

255 (XXIII). The Establishment of a Regional Mechanism for Building Capacities to Manage Shared Water Resources

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the Declaration and Programme of Action issued by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002,

Recalling the recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its sixth session and, in particular, those relating to the building of capacities in the field of negotiations and the resolution of disputes over shared water resources,

Recalling also its resolution 244 (XXII) dated 17 April 2003 concerning cooperation between ESCWA member countries with respect to shared water resources and the Arab Network for the Integrated Management of Water Resources,

Recognizing the increasing importance of building capacities to manage shared water resources, with a view to maximizing member countries' benefit therefrom,

Appreciating the growing interest that ESCWA is according to water resource-related activities, with a view to strengthening member country endeavours to achieve sustainable development,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a feasibility study on the establishment of a regional mechanism for building member countries' capacities to manage shared water resources. The study, to be financed by extrabudgetary resources, should be submitted for consideration to the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources;
2. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to continue her efforts to support activities and programmes relevant to the aims of the proposed mechanism;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress achieved with respect to this issue to the twenty-fourth ESCWA session.

5th plenary meeting
12 May 2005