

51 (IV). Study of the possibility of establishing a Western Asia centre for the transfer and development of technology

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing that technology plays an important role in the process of accelerating the development of the countries of the region; that transfer and development of technology appropriate to the needs of the countries in the region are some of the most important requisites for fuller utilization of resources; that improvements in technological capabilities would contribute to socio-economic development, raising the standard of living and strengthening mutual co-operation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3507 (XXX) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2034 (LXI), which calls, inter alia, upon United Nations bodies to take appropriate action regarding the establishment or strengthening of national, subregional and interregional centres for the development and transfer of technology,

Taking note of the initiatives in other developing regions regarding the setting up of regional centres for the transfer and development of technology and the need, when preparing the study of the possibility of establishing the centre, to draw on the experience of those regions where similar centres are being set up such as those of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and particularly the region of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Further taking note of the report entitled "Mechanisms for the Transfer and Development of Technology in the ECWA region" (E/ECWA/50), and the observations made by the delegations of member States in this regard,

Noting with appreciation the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary in deciding upon a joint ECWA/UNCTAD co-operative programme in the field of transfer of technology and his exploration of possible co-operation with other United Nations bodies concerned; and inclusion of this field in the work programme of the Commission under the regular budget,

1. Decides that the Executive Secretary shall submit a study on the possibility of establishing a regional centre for the transfer and development of technology and consult and co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and with the Arab organizations and bodies concerned in investigating the possibility of widening the scope of this study in order to make the centre an Arab centre for the transfer and development of technology;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for an immediate start to be made on the preparation of this study;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to contact all regional, Arab and international organizations concerned with a view to examining the possibility of their participation in this study;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to associate the Governments in the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in the closest possible manner in the preparation of the required study;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to report on progress made in the implementation of these tasks to the Commission at its fifth session.