

285 (XXV). Integrated social policy

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the 10 commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,¹ in particular, to commitments 1 and 2 concerning enhancing capacities needed to enable people to participate in designing and implementing social and economic policies and programmes, as appropriate; and the reduction of inequalities, increase in opportunities and access to resources and income, and removal of any political, legal, economic and social factors and constraints that foster and sustain inequality,

Guided by the 2005 World Summit Outcome,² and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),³

Keeping in mind General Assembly resolution 62/126 dated 18 December 2007, which reaffirms the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY),¹

Recalling ESCWA resolution 277 (XXIV) dated 11 May 2006, concerning social development policies, which calls upon member countries to adopt an integrated social policy approach,

Considering the evolving youth bulge in the ESCWA region and the consequent need for social and economic integration of youth into society,

Acknowledging the continuous need of member countries to strengthen their capacities to achieve participatory, equitable and sustainable development in the context of globalization and its impact,

Cognizant of the repercussions of continued conflict, occupation and instability on the social and economic development of certain countries in the ESCWA region,

Referring to the recommendation made by the Committee on Social Development at its sixth session, which was held from 5 to 7 March 2007, that greater attention should be paid to and concrete actions initiated towards institutionalizing integrated social development policies,

Welcoming the increased interest expressed through official requests by a growing number of member countries for advisory services in integrated social policy fields and participatory social policy formulation, implementation and monitoring,

1. *Encourages* member countries to initiate national consultative dialogue aimed at adopting an integrated social policy approach;

¹ 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.

² General Assembly resolution 60/1.

³ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

¹ General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

2. *Appeals* to member countries to adopt a participatory approach through encouraging partnership between Government institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of social policies;

3. *Encourages* member countries to adopt and institutionalize integrated social policy and seek harmony and balance between economic priorities and social outcomes;

4. *Also encourages* member countries to formulate national youth policies as part of their integrated social policy and national development plans and programmes;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to build upon the experience of promoting integrated social policy in Bahrain, Egypt, the Sudan and Yemen and intensify its endeavours in advocating and enhancing the capacity of member countries to formulate and adopt an integrated social policy approach through the following actions:

(a) Develop and promote the integrated social policy approach among member country decision makers, putting forward practical suggestions on building the capacities of participating countries to design public policies, including social policy, and implement and follow up programmes and evaluate performance; and making available ESCWA analytical, technical and advisory services in the field of social policy and social development;

(b) Enhance and follow up on participatory consultative processes on social policy dialogue between public offices, civil society and private sector;

(c) Assist member countries in implementing the internationally agreed plans of actions and recommendations, including MDGs and WPAY priority areas;

6. *Requests* the ESCWA Committee on Social Development to monitor progress in implementing this resolution and facilitate information and knowledge-sharing by member countries;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress made in implementing this resolution to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session.

10th plenary meeting
29 May 2008