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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Technical Committee
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY ESCWA AT ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION**

Summary

This document presents action taken by the secretariat in the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) at its twenty-sixth session held in Beirut from 17-20 May 2010 on various aspects of the work of ESCWA and the salient issues that concern member countries.

The Technical Committee is invited to take note of the progress made by ESCWA in implementing the ten resolutions adopted at its twenty-sixth session and present their views and comments in that regard.

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
292	Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings	Section for Emerging and Conflict Related Issues (ECRI)	Calls upon member countries to continue seeking achievement of peace and stability in the region within a framework of economic and social programmes, enhance development efforts in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), promote public sector institutional capacity-building, develop regional cooperation and coordination, monitor and analyse potential sources of conflict and develop plans to address them, formulate policies to address the repercussions of conflict at the national and regional level, mobilize financial and human resources to support development efforts in situations of instability.	Follow up with member countries on the development of policies, programmes and strategies at the national and regional level that address repercussions of conflict and instability, development efforts to achieve MDGs and public and institutional capacity-building.	Formulate policies, programmes and strategies at the national and regional level that address: repercussions of conflict and instability, development efforts to achieve MDGs and public and institutional capacity-building.	See resolution no. 296 below.
			Decides to establish a committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings comprising member country representatives with functions and mandates to be determined after further consultation with member countries.	Consult with member countries and establish a committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings.	Participate in the establishment of the committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings, appointing country representatives with functions and mandates and contribute to consultations with other member countries.	ESCWA is following up with member countries that have agreed to be part of the committee. A draft Terms of Reference, based on submission by member countries, will be circulated for their final review by March 2011.

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			<p>Requests the secretariat:</p> <p>(a) To provide the necessary support for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) subprogramme 7 in terms of financial and human resources and upgrade the section responsible for its implementation to the level of a division with a view to meeting the needs of member countries in the following areas: emerging issues, development in situations of conflict and instability, development in the least developed countries and development of public sector institutions;</p> <p>(b) To provide organizational and technical support to the committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings;</p> <p>(c) To promote the effective participation of ESCWA and member countries in regional and international events related to conflict;</p> <p>(d) To promote cooperation with international and regional organizations in the field of peacebuilding and development in conflict settings and build institutional capacity.</p>	Follow up and ensure the involvement of the secretariat in requested actions specified by resolution 292.		<p>A work programme and budget were prepared by the ESCWA secretariat and submitted to the relevant substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for consideration. While some provisions for the upgrade have been included in the 2012-2013 proposed programme budget, the upgrade of ECRI can only take effect when the Economic and Social Council takes a decision that will then be approved by the General Assembly.</p>

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
			Requests the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution and submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on progress achieved in that regard.	Follow up on the implementation of the present resolution and submit a report on progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at the twenty-seventh session.		
293	Upgrading the ESCWA Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing + 15	ESCWA Centre for Women (ECW)	Calls upon member countries to adopt the resolution on the follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after 15 years: Beijing + 15, adopted by the Committee on Women at its fourth session (Beirut, 21-23 October 2009) and the outcome of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.	Follow up on the adoption of the resolution regarding implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after 15 years: Beijing + 15.	Adopt the resolution on the follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after 15 years: Beijing +15, adopted by the Committee on Women at its fourth session (Beirut, 21-23 October 2009) and the outcome of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.	In accordance with the resolution that was adopted by member countries during the fourth session of the Committee on Women on "Follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab Region: Beijing + 15, ESCWA continued to strengthen the capacity of national mechanisms for mainstreaming the gender perspective in policies, plans and programmes, through the organization of several capacity-building trainings, the provision of technical assistance and consultation, and the preparation of studies, as well as the facilitation of inter-communication, the exchange of experiences and learning from lessons of success.

