

## 259 (XXIII). Social Policies

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Noting* that developments in the field of social policy in member countries are not keeping pace with the speed of economic and technological developments at the global level,

*Noting also* that the disparity between social progress and progress made in other fields causes many problems, including social problems,

*Recalling* the recommendations of the World Summit on Social Development and the Millennium Development Goals,

*Taking into consideration* the fact that social policies deal with many social issues that fall within the remit of several ministries and institutions,

*Noting also* the need for the countries in Western Asia to adopt integrated social policies and the planning, implementation, coordination and follow-up necessary in order to prepare integrated social policies that are consonant with regional circumstances,

*Recognizing* the importance of the documents and reports that have been presented by the secretariat in developing the concept of social policies and supporting their implementation in an integrated fashion,

*Appreciating* the progress that has been made in implementing the integrated social policies in the Arab region project for which the secretariat is responsible,

1. *Requests* member countries to appoint permanent focal points to participate in discussion of the integrated social policies programme and adopt appropriate measures for its implementation and follow-up;

2. *Calls upon* member countries to cooperate with the secretariat in implementing the next stage of the integrated social policies programme, which requires coordination at the national level in order to find the best ways of formulating social policies that are appropriate to each country and its particularities;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present the national reports on social policies that are being prepared by the Commission to member countries for adoption with the proviso that those reports should be updated and submitted in their amended form to the Committee on Social Development at one of its subsequent sessions;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress made in this field to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.

5<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
12 May 2005