

**236 (XXI). DESIGNATING THE SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION AS THE
FORUM FOR A BIENNIAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing the importance of mobilizing extrabudgetary resources in support of programmed activities,

Deeply concerned about the decline in extrabudgetary resources made available to the secretariat of ESCWA,

Aware of the sizeable contributions made to some of the other regional commissions to supplement their extrabudgetary funds,

Conscious of the role extrabudgetary resources may play in allowing the Commission to expand the scope of work for existing outputs to cover new countries, issues and dimensions,

Recognizing that the biennial session of the Commission would serve as the most suitable forum for a pledging conference to raise extrabudgetary resources in support of activities and projects, with relevant information circulated among member States prior to the session for their consideration,

1. *Decides* to hold a pledging conference during each session of the Commission;
2. *Invites* member States to increase contributions in order to finance the Commission's extrabudgetary activities;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek contributions from States other than ESCWA member States and from public and private organizations;
4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to provide member States with proposals regarding specific activities to be funded from extrabudgetary resources.

3rd plenary meeting
11 May 2001