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						<p>In accordance with the resolution, ESCWA focused on building the capacity of member countries, especially legislators in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The resolution also requested ESCWA to undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of an Observatory for Women in the Arab Region, a centre for data collection and analysis, capacity-building and awareness-raising, as well as the creation of a special Index to measure, identify and analyse the nature of the gender gap, with the aim of making specific policies and strategies for the advancement of women. In that respect, ESCWA, the World Bank and the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development cooperated in drafting and submitting a project proposal to the Islamic Development Bank that includes the establishment of a special Observatory for Women and development of an Index. The proposal, which received initial approval, is currently in the pipeline.</p>

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			Requests member countries to adopt the recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its fourth session on supporting the Centre for Women with additional human resources.	Follow up on the adoption of the recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its fourth session on supporting the Centre for Women with additional human resources.	Adopt the recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its fourth session on supporting the Centre for Women with additional human resources.	The resolution that was adopted by member countries in the fourth session of the Committee on Women on "Follow-up to the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab Region: Beijing + 15, which includes a request on upgrading the Centre to a division was re-endorsed by member countries in the ESCWA Technical Committee and the twenty-sixth ESCWA Ministerial Session. During these meetings, ESCWA presented a comprehensive proposal to member countries detailing the new functions that the division will be undertaking as well as the estimated budget arising from such an upgrade.
			Requests the secretariat to complete administrative procedures related to the upgrading of the Centre for Women to the level of a division.	Complete the administrative procedures related to the upgrade of the Centre for Women.		A work programme and budget for a "division" were prepared by the ESCWA secretariat and submitted to the relevant substantive session of the Economic and Social Commission for consideration. Upgrade of ECW can only take effect when the Economic and Social Council takes a decision that will then be approved by the General Assembly.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its	Submit to the twenty-seventh session a		

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			twenty-seventh session a report on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.	report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.		
294	Establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre	Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD), ESCWA Technology Centre	Requests the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations.	Establish the Centre and conclude a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations.		Adoption of the Economic and Social Commission resolution 2010/5 of 20 July 2010 which endorsed ESCWA resolution 294 (XXI) on the establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre and the statute of the Centre. Signature of the Host Country Agreement of the ESCWA Technology Centre between ESCWA and the Government of Jordan on 23 December 2010.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to establish the first founding board of governors by soliciting nominations from member countries.	Solicit nominations from member countries for the establishment of the first founding board of governors.	Nominate nationals for the founding board of governors.	Letters were sent to ESCWA Focal Points on 19 January 2011 seeking their country's nomination to the ETC Board of Governors. It is expected that the establishment of the first founding board will be implemented in March 2011.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of this resolution, including the initial operating phase of the Centre, and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.	Report to the twenty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution and the initial operating phase of the Centre.		

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295	Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An Opportunity for Development	Social Development Division (SDD)	Stresses the importance of ESCWA continuing to assume its role as a regional hub in the following areas: (a) Strengthening national capacity of member countries in the formulation of national policies and strategies targeting youth; (b) Activating the role of national coordination mechanisms and expanding them to include national organs concerned with youth issues; (c) Preparing periodical regional reports on developments regarding the conditions of youth in the region within the framework of the 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) based on official data of member countries; (d) Enhancing the role of national statistical offices in member countries in collecting and analysing statistical data on youth, developing multifunctional data systems and databases, and setting indicators and standards in accordance with the policies of each member country; (e) Enhancing expertise between countries of the region and benefiting from successful experience in the formulation, implementation and evaluation	Coordinate and cooperate with member countries and strengthen their capacities to formulate national policies and strategies, enhance cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on youth issues and prepare periodical regional reports on developments in the condition of youth.	Actively participate and engage in policy development and implementation on youth issues, activate the role of national coordination mechanisms, prepare national reports and enhance the role of national statistical offices.	ESCWA is undertaking various activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of member countries in youth policy development, and enhancing coordination with relevant United Nations sister agencies, the League of Arab States and other strategic regional entities on issues of concern to youth as evidence by the following: - A partnership agreement between the United Nations Population Fund country offices in Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and the Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM) implemented by the League of Arab States is under preparation. The agreement will pave the way for the implementation of the Development Account project on "Strengthening capacities of policymakers in the ESCWA region to formulate national youth policies and plans of action: Responding to the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)". - The project on "Developing a regional initiative for youth employment" is under implementation with the Arab Labour Organization of the

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			<p>of youth policies in the priority areas of WPAY;</p> <p>(f) Adopting youth policies as a principal theme during the forthcoming meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in 2010 and continuing efforts towards expanding the scope of cooperation between United Nations regional agencies and programmes in promoting the recommendations of the present declaration and developing the capacity of Governments in this regard;</p> <p>(g) Enhancing cooperation between ESCWA, the League of Arab States and the GCC in the context of encouraging Governments in the region to formulate national youth policies with regard to incorporating youth issues into the Arab Family Health Project.</p>			<p>League of Arab States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moreover, upon the request of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, in Palestine, ESCWA organized a capacity-building workshop to Ministry officials on monitoring the situation of youth and writing national youth reports. - As to innovative substantive research, ESCWA is in the process of preparing Population Development Report No. 5. It is anticipated that this report will analyse the economic and social situation of Arab youth, mechanisms of youth exclusion, challenges and opportunities for Arab youth and will present conclusions and policy recommendations for the inclusion and empowerment of Arab youth commensurate with WPAY. - ESCWA will also organize an expert group meeting on "Follow-up to the WPAY for the year 2000 and Beyond in the ESCWA region (29-30 March 2011), which will, among other things, help countries of the region to share good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of WPAY.

