

**292 (XXVI). Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues
to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee
on emerging issues and development in conflict settings**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Cognizant of the repercussions of successive conflicts in the region, in particular occupation and its negative impact on economic and social development in member countries, the importance of addressing that impact and adopting an approach that takes into account the realities of the region in solving development problems,

Emphasizing the need to sustain economic and social development efforts in all circumstances, in particular under conditions of crisis and occupation, as economic and social development represents a basic instrument for peacebuilding,

Guided by the outcome of the 2005 World Summit,¹ which stressed the correlation between development, human rights and peace, as no element can be realized without the others,

Guided also by the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict² in which he calls for enhancement of the conflict management capacity of regional commissions, strengthening regional capacity in peacebuilding and creating employment opportunities, and building the capacity of the public sector and its institutions,

Recalling ESCWA resolutions 282 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 and 271 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 on mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in the ESCWA region and strengthening the role of ESCWA in that regard,

Noting the recommendation of the Technical Committee³ at its third meeting on the establishment at ESCWA of a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings, and the outcome of the consultations held between the secretariat and member countries participating in the working group charged with studying the issue,

Noting also peacebuilding efforts exerted by ESCWA through its programmes to mitigate the impact on development of conflict and occupation, and build the capacity of member countries to address the challenges stemming from conflict, emerging issues and instability,

1. Declares its commitment to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and its support to the efforts of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority towards the establishment of an independent State of Palestine, based on United Nations resolutions; its condemnation of the Israeli actions that violate the rights of Palestinians, including changing the demography of the occupied city of Jerusalem; imposing a siege on Gaza; building the annexation and expansion wall on Palestinian territory; and obstructing efforts to achieve development and build Palestinian institutions;

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² A/63/881-S/2009/304.

³ ESCWA, *Report of the Technical Commission on its Third Meeting*, Beirut, 21-22 July 2009 (E/ESCWA/2009/TC.3/6).

2. *Calls upon* member countries:

(a) To continue to seek the achievement of peace and stability in the region and remedy the root causes of conflict within a framework of economic and social development programmes;

(b) To enhance development efforts, in particular in countries affected by conflict and occupation, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

(c) To promote public sector institutional capacity-building efforts in view of the contribution of such efforts to addressing emerging issues and conflict, developing regional cooperation and coordination in that area;

(d) To intensify efforts to monitor and analyse potential sources of conflict and develop plans and programmes to address them;

(e) To formulate policies, programmes and strategies at the national and regional level with a view to addressing the repercussions of conflict and instability in member countries, preventing potential conflict and addressing the roots of such conflict and instability;

(f) To contribute to the mobilization of financial and human resources to support development efforts in situations of instability and foster preparedness of member countries to address potential future conflict.

3. *Decides* to establish a committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings comprising member country representatives with functions and mandates to be determined after further consultation with member countries;

4. *Requests* the secretariat:

(a) To provide the necessary support for ESCWA subprogramme 7 in terms of financial and human resources and upgrade the section responsible for its implementation to the level of a division similar to other ESCWA subprogrammes, with a view to meeting the needs of member countries and intensifying its activities in the following areas:

(i) **Emerging issues:** monitoring and analysing emerging issues and presenting recommendations, proposals and practical programmes to deal with them;

(ii) **Development in situations of conflict and instability:** designing and implementing programmes, projects and activities aimed at mitigating the repercussions of conflict and instability, and contributing to peacebuilding;

(iii) **Development in the least developed countries:** defining and meeting institutional needs in order to achieve the MDGs;

(iv) **Development of public sector institutions:** designing and implementing projects and programmes for institutional development in member countries in all planning and management areas with a view to enabling them to address present and potential future crises and challenges;

(b) To provide organizational and technical support to the committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings;

(c) To promote the effective participation of ESCWA and member countries in regional and international events and forums relating to conflict and emerging issues;

(d) To promote cooperation with international and regional organizations in the field of peacebuilding and development in conflict settings, build the institutional capacity of member countries, and design programmes and policies pursuant to international recommendations on development in conflict settings;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution and submit a report on progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session.

7th plenary meeting
19 May 2010