

**264 (XXIII). Implementation of the Beirut Declaration On Arab Women Ten Years
After Beijing: Call For Peace**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, that was held in Beijing in September 1995; the document issued by the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in New York in June 2000; the declaration issued by the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in March 2005; the recommendations and final report issued by the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years after Beijing: Call for Peace, which was held in Beirut from 8 to 10 July 2004; the third of the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the empowerment of women and gender equality; and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Noting that the Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-ninth session, confirmed the import of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and decided to concentrate work at its fiftieth session, which is scheduled to be held in New York in March 2006, on following up implementation of the Platform for Action, requesting the United Nations regional commissions to coordinate between member countries in order to standardize positions and enable the women-related national mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing recommendations and all related follow-up,

Recalling its resolution 240 (XXII) dated 17 April 2003 concerning the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a Committee on Women and the establishment within the secretariat of a women's centre with the responsibility for acting as the secretariat of the Committee on Women,

Taking into consideration the recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its second session, which was held in Beirut in July 2004, to the effect that the ESCWA Women's Centre should undertake a pivotal role in unifying efforts aimed at greater cooperation, integration and exchange of expertise between member countries, and in providing the support necessary to build the institutional and human capacities of women-related national mechanisms, in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research,

1. *Requests* member countries to adopt policies that take into consideration gender issues and to put in place national strategies for the empowerment of women and the institutional frameworks for their implementation, with a view to mainstreaming women's issues into activities, policies and programmes, in keeping with the relevant Arab and international agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. *Calls upon* member countries to intensify efforts aimed at implementing the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace and following up implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcomes of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and those of the comprehensive review and evaluation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and to take the measures necessary to prepare national reports on the progress made and obstacles faced in that regard;

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

5th plenary meeting
12 May 2005