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						- The theme of the 2010 RCM was Youth and Poverty Reduction. The meeting was intended to enhance engagement within and between United Nations entities and regional stakeholders in addressing the development challenges facing youth.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on the implementation of this resolution.	Submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the twenty-seventh session.		
296	Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals	Section For Emerging and Conflict Related Issues (ECRI)	<p>Appeals to member countries:</p> <p>(a) To continue to support public sector institutions and resource modernization/development, as needed, and enhance the resilience of those institutions in situations of occupation, conflict and their spillover effects;</p> <p>(b) To build upon the success achieved through implemented public sector development/modernization strategies as a tool for conflict mitigation and peacebuilding;</p> <p>(c) To invest resources in meeting the requests of member countries for building the capacity of public sector workers (especially public, human and financial resource management).</p>	Follow up on achievements of the member countries in domains of institutional enhancement and attainment of development goals.	Actively participate and engage in enhancing public sector institutions and their resilience to occupation, conflict and spillover effects. Introduce modern strategies for conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. Invest in public sector workers, financial and human resource management.	In preparation of the MDGs in Conflict Study, ESCWA has circulated a survey, which included an assessment of institutional capacity and development schemes towards assessing progress made by member countries in attaining the MDGs.

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			<p>Requests the secretariat:</p> <p>(a) To follow up successful public sector development initiatives taken by some member countries aimed at increasing progress in achieving MDGs;</p> <p>(b) To enhance institutional development programmes through strengthening analytical research, advisory services and training and integrating them into normative and operational work;</p> <p>(c) To draw guidance from successful international and regional models;</p> <p>(d) To ensure that additional human and financial resources are made available for the required normative and operational work.</p>	<p>Follow up on public sector development initiatives seeking to achieve MDGs; strengthen analytical research, advisory services and training; make use of successful international and regional models and avail the required human and financial resources for carrying out the normative and operational work.</p>		<p>- In the prospect of providing support and mobilizing resources for enhancing and modernizing the public sector within member countries, ESCWA contributed to the development of the Iraq Public Sector Modernization Project (I-PSM), in which it is an implementing partner and has taken the responsibility to perform functional reviews and perception surveys to identify the most suitable modernization and enhancement interventions.</p> <p>- Within Supporting Decentralization and Local Governance in Iraq for Service Delivery (DLG) project, ESCWA partnered with four national institutions for the implementation of the Situation Analysis Assessment performed at the national level. This endeavour allowed national partners to benefit from technical guidance provided which enhanced their analytical surveying capacity.</p>

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						<p>- Within the same project, ESCWA facilitated the exposure of senior decision makers from central and local levels to successful models of local governance and decentralized structures with emphasis on the enhancement of public services in Italy and Egypt. The exposure of Iraqi decision makers to lessons learned from the region and Europe facilitated the identification of several areas of improvement within the Iraqi public sector.</p> <p>ESCWA provided technical assistance by catering to capacity-building requests received from member countries, most notably, through organizing a Regional Workshop on Public Finance Reform as a pre-requisite for Good Governance in the ESCWA Region during which member country representatives were presented with the latest processes and standards used in planning and implementing Public Financial Management reforms.</p>
			Invites member countries and donors to support ESCWA in its efforts to formulate and implement public sector		Support ESCWA in formulating and implementing public sector development	Involvement of member country representatives in the review and approval process of concept papers and project

