

## 274 (XXIV). The establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Recognizing* the role of science and technology in accelerating development and on their status as one of the priorities of the United Nations as indicated in General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in the report of the Secretary-General on promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration<sup>1</sup> and in Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 of 5 November 2004 on science and technology for development,

*Referring* to ESCWA resolution 254 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 requesting the secretariat to submit a report to the twenty-fourth session on the establishment of a regional technology centre that would undertake activities aimed at building national technological capacities and at harnessing those capacities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to strengthen economic and social development and regional and international cooperation in technological fields,

*Cognizant* of the evolution of the global economy towards a knowledge-based economy that is built on science, technology and technological innovation as the foundation for competitiveness and the achievement of sustainable development goals at the national level, particularly with regard to the creation of opportunities for generating employment and the reduction of poverty,

*Taking note* that some regional commissions of the United Nations have established special centres to assist their member countries in the endeavours to build independent capacities in the fields of science and technology to which they accord priority for achieving sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the need for such a centre in the ESCWA region to assist national efforts to build capacities in science and technology and to coordinate cooperation at the regional and international levels,

*Bearing in mind* the pre-feasibility study on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre<sup>2</sup> and on the recommendation of the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation at its third meeting, held in Beirut on 6 and 7 March 2006, which supported the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre,

1. *Approves*, in principle, the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre as defined in the pre-feasibility study;<sup>3</sup>
2. *Requests* the secretariat to follow up with member countries with respect to the hosting of the Centre and securing its sources of finance;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat to take the necessary actions aimed at establishing the Centre and to submit a report to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission in that regard.

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

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<sup>1</sup> E/CN.16/2004/2.

<sup>2</sup> E/ESCWA/ICTD/2006/WP.1.

<sup>3</sup> Op. cit.