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

Technical Committee  
Seventh meeting  
Amman, 18-19 March 2013

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

**PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT  
IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ESCWA  
AT ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

**Summary**

The present document reviews actions carried out by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in order to implement the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session (Beirut, 7-10 May 2012) in relation to its focus areas and to matters of interest to its member countries.

The Technical Committee is invited to take note of the progress made in the implementation of those twelve resolutions and to comment thereon.

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
302	Requests from Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia to become members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Office of the Executive Secretary and all concerned divisions	<i>Requests</i> the secretariat to submit a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council that the requests of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia be approved.	Submitting a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council that the requests of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia be approved.		The secretariat submitted resolution 302 (XXVII) to the Economic and Social Council, including a recommendation that the requests of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia be approved. At its substantive session held in New York in July 2012, the Council approved those requests.
			<i>Requests</i> the secretariat to invite all other Arab countries to become members of ESCWA and to coordinate with the relevant United Nations entities and the League of Arab States the re-designation of ESCWA to become the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Arab Region.	Encouraging all other Arab countries to become members of ESCWA and coordinating with the relevant United Nations entities and the League of Arab States.		The secretariat stepped up efforts to encourage Arab countries which are not members of ESCWA to submit requests for membership, with a view to considering their requests and referring them to the Economic and Social Council for approval. ESCWA seeks to expand its membership to include all Arab countries, and to provide a platform for the harmonization of its objectives, activities and projects with the priorities of the region and action undertaken by the League of Arab States, the United Nations Development Programme-Regional Bureau for Arab States and the Economic Commission for Africa.

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303	Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries	Economic Development and Globalization Division	<p><i>Requests</i> the secretariat to:</p> <p>(a) Form an expert group to discuss macroeconomic policies in the region, facilitate the exchange of good practice between countries, and provide assistance in finding solutions to key macroeconomic issues;</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ESCWA established the post of Senior Economist, to which it assigned one of its senior economic affairs officers;</li> <li>- The secretariat took necessary steps to form an expert group to discuss macroeconomic policies in the region, under the supervision of the Senior Economist;</li> <li>- ESCWA included a number of activities in its programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015, as follows:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organizing expert group meetings, in cooperation and coordination with member countries and regional and international organizations, concerning the following:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress made in economic reform policies;</li> <li>• Establishment of sustainable institutions with the aim of</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>

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						<p>enhancing the role of the private sector under sound economic governance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress made in the implementation of sustainable strategies for the governance of State-owned enterprises;</li> <li>• Implementation of the recommendations of the <i>Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region</i> and the <i>Arab Economic Outlook</i>;</li> <li>• Investment policies in the Arab countries.</li> </ul>
			(b) Provide specialized advisory and training services in the economic field, disseminate information, and coordinate regional multi-stakeholders meetings.			<p>2. Providing advisory and training services in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption and implementation of macroeconomic policies and good governance;</li> </ul>

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of estimated general equilibrium and mathematical macroeconomic models for the various economic and social fields.</li> </ul>
						3. Preparing and producing technical analytical publications and reports on a number of economic and social issues, including the <i>Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region</i> and the <i>Arab Economic Outlook</i> .
			<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report on the progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.	Following up the implementation of this resolution, and submitting a report on the progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.		

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
304	The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development.	Social Development Division	<p><i>Calls upon</i> member countries to:</p> <p>(a) Explore the possibility of expanding contributory social security systems to cover all social groups and establish a social protection floor for all groups that cannot be included quickly into contributory social security schemes;</p> <p>(b) Encourage the representation and participation of youth, women and all social groups in national committees, parliaments and other elected bodies responsible for shaping public policy at local and national levels;</p>		<p>Expanding contributory social security systems to cover all social groups and establishing a social protection floor for all groups that cannot be included quickly into contributory social security schemes;</p> <p>Encouraging the representation and participation of all social groups in national committees, parliaments and other elected bodies responsible for shaping public policy at the local and national levels;</p>	