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			development/modernization initiatives aimed at enhancing public sector institutional capacities to attain national development goals, MDGs and peacekeeping efforts.		initiatives aimed at enhancing public sector institutional capacities to attain national development goals and MDGs.	documents submitted through the officially-established review processes (Iraqi Strategic Review Board, part of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation in Iraq mandated to review and approve all development and humanitarian initiatives presented by international and non-governmental organizations for execution).
			Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on the progress achieved in implementing this resolution and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.	Submit a report to the twenty-seventh session on implementation of the resolution and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.		
297	Arab MDG monitor for societal progress	Statistics Division (SD)	<p>Calls upon all member countries to enhance coordination between national statistical offices and implement national strategies for statistical development, in order to improve the coverage and transparency of indicators and methods of reporting by:</p> <p>(a) Defining priorities and developing a strategy to provide data for all indicators;</p> <p>(b) Identifying ways to improve monitoring and reporting on development indicators;</p> <p>(c) Ensuring that supporting metadata comply with standard guidelines.</p>		Enhance coordination between national statistical offices and implement national strategies for statistical development. Define priorities and identify ways to improve monitoring and reporting on development indicators. Ensure that supporting metadata comply with standard guidelines.	

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			<p>Requests the secretariat to develop an MDG monitor for societal progress towards realization of MDGs, including gender equality and youth empowerment by:</p> <p>(a) Support member countries through capacity building in compiling and disseminating statistics, integration of MDGs into development plans, monitoring the progress and measuring the impact, preparing national and regional reports;</p> <p>(b) Assess the quality of national data and development indicators, including MDGs and providing adequate resources to improve data quality and convergence with international standards.</p>	Develop an MDG monitor with support from the Secretariat, including gender equality and youth empowerment.		<p>The following activities are in progress and largely completed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of sources of discrepancies between national and international statistical data related to monitoring progress towards the achievement of MDGs; 2. Assessment of the quality of available sources of statistical data. <p>The implementation of the resolution on an MDG monitor would ideally require further activities and more human and financial resources. However, due to strict guidelines for budget preparations for the biennium 2012-2013, the Statistics Division could not increase resources for the respective subprogramme. This will inevitably result in a reduction in the originally planned activities that included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial loading of the database with the data available at the start-up; 2. Preparation and dissemination of pre-filled questionnaires, collection of questionnaires on return;

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Update regularly (content maintenance) the database on indicators related to MDGs and to societal progress; 4. Consultation with ESCWA member countries on methodologies for collection of individual indicators on progress towards MDGs; 5. Development of a localized set of indicators for countries in the ESCWA region; 6. Preparation of comparative tables according to national and international sources; 7. Quality analysis, selection of reference data; 8. Preparation of graphs, charts and tabulations; 9. Capacity-building workshops in areas where weaknesses in data provision are identified; 10. Support to internal and external users of data on MDGs.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including improving gender and youth statistics at the regional level and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.	Submit a report to the twenty-seventh session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.		

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298	Social Development	Social Development Division (SDD)	Endorses the change in the title of Subprogramme 2 from “Integrated Social Policies” to “Social Development”.			The title of the subprogramme has been changed from “Integrated Social Policies” to “Social Development” in the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2012-2013 of ESCWA.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on the implementation of this resolution.	Report to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.		
299	Adoption of the amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011	Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division (PPTCD)	Adopts the amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011.			All amendments were introduced as adopted.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to follow up implementation of the programme of work and if necessary, include activities to address any variables that may emerge in the ESCWA region.	Follow up on the implementation of the programme of work and address any variable that may emerge in the region.		The Executive Secretary has been monitoring closely and following up on the implementation of the 2010-2011 programme of work and will continue to exert all efforts to ensure that emerging issues in the region are adequately addressed and reflected whenever possible in carrying out the programme of work and activities of ESCWA.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to convey to member countries information on further amendments that may be	Convey to member countries information on any further amendments that may		No further significant amendments have been introduced to the 2010-2011 work programme.

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			introduced to the programme of work, in the report on progress made in implementing the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011.	be introduced to the programme for the biennium 2010-2011.		
300	Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	All divisions/Office of the Executive Secretary (OES)	Calls upon member countries to cooperate with ESCWA in taking and activating measures to ensure that those recommendations are implemented.		Cooperate with ESCWA to ensure the implementation of recommendations of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of ESCWA.	
301	Adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013	Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division (PPTCD)	Requests the Executive Secretary to distribute the strategic framework in the form adopted by member countries.	Distribute the strategic framework in the form adopted by member countries.		All amendments made to the 2012-2013 Strategic Framework were included in the version approved by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and sent to member countries.
			Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the commission at its twenty-seventh session on the progress made in implementing the strategic framework including amendments introduced thereto in addition to the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.	Submit the report on progress made in implementing the strategic framework, as well as amendments introduced.		
