

254 (XXIII). The Establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting United Nations Security Council resolution 54/201 concerning the effect of science and technology on accelerating development and on their status as one of the priorities of the United Nations; the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the use of science and technology in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) contained in the Millennium Declaration (E/CN.16/2004/2); and Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 concerning the utilization of science and technology for the purposes of development,

Appreciating that the trend in the global economy is towards a knowledge-based economy that is built on science, technology and innovation as the foundation for competitiveness and the achievement of sustainable development goals at the national level; and the linkage between economic growth and the growth of the independent capacities of countries in fields relating to modern technology, and the transfer and adaptation of technology required for such growth,

Affirming that the generation of opportunities for employment and the reduction of poverty require high levels of economic growth and the diversification of sources of national revenue, which in turn require the provision of a solid basis of science, technology and technological innovation,

Taking into consideration the ESCWA initiative to activate the role of science, technology and technological innovation in achieving MDGs, which was adopted by the twenty-second session, and for the ideal accomplishment of which the establishment of a specialized institutional structure is required,

Noting that United Nations regional commissions have established special centres to assist member countries in their endeavours to build independent capacities in the fields of science and technology that have greatest priority for their sustainable development,

Appreciating the important role that must be assumed by a similar centre in the ESCWA region in assisting national efforts to build independent capacities in science and technology and to coordinate cooperation at the regional and international levels in building such capacities,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to produce a detailed study, financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the establishment of a technology centre that would undertake activities aimed at building national technological capacities and harness those capacities in achieving MDGs and strengthening economic and social development and regional and international cooperation in technological fields;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to submit that study to the ESCWA Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation before submitting a report on the establishment of a technology centre to the twenty-fourth ESCWA session.

5th plenary meeting
12 May 2005