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			<p>(c) Strengthen participatory dialogue and social partnerships, ensure free and fair elections and implement, monitor and assess the implementation of the international human rights instruments and social development initiatives;</p> <p>(d) Intensify their efforts to mainstream social justice and the concerns of all social groups into sustainable development strategies including economic strategies aimed at reducing poverty, generating employment and addressing environmental issues making efforts to ensure an equitable geographic balance;</p> <p>(e) Enhance transparency and accountability in the provision of social services and adopt a participatory approach</p>		<p>Strengthening participatory dialogue and social partnerships, ensuring free and fair elections and implementing, monitoring and assessing the implementation of international human rights instruments and social development initiatives;</p> <p>Intensifying their efforts to mainstream social justice issues and the concerns of all social groups into sustainable development strategies;</p> <p>Enhancing transparency and accountability in the provision of social services and ensuring the distribution of</p>	

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			that delineates clear distribution of responsibilities between the State, the private sector, and civil society.		responsibilities between the State, the private sector, and civil society.	
			<p><i>Requests</i> the secretariat to:</p> <p>(a) Assist member countries in developing employment strategies that are integrated with economic, education and social protection policies while paying special attention to informal sector workers and youth unemployment;</p> <p>(b) Strengthen the capacity of member countries to mainstream the concerns of older persons, youth and persons with disabilities into national development plans and engage them in the formulation and implementation of those plans;</p>	<p>Assisting member countries in developing employment strategies that are integrated with economic, education and social protection policies while paying special attention to informal sector workers and youth unemployment;</p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of member countries to mainstream the concerns of older persons, youth and persons with disabilities into national development plans and engage them in the formulation and implementation of those plans;</p>		<p><u>ESCWA began to implement the following activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting a study on labour-intensive employment in Yemen, which will include an analysis of the development of the labour-intensive employment programme, an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the system as a social protection tool, and a comparison between labour-intensive employment and capital-intensive employment programmes;</li> <li>- Putting forward a technical concept for a youth employment regional project;</li> <li>- Organizing a regional workshop to build the capacity of officials to</li> </ul>



No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
			<p>(c) Assist member countries in exploring adequate instruments for expanding social security coverage, including insurance and social protection;</p> <p>(d) Support member countries in strengthening participatory social dialogue and building public, private and civic partnerships aimed at enhancing the delivery and accessibility of social services with a focus on accountability and transparency;</p> <p>(e) Strengthen cooperation with member countries to collect data on all social groups, and disseminate good practice and exchange experience in designing policies and programmes aimed at promoting social inclusion and providing equal opportunities in all aspects of life.</p>	<p>Assisting member countries in exploring adequate instruments for expanding social security coverage, including insurance and social protection;</p> <p>Assisting member countries in strengthening participatory social dialogue and building public, private and civic partnerships;</p> <p>Strengthening cooperation with member countries to collect data on all social groups, disseminate good practice and exchange experience in designing social policies and programmes.</p>		<p>respond to youth priorities, and to support member countries in developing national plans of action that are consistent with national priorities and the World Programme of Action for Youth;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing a reference guide on standards for youth-related social policies;</li> <li>- Collecting data on persons with disabilities in order to include those persons among beneficiaries of national development plans; identifying data gaps across the region and cooperating with organizations concerned with persons with disabilities with a view to involving them in the formulation of development plans;</li> <li>- Preparing policy briefs and a document on planning for the ageing population according to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;</li> </ul>

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convening a meeting by the end of 2012 to follow up the outcomes of the national dialogue organized by ESCWA in Oman in April 2012, in order to review the main challenges and obstacles to the formulation of an integrated social protection policy and propose necessary steps for its application;</li> <li>- Preparing background papers on integrated social protection systems in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine and the United Arab Emirates;</li> <li>- Conducting two studies on risk prevention mechanisms: the first one addresses the experience of the region in micro-insurance; the second addresses the expansion of the social security net in Jordan, in addition to mechanisms used to expand pension systems and ensuing benefits and challenges.</li> </ul>

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						<p><u>ESCWA implemented the following activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepared a training manual entitled “Building Partnership Capacity in Democratic Governance”, a reference guide on the foundations of partnership between government agencies and civil society in public policymaking;</li> <li>- Held consultations with the Alliance of Civil Society Organizations in Libya, with a view to examining the role it could play and the technical support it could provide to this country, and strengthening the role of civil society in enacting laws governing their work and devising public policies;</li> <li>- Took part in the preparations for the Arab Forum on the Role of the State, Market and Civil Society in the Provision of Basic Social Services, which will be attended by a number of government and</li> </ul>

