

272 (XXIV). Youth employment in ESCWA member countries

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the Copenhagen Declaration adopted by the 1995 World Summit for Social Development,

Referring also to General Assembly resolution 60/2 dated 6 October 2005 concerning policies and programmes involving youth, which reaffirms the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond¹ and requests the United Nations Secretariat to establish a broad set of indicators related to youth, which Governments may use to measure progress towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action,

Referring further to General Assembly resolutions 56/117, dated 19 December 2001, concerning policies and programmes involving youth, which welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to create a Youth Employment Network, and 57/165, dated 18 December 2002, concerning the promotion of youth employment,

Taking note of the report on Arab youth employment that was submitted to the twenty-fourth ESCWA session,² concerning the preparation of policies, programmes and projects to stimulate the labour market,

Acknowledging the seriousness of the problem of increasing youth unemployment in some Arab countries where the percentage of the unemployed youth is one of the highest in the world, which may have serious implications,

Affirming that youth represent the future of the nation and must participate in and be integrated into planning and implementing development operations, be afforded equal opportunities for employment, and be provided with the skills and training that are in line with the needs of the labour market,

1. *Calls upon* member countries to include youth policies in their national development strategies by mainstreaming the youth perspective in all planning processes, preparing national youth policies, and devising national plans of action for youth employment, in order to limit the migration of a skilled and creative workforce;

2. *Also calls upon* member countries to make available up-to-date and accurate national statistics on youth unemployment; collect periodic data on all youth-related issues, including employment, education and health, from such sources as administrative records, population censuses, and household and specialized surveys, with a view to establishing national databases on employment and unemployment issues and their implications for youth, and for monitoring and preparing national reports; and carry out studies on the factors leading to unemployment and their impact, with a view to devising the appropriate policies to resolve the youth unemployment problem;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to make an effective contribution to the process of developing a broad set of statistical indicators on youth employment, by proposing main regional indicators and incorporating them into development indicators, including those in the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat, in cooperation and coordination with the relevant Arab and international organizations, to devise a mechanism for the establishment of a system to provide information on Arab labour markets, with the aim of balancing supply and demand and facilitating the identification of appropriate employment opportunities for youth;

¹ General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

² E/ESCWA/24/6(Part II).

5. *Urges* member countries to encourage the exchange of labour and, in particular, of well-qualified youth labour between the countries of the region, thereby helping to circulate financial resources within the region contributing to the development of the region as a whole;

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

7th plenary meeting
11 May 2006