

**256 (XXIII). Adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation
in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Convinced of the need to facilitate transport and trade in order to achieve regional integration,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination in the field of maritime transport,

Recalling the Declaration on the Adoption of an Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq which was issued by the first session of the Committee on Transport, held on 9 and 10 February 1999, and adopted by ESCWA at its twentieth session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 May 1999,

Recalling also the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq¹ which was adopted by resolution 235 (XXI) of 11 May 2001, and to the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq² which was adopted by the Commission by its resolution 243 (XXII) of 17 April 2003,

Noting that the sixth session of the Committee on Transport adopted the final draft of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq,

1. *Decides to adopt* the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq annexed hereto;
2. *Urges* member countries to sign and ratify the Memorandum of Understanding as soon as possible;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow-up implementation of this resolution and report to the twenty-fourth session of the Commission.

5th plenary meeting
12 May 2005

¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq*, 18 May 2001 (E/ESCWA/TRANS/2001/3).

² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq*, 5 March 2003 (E/ESCWA/TRANS/2002/1/Rev.2).