

282 (XXV). Mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Guided by the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ that emphasized the mutually reinforcing interlinkages between development, peace, security and human rights,

Recalling its resolutions 271 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 on strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development and 260 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions,

Expressing grave concern with regard to continued occupation, violence, political tensions and conflicts and their negative impact on social and economic development and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in conflict-afflicted countries and Western Asia as a whole,

Recognizing the need to continue to raise awareness of the negative impact of instability on development and undertake new interventions aimed at strengthening public sector and civil society capacity to attain social and economic development goals, including MDGs, regardless of conflict and political tensions,

Taking note of ESCWA reports that monitor and analyze political, social and economic developments in countries afflicted by conflict and, in particular, the report that reviews the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan²,

Noting with appreciation the results of various capacity-building initiatives in conflict-afflicted countries that have addressed the improvement of management skills and poverty reduction,

Noting ESCWA efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources and forge partnerships with local, regional and international actors,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment in ESCWA of the Development Subprogramme on the mitigation of the impact of conflict and occupation;

2. *Calls on* member countries to:

(a) *Intensify* efforts to enhance institutional capacities to respond to the challenges associated with conflict and occupation;

(b) *Support* conflict- or occupation-afflicted countries in overcoming socio-economic and political challenges;

3. *Requests* the ESCWA secretariat to:

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/43 and General Assembly resolution 61/184.

(a) Intensify its efforts to raise awareness of the potential impact of conflict and instability on development;

(b) Build on successful ESCWA interventions in conflict- or occupation-afflicted countries through the development and interchange of best practice and adaptation thereof for the use of other member countries;

(c) Contribute to the capacity-building of Government officials, focusing on management skills and strategy planning;

(d) Continue its efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to finance the implementation of capacity-building and other activities;

(e) Enhance partnerships with relevant local, regional and international organizations;

4. *Invites* member countries and donors to support ESCWA in its endeavours to mitigate the impact of conflict and instability and the socio-economic ramifications thereof;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on the progress achieved in implementing this resolution.

10th plenary meeting
29 May 2008