

## 277 (XXIV). Social development policies

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Referring* to the development-related aspects of the 2005 World Summit Outcome as stated in General Assembly resolution 60/1 dated 16 September 2005, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 55/2 dated 13 September 2000,

*Acknowledging* the urgent need of member countries to strengthen their capacities to achieve comprehensive, equitable and sustainable development within globalization and its repercussions,

*Taking into consideration* ESCWA resolution 259 (XXIII) dated 12 May 2005 concerning social policies, which calls upon member countries to cooperate with the secretariat in implementing the next stage of the integrated social policies programme, which requires coordination at the national level in order to find the best ways of formulating social policies that are appropriate to each country and its particularities,

*Appreciating* the progress made by the secretariat in implementing two main stages of the integrated social policies project in the region,

*Also appreciating* the progress made by ESCWA in concluding a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Bahrain on this issue, and the successful National Conference for Social Policies that was held in Bahrain in April 2006, which recommended the holding of an Arab forum for social policies in the Arab region,

*Noting* the interest of other member countries, including Jordan, Oman, occupied Palestinian territory and Saudi Arabia in the integrated social policies project,

1. *Urges* member countries to adopt an integrated social policy approach;
2. *Calls upon* member countries to make use of the analytical activities, technical and advisory services that ESCWA provides in this field;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to follow up implementation of integrated social policies in member countries;
4. *Also requests* the secretariat to organize an Arab forum for social policies, with the aim of increasing interest in integrated and effective social policies, promoting dialogue and the exchange of views, and strengthening coordination mechanisms and supporting social policies in the Arab region;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress made in implementing this resolution to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session.

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