

**306 (XXVII). Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process
and sustaining efforts in the Arabic domain names field**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 April 2006 concerning the World Summit on the Information Society, in which it called for the establishment of a global Internet Governance Forum (IGF);

Also referring to paragraphs 35-37 and 69-72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, concerning Internet governance issues and the need for enhanced cooperation between governments in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet,¹

Further referring to General Assembly resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010 concerning the information and communications technologies for development, in which it decided to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further five years, from 2010 to 2015,

Emphasizing the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue on public policy issues related to Internet governance and to promote the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet,

Recognizing the importance of regional Internet Governance Forums established from 2008 to 2012 in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa, and the need for a similar forum in the Arab region,

Recognizing also the importance of the joint initiative of ESCWA and the League of Arab States concerning the Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance, and its two strategic outputs,² which were adopted by the Arab Telecommunications and Information Council of Ministers at its fifteenth session,

Noting the achievements of ESCWA at the regional and international levels in the field of Internationalized Domain Names and Arab Generic Top-Level Domains and its substantive and strategic efforts aiming at the acquisition by the League of Arab States of the Top-Level Domains “.arab” and “.عرب”, and at the establishment of the ecosystem for managing and operating their respective global registry,

Noting the outcomes of the Conference and Public Consultations to Establish the Arab Internet Governance Forum held in Beirut, on 31 January and 1 February 2012, which stressed the need for an Arab Internet Governance Forum and set the scene for launching the multi-stakeholder process of establishing and developing the Forum; and noting also the endorsement of those outcomes by the Executive Bureau of the Arab Telecommunications and Information Council of Ministers at its thirty-first session,

1. *Encourages* Governments of member countries to actively participate in completing the process of establishing the Arab Internet Governance Forum in coordination with the League of Arab States;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the establishment of the Arab Internet Governance Forum in partnership with the League of Arab States and in cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations and the United Nations regional commissions;

¹ United Nations, World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis, 16-18 November 2005, Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, WSIS-II/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)-E.

² ESCWA and the League of Arab States, Expert group meeting on the Arab Regional Road Map for Internet Governance, Beirut, 26 October 2010, *The Call of Arab Stakeholders: Towards Promoting Arab Cooperation for Internet Governance Regionally and Internationally*; and *The Arab Regional Road Map for Internet Governance: Framework, Principles and Objectives*.

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to support policies and directions aiming at the implementation of the subprogrammes of the Arab Regional Road Map for Internet Governance under the umbrella of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and to sustain efforts in the Arabic domain names field;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012