

244 (XXII). COOPERATION BETWEEN ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO SHARED WATER RESOURCES AND THE ARAB NETWORK FOR THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to paragraphs 1-18 of the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, the revised programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 in the field of water and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005,

Referring also to the recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its fifth session⁸ held from 30 October to 1 November 2002 with respect to the importance of activating cooperation projects between member countries relating to shared water resources and the building of member country capacities with respect to the integrated management of water resources; and the importance of strengthening cooperation and integration in that field between training centres and institutes by establishing an Arab network for the integrated management of water resources,

Appreciative of the positive response of the member countries involved in the bilateral shared water resource cooperation projects overseen by the secretariat,

1. *Urges* member countries to complete the procedures necessary for official approval of memorandums of understanding relating to bilateral shared water resource cooperation projects, and to provide support for the technical task forces that are carrying out such projects;

2. *Adopts* the recommendation made by the Committee on Water Resources at its fifth session calling for the establishment of an Arab network for the integrated management of water resources and the activation of its role, in coordination with the ESCWA secretariat;

3. *Also urges* specialist water training and research centres and institutes in Arab countries to become members of that network;

4. *Further urges* member countries, international organizations, donors and funding institutions to provide the funding necessary to activate that network;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to promote projects and activities relating to shared water resources and the Arab network for the integrated management of water resources and to follow up evaluation of implementation, with a view to supporting national and regional capacity-building in the field of the integrated management of water resources.

6th plenary meeting
17 April 2003

⁸ *Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its Fifth Session (E/ESCWA/ENR/2002/23).*