

198 (XVII). Establishment of a committee on social development  
within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Referring to* its resolutions 182 (XVI) on the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Decade for Western Asia (1994-2003), 186 (XVI) on preparations for the International Year of the Family, 1994, 187 (XVI) on the World Summit for Social Development, 188 (XVI) on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, and 189 (XVI) on the Arab Population Conference, 1993,

*Cognizant* of the importance of coordinating social development activities at the regional level and related issues in the areas of human development, population, human settlements and local communities, the family and the advancement of women in Western Asia, in accordance with the conditions, cultural realities and social structure of the States of the region and their economic and social development needs,

*Conscious* of the importance of increasing the participation of the competent authorities of the member States of the Commission in the planning and development of the secretariat's programmes in the ESCWA social field and the definition of priorities for social plans and programmes.

*Inspired* by the steps taken by other United Nations regional commissions for the establishment of specialized committees on social development to assume responsibility for coordinating action in their regions,

*Cognizant also* of the need to strengthen coordination and integration between the Commission and Arab regional organizations on the social development policies, programmes and activities of organizations with a view to satisfying the needs of the member States and developing them for the purposes of the comprehensive development of the States of the region,

1. *Decides* to establish a committee on social development, made up of representatives of the ESCWA member States, to assume the following tasks:

(a) Participation in the establishment and formulation of priorities for the programme of work and priorities and medium-term plans in social development fields;

(b) Monitoring of the progress achieved in social programmes and activities in the ESCWA member States and preparation of the necessary recommendations for strengthening the social development process in those States;

(c) Follow-up of international and regional conferences, participation of member States in them, and coordination of regional efforts relating to the implementation of resolutions and recommendations;

(d) Definition of focal points to coordinate various social activities together with the secretariat and monitor their execution;

2. *Decides also* that, starting in 1995, the committee on social development shall hold its meetings every two years;

3. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the Commission at its eighteenth session.