

**241 (XXII). THE IMPACT OF THE LACK OF STABILITY IN THE ARAB
REGION ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting with deep concern the impact of the lack of stability in the Arab region on the economic, social and environmental situation and on the development process in general,

Recalling that the instability in the region has continued over successive decades as a result of continuous wars and, in particular, the Israeli occupation of Arab territories; and the economic and social impact of that sustained situation,

Noting also that the restructuring process undergone by Commission programmes of work has added to the responsibilities of ESCWA that of promoting post-conflict development and reconstruction, as stated in the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,

Further recalling the practical approach adopted with respect to the relevant activities and, specifically, the Commission's contribution to the implementation of the multidisciplinary project in southern Lebanon and, in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, its initiation of measures to assist Palestine to rehabilitate its economic sectors,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to study the impact of war on economic and social development and the environment in Iraq, ensuring that its activities in that field are coordinated with those of other United Nations bodies and the relevant regional organizations, and to provide assistance in this respect in the framework of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;
2. *Also requests* the secretariat to identify the activities that should be undertaken by ESCWA as part of the post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation process, and to incorporate such activities into its programme of work and specializations;
3. *Further requests* the secretariat to establish a mechanism for monitoring the effects of current and future crises, with a view to identifying and analysing the extent of the impact on economic and social development in the region of such events, and to assist countries in dealing with such crises;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the matter to the Commission at its twenty-third session.

6th plenary meeting
17 April 2003