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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**PROGRESS MADE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE ESCWA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE****Background**

1. At its twenty-third session, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted resolution 254 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC). This resolution requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a detailed study, financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the establishment of the ETC, and to submit this study to the ESCWA Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation before submitting a report on the matter to the twenty-fourth session of the Commission.
2. The ESCWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities provided the necessary funding for undertaking a pre-feasibility study of the Centre, which was carried out by a multidisciplinary team from ESCWA aided by an external expert, further reviewed by a virtual panel of 35 international experts and approved by the third meeting of the ESCWA Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation (Beirut, 6-7 March 2006).
3. At its twenty-fourth session, ESCWA adopted resolution 274 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre. That resolution approved, in principle, the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre as defined in the pre-feasibility study; and requested the secretariat to follow up with member countries with respect to the hosting of the Centre and securing its sources of finance. The resolution also requested the secretariat to take the necessary actions aimed at establishing the Centre and to submit a report to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission in this regard.
4. In 2007, ESCWA initiated the implementation of a number of activities as recommended in the pre-feasibility study. Within that context, a team of four experts reviewed and assimilated experiences of partnerships in technology and related matters in the Arab region, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and ESCWA. The major outcome of this exercise was the preparation of a detailed report, entitled "Assessment of regional needs and priorities and identification of implementation mechanisms". This draft report was subsequently discussed online and reviewed by a panel of experts from the Arab region and Europe.

5. Moreover, the Executive Secretary continued to pursue concrete efforts towards the establishment of the Centre by conferring with the ambassadors of member countries accredited to Lebanon, updating member countries of the progress made in that regard, and exploring avenues for funding and hosting the Centre.

6. At its twenty-fifth session, ESCWA adopted resolution 284 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre for development. The resolution accepted the outcomes of the preparation stages as presented, and requested ESCWA secretariat to finalize the hosting arrangements of ETC, to coordinate with member countries over the establishment of a board of governors, and to take the necessary measures to draft administrative regulations for approval by the board of governors.

7. Following requests by the Executive Secretary, five countries expressed interest in hosting the ESCWA Technology Centre, namely, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Syrian Arab Republic. A delegation from ESCWA visited these countries to explore the hosting potential; and based on the best offers, the Evaluation Committee recommended, in August 2009, the selection of Jordan as the host country for the ESCWA Technology Centre. This recommendation was subsequently approved by the Executive Secretary of ESCWA. In November 2009, letters were sent to Jordan as well as the other member countries to inform them of the decision.

#### **Establishment of ETC**

8. A draft statute for ETC was prepared to formalize the hosting arrangements and finalize the establishment of the Centre. The Commission is therefore requested to:

- (a) Review the ETC Draft Statute (see annex), with a view to adopting it;
- (b) Approve the establishment of ETC as per its adopted Statute.

Annex

**Draft resolution on the establishment of the ESCWA technology centre**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>1</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 of 5 November 2004 and the Millennium Declaration,<sup>2</sup> which identified the promotion of science and technology as a United Nations priority;

*Recalling also* General Assembly Resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009 adopting the Nairobi outcome document<sup>3</sup> of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation which emphasized the need to promote, including through South-South cooperation, access to and the transfer of technology;

*Further recalling* its resolution 284 (XXV) of 29 May 2008, which approved the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre for Development;

*Expressing* its appreciation to Jordan for its offer to host the Centre and to bear some of its operational costs;

1. *Adopts* the Statute of the ESCWA Technology Centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operations;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;
3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to establish the first founding Board of Governors by soliciting nominations from member countries;
4. *Invites* member countries to support the operation and programmes of the Centre, inter alia, through annual voluntary contributions for the Centre;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of this resolution and the initial operating phase of the centre to the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/1.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly Resolution 64/222.

## **DRAFT STATUTE OF THE ESCWA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**

### **Establishment**

1. The ESCWA Technology Centre shall be established in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

### **Mission**

2. The mission of the Centre is to assist members of ESCWA and public and private organizations to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to accelerate socio-economic development in order to attain technological parity with other nations and regions of the world.

### **Objectives**

3. The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members of ESCWA by strengthening their capabilities to develop and manage national systems; develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; determine the suitable technology for the region and facilitate its development and improve the legal and commercial framework for the transfer of technology.

### **Functions**

4. The Centre will achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:

- (a) Conducting research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities;
- (b) Providing advisory services;
- (c) Disseminating information and promoting good practices;
- (d) Developing partnerships and other networks with regional and international organizations and key stakeholders;
- (e) Training national personnel, particularly scientists and policy analysts.

### **Status and organization**

5. The Centre shall have a board of governors (herein referred to as Board), an executive director and staff, and a technical committee.

6. The Centre shall be located in Amman, Jordan. A host country agreement shall be concluded between the Government of Jordan and the United Nations.

7. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and applicable administrative instructions and issuances.

### **Board of governors**

8. The Centre shall have a board of governors consisting of a standing representative designated by the Government of Jordan, and no fewer than six additional representatives nominated by the other members of ESCWA and elected by the Commission. The representatives who are elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election. If a representative is unable to serve for the full term, the vacancy shall be filled by the Government of that representative. The Executive

Secretary of ESCWA or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the board but shall not have the right to vote.

9. The Executive Director of the Centre shall serve as secretary of the board of governors and, in such capacity, shall keep and circulate minutes of board meetings to its members.

10. Representatives of (a) any State Member of the United Nations, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies, and (c) such other organizations as the Board may deem appropriate as well as experts in fields of interest to the board may, at the board's discretion, be invited to attend board meetings.

11. The board shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the board shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, who may propose special sessions of the board at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of board members.

12. A quorum for board meetings shall be a majority of its members.

13. Each member of the board shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the board shall be made by consensus or, where this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

14. The board shall, at each regular session, elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson shall hold office until the next regular session of the board. The chairperson or, in his/her absence, the vice-chairperson shall preside at board meetings. If the chairperson is unable to serve for the full session for which he/she has been elected, the vice-chairperson shall act as chairperson for the remainder of that session.

15. The board shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCWA shall submit an annual report as adopted by the board to the Commission at its regular sessions.

#### **Executive director and staff**

16. The Centre shall have an executive director and such additional staff as are appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The executive director and additional staff shall have the status of ESCWA staff members.

17. The executive director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCWA for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

#### **Technical committee**

18. The Centre shall have a technical committee consisting of experts from members of ESCWA and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the technical committee shall be appointed by the executive director in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ESCWA.

19. The technical committee shall be responsible for advising the executive director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

20. Reports of meetings of the technical committee, and the executive director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the board at its next session.

21. The chairperson at each meeting of the technical committee shall be elected by the majority vote of those members of the technical committee present and voting.

### **Resources of the Centre**

22. The Centre shall be financed by way of voluntary contributions and all members of ESCWA shall be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

23. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities in addition to those received from the host country pursuant to the agreement to be entered into between the Centre and the host country.

24. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

25. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

### **Amendments**

26. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

27. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the board of governors, the pertinent part of the terms of reference and rules of procedure of ESCWA shall apply.

### **Entry into force**

28. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

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