

314 (XXVIII). The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) entitled “The future we want”,¹ especially paragraph 97 that acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and the ability of regional frameworks to complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level, and paragraph 84 on establishing a high-level political forum on sustainable development,

Referring also to General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, especially paragraph 7 (f) in which it decided that the meetings of the forum should benefit from regional preparatory processes, and paragraph 13 in which it acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Recalling its resolution 305 (XXVII) on sustainable development in the Arab region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference,

Recognizing current regional challenges and circumstances and the importance of tackling them through a balanced and integrated developmental approach,

Noting the efforts of Arab countries to achieve sustainable development,

Referring to the Dubai document for the Arab regional implementation of Rio+20² that emphasizes the important role of the regional commissions in the follow-up to the international processes launched by the Rio+20 Conference; and to the outcomes of the Arab High Level Forum on Sustainable Development, organized by the Commission in collaboration with the League of Arab States, the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Government of Jordan,³

Appreciating the efforts of the secretariat of the Commission in following up the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, in undertaking good regional preparations with respect to the international process on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals and in conducting regional preparations for the second session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and striving to include all relevant stakeholders and sectors in developing a clear Arab regional perspective that takes into account the priorities of the Arab region and the challenges it is facing;

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288.

² Issued at the Arab Regional Implementation Meeting for the Twentieth Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-20) – Follow-up from the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Dubai, 29-30 May 2013. Available from <http://css.escwa.org.lb/sdpd/2044/bd5.pdf>.

³ ESCWA. *Report of the Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development*. Amman, 2-4 April 2014, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/WG.1/6/Report.

1. *Encourages* member States to actively participate in intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, and in the upcoming annual sessions of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

2. *Invites* member States to widely participate in the sessions of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and achieve a balanced representation of governmental organizations in the Forum;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to hold sessions of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development periodically, in participation with the League of Arab States and other organizations concerned with sustainable development, in order to prepare for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, review the progress made in achieving the sustainable development goals and contribute to launching regional partnerships to advance sustainable development in the Arab region;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to monitor progress in achieving sustainable development in the Arab region and to prepare reports on the topic on the basis of official data for presentation at the sessions of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present a report, at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission, on the procedures undertaken to implement the present resolution.

8th plenary meeting
18 September 2014