

**271 (XXIV). Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact
of conflict and instability within the context
of social and economic development**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005) of 20 December 2005 on the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission,

Noting also that the 2005 World Summit Outcome emphasizes the interlinkages between development, peace and security and human rights and that they are mutually reinforcing,

Recalling its resolutions 260 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions, 241 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on the impact of the lack of stability in the Arab region on economic and social development and 252 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on rehabilitation and economic and social reconstruction in Palestine,

Noting with concern the repercussions of continued conflict and instability on the social and economic development of ESCWA member countries, especially in the occupied Palestinian territory and Iraq,

Appreciating the economic and social development initiatives of the ESCWA secretariat and its capacity-building activities in the occupied Palestinian territory and Iraq,

1. *Requests* member countries to intensify their efforts to attain peace, security and stability at the regional and international levels;

2. *Requests* the ESCWA secretariat to intensify its endeavours to enhance the capacity of member countries to assess, predict and respond to socio-economic and political challenges posed by conflict and instability through the following:

(a) Monitoring, analysing and reporting on the repercussions of conflict and instability on socio-economic development in Western Asia;

(b) Identifying and reporting on potential sources of conflict, tension and instability in Western Asia;

(c) Formulating and implementing operational activities for the rehabilitation and development of conflict-stricken areas, including capacity-building projects for the public sector and civil society;

(d) Forging partnerships between stakeholders in conflict-stricken areas and their regional/international counterparts within the framework of a wide public participatory and consultative approach;

(e) Identifying the socio-economic development needs of member countries which are suffering from conflict, sanctions and instability, and incorporating them into the technical cooperation and work programmes of the Commission;

(f) Assisting conflict-stricken countries and regions in the improvement of good governance practices, including improving the quality and effectiveness of public administration, rule of law and socio-economic decision-making;

(g) Supporting the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission in the ESCWA region;

3. *Calls* on the Executive Secretary to affirm the independence of approaches to issues related to conflict and lack of stability and mobilize additional human and financial resources to support the aforementioned activities;

4. *Requests* the international community to lift the economic, political and financial embargo imposed on the Palestinian people and provide the necessary assistance to liberate it from the Israeli occupation, meet its basic humanitarian needs, and rehabilitate its economic and social sectors;

5. *Appeals* to member countries and donors, including Governments, institutions and civil society, to contribute to ESCWA to enable it to carry out the requisite activities in that regard;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the progress achieved in this regard.

7th plenary meeting
11 May 2006