

293 (XXVI). Upgrading the ESCWA Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing + 15

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century”,² the Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the fourth World Conference on Women³ and the resolutions of the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years after Beijing: Call for Peace,⁴

Recalling also the Millennium Development Goals,⁵ in particular Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowering women, and its relevance to combating poverty and stimulating sustainable development,

Guided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁶ and reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 62/218 of 12 February 2008 and 60/230 of 23 December 2005 on the Convention and all other relevant international resolutions,

Recalling that the Commission on the Status of Women reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which stressed the importance of the role assumed by the United Nations regional commissions in coordinating between member countries in order to harmonize positions and enable the national machineries for the advancement of women to contribute effectively to accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and all relevant follow-up activities,

Recalling also its resolution 240 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a committee on women and a centre for women at ESCWA, to act as the secretariat of the committee,

Noting the international efforts and the bases established by General Assembly resolution 63/311 of 2 October 2009 on system-wide coherence, which called for strengthening institutional arrangements in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women through all United Nations entities concerned with the advancement of women, bearing in mind the expected impact of the resolution on the role and mandates of the centres and divisions for the advancement of women at the regional commissions,

¹ United Nations, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, Beijing 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

³ United Nations, *Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its Forty-ninth Session*, New York, 28 February - 11 and 22 March 2005 (E/2005/27-E/CN.6/2005/11), chap. 1.

⁴ ESCWA, *Report of the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace*, Beirut, 8-10 July 2004 (E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/6), chap. I.

⁵ See: www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Taking into account the recommendation of the Committee on Women at its third session, held in Abu Dhabi from 14 to 15 March 2007, which requested ESCWA to undertake a central role in increasing cooperation, integration and exchange of expertise among member countries and providing support for building the institutional and human capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women, in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization and the Center for Arab Women Training and Research,

Noting the efforts exerted by ESCWA for the empowerment of women through building the capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women to integrate women into national policies and implement international conventions and other relevant international resolutions, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

1. *Calls upon* member countries to adopt the resolution on the follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing + 15, which was adopted by the Committee on Women at its fourth session, held in Beirut from 21 to 23 October 2009, and the outcome of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;⁷

2. *Requests* member countries to adopt the recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its fourth session on supporting the Centre for Women with additional human resources in order to upgrade it to the level of a division, similar to other divisions of ESCWA, with the aim of increasing its efforts in assisting member countries in the area of empowerment of women;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to complete administrative procedures related to the upgrading of the Centre for Women to the level of a division;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
19 May 2010

⁷ United Nations, *Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its Forty-ninth Session*, New York, 1-12 March 2010 (E/2009/27-E/CN.6/2009/15).