

329 (XXX) Establishment of the Arab centre for climate change policies in the Arab region

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the Paris Agreement on Climate Change,¹ the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² and the considerable related commitments to be met by Arab States in implementation and follow-up processes, with climate change raising further challenges to sustainable development,

Recalling also its resolution 305 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 on sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference, in which it requested the secretariat to continue to coordinate and cooperate with Arab Governments, United Nations organizations, and the League of Arab States and its specialized committees to take measures to achieve sustainable development, and in particular to provide support to the energy, water and environmental sectors on climate change issues,

Recalling further its resolution 281 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 on addressing climate change issues in the Arab region, in which it requested the secretariat to prepare an assessment of the vulnerability to climate change of economic and social development in the region, and to take the necessary measures to increase awareness of climate change in respect of adjusting to and alleviating its impact,

Commending the successful implementation of the first phase of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR), funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the issuance of the first Arab Climate Change Assessment Report in September 2017,³ which highlights that the Arab region will experience serious temperature rises during this century, which will in turn increase the vulnerability of water-reliant sectors, especially in the Arab least developed countries,

Welcoming the training activities implemented by the secretariat to build the capacity of Arab States in benefitting from the Regional Knowledge Hub⁴ to develop climate change policies, plans and projects, including the ten regional training workshops on capacity development for Arab climate change negotiators,

Taking note of the appreciation expressed by the Arab Ministerial Water Council, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Arab Council of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology and Climate with regard to RICCAR and the workshops supporting Arab climate change negotiators,

Considering the need of Arab States for the provision of relevant scientific information, means of implementation, appropriate technology and sufficient funding to be prepared for climate change negotiations and to report on their nationally determined contributions in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation,

¹ Adopted on 12 December 2015 at the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015.

³ [E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/RICCAR/Report](#).

⁴ www.riccar.org.

Aware that institutional mechanisms should be developed in the Arab region, similar to those developed in other regions, to help in building the capacity of Arab States and their institutions to integrate climate-related issues into national and regional development policies and programmes,

Recalling the recommendation made by the Executive Committee of ESCWA at its fourth meeting, held on 13 and 14 December 2017, to approve the proposal to establish an Arab centre for climate change policies focused on building Arab capacity and preparing studies, especially in the field of climate change negotiations,⁵

1. *Welcomes* the establishment, through extrabudgetary funds, of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, to support member States through the following:

- (a) Providing technical assistance and advisory services to Arab States;
- (b) Building the capacity of Arab States and regional stakeholders to strengthen institutional frameworks and develop programmes and policies;
- (c) Supporting regional platforms to harmonize positions and build regional consensus;
- (d) Promoting comprehensive responses to climate-related challenges affecting water, energy and food security;
- (e) Providing access to knowledge products and to regional data and information using the Regional Knowledge Hub;

2. *Recommends* the expansion of capacity-building efforts at various technical levels through holding regional and national workshops on models, means and financial instruments to support climate change negotiations, assessment processes, and access to financing and technology transfer, and providing regular updates on climate change developments to negotiators and other actors in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation, while emphasizing the principle of coordination in implementation with the concerned organizations;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to take the necessary measures, in coordination with the League of Arab States, to ensure effective implementation of the activities pertaining to the second RICCAR phase, in cooperation with the relevant international, regional and national institutions; to ensure that the multidimensional aspects of climate change are taken into account in work on water, energy, food security and sustainable development; to support the Arab Climate Outlook Forum; and to strengthen partnerships with the concerned organizations;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a progress report on the implementation of this resolution to the Commission at its thirty-first session.

Seventh plenary meeting
Beirut, 28 June 2018

⁵ [E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/9/Report](#).