198 (XVII). Establishment of a committee on social development
within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Referring to its resolutions 182 (XVI) on the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Decade for
Western Asia (1994-2003), 186 (XVI) on preparations for the International Year of the Family, 1994,
187 (XVI) on the World Summit for Social Development, 188 (XVI) on preparations for the Fourth
World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, and 189 (XVI) on the
Arab Population Conference, 1993,

Cognizant of the importance of coordinating social development activities at the regional level
and related issues in the areas of human development, population, human settlements and local
communities, the family and the advancement of women in Western Asia, in accordance with the
conditions, cultural realities and social structure of the States of the region and their economic and
social development needs,

Conscious of the importance of increasing the participation of the competent authorities of the
member States of the Commission in the planning and development of the secretariat's programmes
in the ESCWA social field and the definition of priorities for social plans and programmes,

Inspired by the steps taken by other United Nations regional commissions for the establishment
of specialized committees on social development to assume responsibility for coordinating action in
their regions,

Cognizant also of the need to strengthen coordination and integration between the Commission
and Arab regional organizations on the social development policies, programmes and activities of
organizations with a view to satisfying the needs of the member States and developing them for the
purposes of the comprehensive development of the States of the region,

1. Decides to establish a committee on social development, made up of representatives of the
ESCWA member States, to assume the following tasks:

(a) Participation in the establishment and formulation of priorities for the programme of work
and priorities and medium-term plans in social development fields;

(b) Monitoring of the progress achieved in social programmes and activities in the ESCWA
member States and preparation of the necessary recommendations for strengthening the social
development process in those States;

(c) Follow-up of international and regional conferences, participation of member States in them,
and coordination of regional efforts relating to the implementation of resolutions and
recommendations;

(d) Definition of focal points to coordinate various social activities together with the secretariat
and monitor their execution;

2. Decides also that, starting in 1995, the committee on social development shall hold its
meetings every two years;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and
report thereon to the Commission at its eighteenth session.

5th plenary meeting
31 May 1994