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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Twenty-seventh session  
Beirut, 7-10 May 2012

**REPORT ON THE ESCWA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**

1. At its twenty-third session, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted resolution 254 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 concerning the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre. In this resolution the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a detailed study, financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre, and to submit this study to the ESCWA Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation before submitting a report on the matter to the twenty-fourth session of the Commission.
2. At its twenty-fourth session, ESCWA adopted resolution 274 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 concerning the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre. In this resolution the Commission approved, in principle, the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre as defined in the pre-feasibility study and requested the secretariat to follow up with member countries with respect to hosting the Centre and securing sources of finance. The Commission also requested the secretariat to take the necessary actions aimed at establishing the Centre and to submit a report to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission in this regard.
3. At its twenty-fifth session, ESCWA adopted resolution 284 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 on the establishment of the ESCWA Regional Technology Centre. In this resolution the Commission accepted the outcomes of the preparation stages as presented, and requested the secretariat to finalize the hosting arrangements of the Centre, to coordinate with member countries over the establishment of a board of governors, and to take the necessary measures to draft administrative regulations for approval by the board of governors.
4. At its twenty-sixth session, ESCWA adopted resolution 294 (XXVI) of 19 May 2010 on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre. In this resolution the Commission expressed its appreciation to Jordan for its offer to host the Centre, adopted the statute of the Centre, and requested the Executive Secretary: to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations; to establish the first board of governors by soliciting nominations from member countries; and to report to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of this resolution, including the initial operating phase of the Centre, and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.
5. Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/5 of 20 July 2010, endorsed ESCWA resolution 294 (XXVI) on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre and the statute of the Centre, as set out in the annex.
6. ESCWA and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan signed the Host Country Agreement for the ESCWA Technology Centre on 23 December 2010. The Executive Secretary assigned Mr. Fouad Mrad as the Executive Director of the ESCWA Technology Centre. ESCWA and the hosting

institutions in Jordan implemented the various components of the hosting agreement especially the items related to financial commitments, human resources appointments and facilities allocation.

7. The formal inauguration of the Centre took place in November 2011 under royal patronage represented by the Prime Minister of the Government of Jordan. Some 100 delegates represented various Government stakeholders and international organizations at the event in Amman. Furthermore, seven members of the board of governors attended the opening.

8. The ESCWA Executive Secretary solicited nominations from the member countries for the board of governors of the Centre during 2011. The first board of governors was established from representatives of 10 member countries. One country declined (United Arab Emirates) and three countries have not replied (Kuwait, Egypt and Yemen). The first board meeting took place in the ESCWA Technology Centre in Amman on 15 November 2011, during which the president and vice president of the board were elected according to the Centre statute, set forth in the annex to ESCWA resolution 294 (XXVI).

9. The following activities were accomplished in 2011:

(a) *Expert group meetings*

- (i) Promotion of South-South Cooperation in Technology Transfer (I) (Amman, 20-21 April 2011), in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan;
- (ii) Promotion of South-South Cooperation in Technology Transfer (II) (Beirut, 25-26 October 2011), in cooperation with Federation of Chambers in Lebanon;
- (iii) Entrepreneurship for Scientists and Engineers (Beirut, 13-16 September 2011), in cooperation with the Institute of Physics, London, with co-funding provided by the National Council for Scientific Research, Lebanon, Berytech, and the Association of Lebanese Industrialists;
- (iv) Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer for Universities and Research Institutions (Amman, 16-17 November 2011), in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

(b) *Studies*

- (i) Customizing an innovation intellectual property creative system (currently under review);
- (ii) Developing an economic model for technology deployment in the various productive sectors (construction, water, energy, agriculture, manufacturing, new materials, information and communications technology) (currently under review);
- (iii) Financing technology transfer and innovation advice road map and support guide (ongoing);
- (iv) Website: [www.etc-un.org](http://www.etc-un.org) (beta version available, public version due February 2012).

(c) *Advisory services*

- (i) American University of Beirut: Positioning a New Science Park (June 2011);
- (ii) Jordan Millennium Innovation Solar Cooling: Business Development (October 2011);

- (iii) Ministry of Industry, Lebanon: Industrial Competitiveness Road Map (October 2011; ongoing);
- (iv) Qatar Foundation: Judging a Pan Arab Science Innovation Television Contest (December 2011);
- (v) Royal Scientific Society, Jordan: Matching Opportunity for a Patented Project (December 2011);
- (vi) Intellectual Venture Session in Jordan with El-Hassan Business Park (November 2011);
- (vii) Lebanese University: Innovation Curriculum for Engineers (December 2011; ongoing);
- (viii) Federation of Gulf Cooperation Council Chambers of Commerce: Innovation for Youth (December 2011; ongoing).

(d) *Participation*

- (i) Arab Industry-University Day: National Instruments Arabia (Beirut, May 2011);
- (ii) Industry-University Forum: Association of Industrialists (Beirut, June 2011);
- (iii) Arab Technology Licensing Workshop: Center of Excellence for Applied Research and Training and Licensing Executives Society-Arab Countries (Abu-Dhabi, October 2011);
- (iv) Technology Transfer Round Table: American University of Beirut and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (Beirut, October 2011);
- (v) Licensing Opportunity Forum: Arab Science and Technology Foundation and Licensing Executives Society-Arab Countries (Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, November 2011);
- (vi) World Innovation Summit for Education: Qatar Foundation (Doha, November 2011).

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