

288 (XXV). Establishing an Arabic language centre at ESCWA

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/225 of 22 December 2006 on the pattern of conferences in which it requests the Secretary General to continue his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all official languages and to make sure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality;

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 61/266 of 16 May 2007 in which it proclaims 2008 as International Year of Languages,

Recalling further to ESCWA resolution 239 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on consideration of the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a United Nations Arabic language centre,

Bearing in mind the comments and proposals made by the Arab countries concerning Arabic language services in the United Nations and, in particular, the letter dated 31 July 2001 addressed to the Secretary General from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of July 2001,¹ and the proposal of the delegation of Egypt in the annex to the Report of the Committee on Conferences,²

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission: Follow-up to the establishment of an Arabic language centre at ESCWA, which presents the outcome of the consultation carried out with the parties concerned in the Organization and in the Arab region,³

Having considered also the project document prepared by the ESCWA secretariat which outlines the objectives, functions, proposed activities and required resources of the centre,⁴

Stressing the important contribution that ESCWA can make, in view of its location in the Arab region, to strengthening Arabic language services in the United Nations system, making use of available resources,

1. *Cognizant* of the project document presented to Senior Officials' Segment of the twenty-fifth ESCWA session concerning the establishment of an Arabic language centre at ESCWA, to be involved in the coordination of Arabic terminology, organization of training sessions and building of cooperative relationships with translation institutes and universities, in accordance with the details set forth in the project document, in coordination with the Department of General Assembly and Conference Services;

2. *Encourages* continued cooperation with ESCWA by the focal points designated by member countries for this project;

¹ A/56/261.

² A/49/32/Rev.1.

³ E/ESCWA/25/5(Part III).

⁴ E/ESCWA/25/5/CRP.1.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore ways and means to fund the project from extrabudgetary resources;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to follow-up on the implementation of this resolution and submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session.

10th plenary meeting
29 May 2008