

### **346 (XXXI) Effective economic governance and modernization of public administration**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Being guided by* United Nations General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 on Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which adopted the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Goals, in particular Goal 16 on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

*Referring to* United Nations General Assembly resolution [69/228](#) of 19 December 2014 on promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [58/4](#) of 31 October 2003 on the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [35/63](#) of 5 December 1980 on restrictive business practices, aimed at supporting States in addressing anti-competitive behaviour in business operations and taking measures to promote fair competition and prevent monopolistic business practices,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution [39/248](#) of 9 April 1945 on consumer protection, which endorsed guidelines to protect the rights and interests of consumers worldwide, by adopting fair trade practices, ensuring product safety and access to information, and introducing dispute resolution mechanisms,

*Taking note* of the reports submitted by the secretariat to the Commission at its [thirty-first session](#) on the issue of governance, and the various aspects they addressed and the recommendations they made, especially “[Economic governance: market competition challenges in the Arab region](#)”,

1. *Emphasizes* that one of the main pillars for achieving sustainable development is following a governance approach based on transparency, participation, answerability, accountability, and fighting corruption;

2. *Also emphasizes* that modernizing and developing public institutions and increasing their resources is a continuous and renewable process that leads to improving performance in development fields and raising the level of services provided to citizens;

3. *Calls for* adequate attention to be given to enhancing the resilience of national institutions in times of crises, wars, conflicts and occupation, and during periods of recovery from them, and in the least developed countries;

4. *Stresses* the importance of supporting countries that are experiencing fragility, conflict or disaster, or are affected by them, in governing the recovery and reconstruction process and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Calls for* investment in capacity-building and training programmes to enhance the skills of stakeholders involved in the mining sector, including Governments and regulatory bodies, so as to support the implementation of sustainable and responsible governance practices;

6. *Emphasizes* that economic governance and effective management of relevant institutions are closely linked to enhancing the efficiency of expenditure, government revenues and private investment, increasing economic growth, and reducing inequality;

7. *Also emphasizes* the importance of reforming antitrust laws and enhancing competition and consumer protection, and the need for independent, specialized regulatory bodies to implement laws and

monitor and regulate markets to strengthen business environments, encourage investment, improve economic performance, and drive growth;

8. *Encourages* the growing interest of member States in developing national programmes for strengthening competition and consumer protection policies, and reforming and modernizing public administration and the public sector institutions that implement those programmes;

9. *Also encourages* continued capacity-building, benefiting from technical support, and enhancing knowledge exchange and learning from peers and best practices in the field of economic governance, including competition, consumer protection, and the legislative and regulatory structure for investments;

10. *Calls for* strengthening bilateral and regional collaboration between organizations concerned with competition and consumer protection in member States, and harmonizing competition and consumer protection laws and policies;

11. *Requests* the ESCWA secretariat to undertake the following activities:

(a) Continue documenting successful initiatives at the international and regional levels in the areas of competition policies, consumer protection, and modernizing the legislative and regulatory structure for investments, and sharing them with member States;

(b) Support the modernization of public administration by using international indices and their pillars in simulating optimal policies;

(c) Strengthen technical support to member States in developing economic governance institutions and applying effective governance principles related to them, especially in the least developed countries and those affected by conflict, war and occupation;

(d) Strengthen collaboration with international and regional organizations and South-South cooperation in the field of economic governance;

(e) Continue organizing the Arab Competition Forum annually to build knowledge and capacity, and exchange experiences and best practices, and seek to organize a forum on consumer protection periodically;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, and to report on progress to the Commissions at its thirty-second session.

Third plenary meeting  
18 December 2023