanding that further adjustments may be required in line with decisions arising from the ongoing United Nations reform process;

6. *Approves* the changes proposed to the programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 2006-2007<sup>6</sup> emanating from the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the documents issued by the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society, which was held in Tunis in November 2005,<sup>7</sup> and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

7. *Calls upon* member countries to work towards the achievement of the goals and objectives endorsed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome as an integral part of their national plans and strategies;

8. *Urges* all United Nations entities working in the region of Western Asia to provide coordinated support for regional needs and focus on making progress in the realization of those goals;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to do the following:

(a) Increase coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations, and foster partnerships and cooperation with those organizations through ESCWA's leading role in the Regional Coordination Group;

(b) Continue to play a catalytic role in enhancing cooperation with regional organizations and, in particular, with the League of Arab States and its subsidiary bodies and the Gulf Cooperation Council;

(c) Increase cooperation with the other regional commissions, particularly with regard to sharing experiences and replicating best practices;

(d) Keep member Governments informed of outcomes of the United Nations reform process that have programmatic implications;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission.

7<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
11 May 2006

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<sup>5</sup> E/ESCWA/24/4(Part I).

<sup>6</sup> E/ESCWA/24/6(Part II).

<sup>7</sup> WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)-A and WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7-A.