

**262 (XXIII). Support for the Capacities of Member Countries in the Field of Statistics and the International Comparison Programme**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Affirming* the need to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and in conformity with the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in 2000 in its resolution 55/2,

*Noting* the progress made in respect of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in the Western Asia region and the importance of that Programme in relation to MDGs and, in particular, the measurement of poverty levels and trade and investment indicators,

*Pursuant* to the recommendations made by the ESCWA Statistical Committee at its sixth session and the outcomes of the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2005,

*Recalling* its resolution 247 (XXII) dated 17 April 2003 concerning the development of statistical work in the ESCWA region,

*Cognizant* of the efforts exerted by the secretariat to develop the capacities of national statistical bodies and update mechanisms and methods of collecting, analysing and disseminating economic and social statistics and indicators,

*Recognizing* the importance of having access to reliable indicators and statistical data when formulating national policies for economic and social development and appropriate implementation strategies,

*Affirming* the part played by statistics as a fundamental tool in planning and achieving development,

1. *Calls upon* member countries to adopt national statistical strategies aimed at providing the data and indicators necessary to measure progress made towards economic and social development goals and, in particular, towards MDGs, by carrying out censuses and household surveys, including surveys on the work force and family income and expenditure, and by periodically and regularly updating administrative records and providing the financial resources necessary to implement those strategies;

2. *Expresses its support* for the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, which aims to adopt advanced international methods, concepts and classifications that will assist in the carrying out of successful population censuses in the shortest time and at the least expense possible, and to establish databases on the demographic, social and economic particularities of populations that may be used in international comparisons and serve the process of formulating development policies and programmes and participating in their activities;

3. *Also calls upon* member countries to issue, once every two years at least, a national statistical report that shows the progress made towards MDGs and provides economic and social indicators for that purpose, in order to assist ESCWA in updating its databases and making them available to end users, including decision and policy makers, with a view to monitoring the progress made by ESCWA member countries at the development level;

4. *Requests* member countries to mainstream ICP operations in their national statistical programmes and their organizational structures in the form of independent units or as part of units that produce price statistics, in order to formulate a purchasing power parity indicator and price comparison figures;

5. *Calls upon* member countries to strengthen the capacities of their statistical bodies to conduct the sectoral surveys necessary to apply the bases for the preparation of national accounts in accordance with the United Nations System of National Accounts 1993. Surveys should also be carried out on the unofficial sector;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide consultancy services to member countries in the field of economic, social and environmental statistics;

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

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