

**278 (XXIV). Increasing the role of women in decision-making  
with respect to conflict prevention and peace building**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Referring* to General Assembly resolution 60/1 dated 16 September 2005, concerning 2005 World Summit Outcome and the statement made in paragraph 116 thereof with respect to the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

*Referring also* to the Beijing Platform for Action,<sup>1</sup> which considers the issue of women and armed conflict one of the most critical areas of concern,

*Referring further* to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) dated 31 October 2000 concerning women, peace and security, which urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict,

*Noting* Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/43 dated 26 July 2005 concerning the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,

*Noting also* the agreed conclusion of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session concerning the equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels, and its other conclusions on the status of women in areas of war and conflict, including that concerning the situation of Palestinian women,<sup>2</sup>

*Affirming* the Beirut Declaration: Arab Women 10 Years after Beijing: Call for Peace, that was adopted by the ESCWA Committee on Women at its second session in July 2004,<sup>3</sup> which stressed the role of women in strengthening the concepts of peace and dialogue, and the need of Arab women for peace, security and stability, given that the major difficulties they face are occupation, colonization and threats,

*Referring* to ESCWA resolution 260 (XXIII) dated 12 May 2005 concerning development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions, which requests the Executive Secretary to intensify her endeavours to build capacities and provide the requisite support for the countries of the region that have suffered and continue to suffer from lack of stability, including analytical activities in sustainable economic and social development fields,

*Considering* that several countries in the ESCWA region have suffered and continue to suffer from lack of stability, because of wars and conflicts and their impact on social and economic conditions,

*Concerned* that women are more susceptible to the negative impact of war and armed conflict,

1. *Affirms* the need for member countries and the secretariat to accord the exceptional needs of women living in unstable conditions the requisite importance in their plans and programmes;

2. *Calls upon* the secretariat to examine the situation of women in the ESCWA member countries that suffer from occupation, war and conflict, and build their capacities in the field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding;

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13, Chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, Report on the fiftieth session (22 March 2005, 27 February - 10 March and 16 March 2006), E/CN.6/2006/15, Chap. I.

<sup>3</sup> E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/6.

3. *Urges* member countries to increase the representation, participation and empowerment of women at all levels of decision-making and in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes;

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

7<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
11 May 2006