

304 (XXVII). The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Keeping in mind General Assembly resolution 65/312 of 26 July 2011 in which it adopted the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,

Affirming its commitment to General Assembly resolution 65/186 of 21 December 2010 on realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond,

Also affirming its commitment to General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010 concerning the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Guided by the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ and the Millennium Development Goals,²

Referring to the ten commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, in particular: promoting social integration based on the promotion and protection of all human rights; promoting full employment as a fundamental public policy goal and to achieve equality and equity between women and men; and creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development,³

Recalling its resolution 285 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 concerning integrated social policy, in which it encouraged member countries to adopt and institutionalize integrated social policy and seek harmony and balance between economic priorities and social outcomes,

Taking note of the recommendation made by the Committee on Social Development at its eighth session, which was held on 24 and 25 March 2011 that the capacity of member countries to design and implement social policies and institutional mechanisms to achieve equal and inclusive social development, should be enhanced,⁴

Reaffirming that ESCWA can contribute to the exchange of views and the sharing of information on good policies and practice for mainstreaming social inclusion into social and economic policies at the national, regional and international levels aimed at achieving equity, equality and social protection and cohesion,

Considering the continuous need of member countries to strengthen their capacity to develop rights-based social policy that promotes social integration, social protection, the provision of adequate social services and employment generation, using a participatory approach with national stakeholders,

1. *Calls upon* member countries to:

(a) Explore the possibility of expanding contributory social security systems to cover all social groups and to establish a social protection floor for all groups that cannot be included quickly into contributory social security schemes;

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ ESCWA, *Report of the Social Committee on its eighth session*, E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/6/Report.

(b) Encourage the representation and participation of youth, women and all social groups in national committees, parliaments and other elected bodies responsible for shaping public policy at local and national levels;

(c) Strengthen participatory dialogue and social partnerships, ensure free and fair elections and implement, monitor and assess the implementation of the international human rights instruments and social development initiatives;

(d) Intensify their efforts to mainstream social justice and the concerns of all social groups into sustainable development strategies including economic strategies aimed at reducing poverty, generating employment and addressing environmental issues making efforts to ensure an equitable geographic balance;

(e) Enhance transparency and accountability in the provision of social services and adopt a participatory approach that delineates clear distribution of responsibilities between the State, the private sector, and civil society;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to:

(a) Assist member countries in developing employment strategies that are integrated with economic, education and social protection policies while paying special attention to informal sector workers and youth unemployment;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of member countries to mainstream the concerns of older persons, youth and persons with disabilities into national development plans and engage them in the formulation and implementation of those plans;

(c) Assist member countries in exploring adequate instruments for expanding social security coverage, including insurance and social protection;

(d) Support member countries in strengthening participatory social dialogue and building public, private and civic partnerships aimed at enhancing the delivery and accessibility of social services with a focus on accountability and transparency;

(e) Strengthen cooperation with member countries to collect data on all social groups, and disseminate good practice and exchange experience in designing policies and programmes aimed at promoting social inclusion and providing equal opportunities in all aspects of life;

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

7th plenary meeting
10 May 2012