

## **328 (XXIX) Technical cooperation to meet the needs and priorities of member States**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Recalling* resolution 258 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 pursuant to which the Technical Cooperation Network was established to enable closer coordination of technical cooperation between ESCWA and member States and thereby contribute to the achievement of their development goals,

*Recalling also* resolution 275 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 on strengthening technical cooperation, partnership development and resource mobilization,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the General Assembly encourages resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to draw more upon the normative support work and policy expertise that exists within the regional commissions, and requests the regional commissions to further develop their analytical capacities to support country-level development initiatives,

*Recognizing* the importance of technical cooperation programmes, implemented through advisory services and capacity-building and knowledge exchange services, in meeting the specific needs of member States in developing and implementing inclusive and sustainable economic and social development policies,

*Acknowledging* the emerging challenges in the region and the implementation challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which call for more concerted effort in delivering technical cooperation services to member States,

*Noting* that while technical cooperation activities are demand-driven by nature, there is scope for better long-term planning that ensures the alignment of activities with member States' capacities and priorities and guarantees better accountability,

*Recognizing also* the vital role of the Technical Cooperation Network in enhancing the effectiveness of the ESCWA technical cooperation programme and achieving its aims,

*Acknowledging* that the budget of the ESCWA Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation is insufficient to fulfil increasing demands for technical cooperation activities and services, especially with regard to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Commends* the efforts of the secretariat in linking its technical cooperation work with its other core functions of research and analysis and consensus building to support policy formulation;

2. *Urges* the secretariat to continue strengthening strategic partnerships between United Nations technical cooperation programmes and member States and to promote inclusive South-South cooperation;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to adopt a programmatic approach based on specific plans for long-term technical cooperation between ESCWA and member States, and to enhance accountability;

4. *Calls* for the revitalization of the Technical Cooperation Network as an essential coordination body, in view of its new terms of reference (annexed to the present resolution);

5. *Urges* Member States of the United Nations and national, regional and international partners to increase their financial support to the activities of the ESCWA technical cooperation programme;

6. *Urges* the secretariat and the Regional United Nations Development Group to fully implement the statement of collaboration between the Development Group and the United Nations regional commissions on supporting member States in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### Annex

#### **Terms of reference of members of the Technical Cooperation Network**

The Technical Cooperation Network shall undertake its activities under the supervision and monitoring of the ESCWA Executive Committee, taking into account the official decision of each State regarding the appointment of a Network focal point.

#### **Terms of reference of the Technical Cooperation Network**

- Providing a platform for the exchange of expertise and lessons learned;
- Facilitating and strengthening ESCWA contributions to the provision of technical cooperation services to member States on issues of common interest;

#### **Updated terms of reference of members of the Technical Cooperation Network**

- Familiarizing ministries and public administrations in member States with the technical cooperation services provided by ESCWA;
- Working with stakeholders to identify their priorities under the general framework of the technical cooperation programme;
- Communicating and coordinating with ESCWA to follow up on the needs of member States
- Coordinating the process of developing a technical cooperation plan with ESCWA and continually updating it;
- Participating in the implementation of ESCWA programmes agreed with a concerned country;
- Contributing to coordinating the evaluation of technical support services provided by ESCWA and monitoring them in collaboration with stakeholders.

#### **Meetings**

The Network shall hold its meeting once a year, or as necessary, prior to the meetings of the Executive Committee so as to present its recommendations at the meetings of the Committee.

8<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
15 December 2016