

284 (XXV). Establishment of the ESCWA regional technology centre

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹ Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 of 5 September 2004 and the Millennium Declaration,² which identified the promotion of science and technology as a United Nations priority,

Reiterating the importance of science, technology and innovation (STI) in accelerating development, building more competitive knowledge-based economies, achieving sustainable development at the national and regional levels, and generating new opportunities for employment, leading to poverty reduction,

Referring to ESCWA resolution 274 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006, which approves in principle the establishment of a technology centre for development and requests the secretariat to take action and submit a report on that matter,

*Guided by the conclusions of the ESCWA report on the technology centre that was published in December 2007, entitled *Detailed assessment of regional needs and priorities and identification of implementation mechanisms*, which has been reviewed by panels of experts and the ESCWA Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation at its fourth meeting,*

Guided also by the Committee's recommendation that steps should be taken to establish a technology centre, which should be affiliated to ESCWA and actively supported and funded by member countries, with an operational structure that is in line with United Nations rules, regulations and best practice,

Encouraged by preliminary offers received from member countries to host the centre upon the request of ESCWA, and seeking to increase regional support for such activities:

1. *Requests the secretariat:*
 - (a) *To finalize hosting arrangements;*
 - (b) *To coordinate with member countries over the establishment of a board of governors;*
 - (c) *To take the necessary measures to draft centre administrative regulations in preparation for approval by the board of governors;*
2. *Also requests the secretariat to set up within ESCWA a multidisciplinary team to support and monitor progress in the operationalization of the centre, to be funded by extrabudgetary resources;*
3. *Requests the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution to the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.*

10th plenary meeting
29 May 2008

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.