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						<p>civil society representatives, to discuss the availability of social services, with a focus on accountability and transparency;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducted studies on the provision of social services by multiple parties, and on the role of traditional Islamic mechanisms, such as <i>zakat</i> and <i>waqf</i>, in the provision of such services.</li> </ul> <p><u>In cooperation with member countries, ESCWA seeks to implement the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collecting data on the components of the wage structure;</li> <li>- Preparing a profile of the wage structure evolution.</li> </ul>
			<p><i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on the progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.</p>	<p>Following up the implementation of this resolution and submitting a report on the progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.</p>		

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
305	Sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference	Sustainable Development and Productivity Division	<p><i>Calls upon</i> member countries to:</p> <p>(a) Adopt the Arab Declaration issued by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment on 19 April 2012 as a reference for the negotiations concerning the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference;</p> <p>(b) Take an active part in the upcoming preparatory meetings to be held in New York from 29 May to 2 June 2012, which will be an important stage in the development of the negotiations, and participate actively in the Rio+20 Conference;</p> <p>(c) Review policies, strategies and national frameworks with a view to making them more responsive to the requirements of sustainable development,</p>		<p>Adopting the Arab Ministerial Declaration on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development issued by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment on 19 April 2012 as a reference document for the negotiations concerning the Rio+20 outcome document;</p> <p>Taking an active part in the preparatory meetings and in the Rio+20 Conference;</p> <p>Reviewing policies, strategies and national frameworks with a view to making them more responsive to the requirements of sustainable development,</p>	<p>The Arab States adopted the Declaration as a reference document during the negotiations over the Rio+20 outcome document;</p> <p>The Arab countries took an active part in the last phase of negotiations prior to the Conference; and ESCWA provided technical support to Arab negotiators at Rio +20; During the Conference, the Arab countries carried out five regional activities and six national activities (organized by Bahrain, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), in addition to six exhibitions (by Bahrain, Iraq, Morocco, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates);</p>

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			<p>promote the implementation of ministerial statements and declarations issued in that regard, and review institutional frameworks with a view to integrating the three economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.</p>		<p>promoting the implementation of ministerial statements and declarations issued in that regard, and reviewing institutional frameworks with a view to integrating the three economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.</p>	<p>The Arab group held daily meetings to remain updated about latest developments in a timely manner;</p> <p>During the Conference, ESCWA organized several activities, in cooperation with a number of regional and international partners, including the League of Arab States, the United Nations Environment Programme and various United Nations departments, agencies and regional commissions, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Arab Forum for Environment and Development and the Arab Network for Environment and Development.</p>
			<p><i>Requests</i> the secretariat to:</p> <p>(a) Prepare a report on the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference that includes proposals regarding matters of concern to the region, and to assist member countries in building their</p>	<p>Preparing a report on the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference that includes proposals regarding matters of concern to the region, and building the capacity of member</p>		<p>The secretariat prepared a report on the follow-up to the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference to be submitted to the Technical Committee at its seventh meeting;</p>

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			<p>capacity to address those outcomes;</p> <p>(b) Continue to coordinate and cooperate with Arab Governments, United Nations organizations, and the League of Arab States and its specialized committees to take measures to achieve sustainable development, and in particular to provide support to the energy, water and environmental sectors on climate change issues and to promote regional institutional frameworks for sustainable development.</p>	<p>countries to address those outcomes;</p> <p>Coordinating and cooperating with Arab Governments, United Nations organizations, and the League of Arab States and its specialized bodies to achieve sustainable development, by providing support to the energy, water and environmental sectors, addressing climate change and promoting regional institutional frameworks for sustainable development.</p>		<p>ESCWA organized a regional workshop on Lessons and Challenges for the Implementation of International Sustainable Development Guidelines in Conflict-Afflicted Countries (11-12 July 2012), in cooperation between its Sustainable Development and Productivity Division and Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues Division, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.</p> <p>The secretariat implemented the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepared a study to assess policies designed to develop green production sectors, and identify requirements for their development and potential opportunities, through the implementation of pilot programmes;</li> <li>- Prepared a study on monitoring the transition to</li> </ul>

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						<p>green economy in the Arab countries, from the perspective of small and medium-sized enterprises;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized the expert group meeting on the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in sustainable development in the Arab region (Kuwait, 6-7 November 2012), in cooperation with the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait.</li> </ul> <p>ESCWA also devised a number of plans to respond to the requirements of sustainable development and follow-up issues raised in the Rio+20 outcome document, through the implementation of the following activities in cooperation with regional partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holding a regional meeting to discuss post-Rio+20, and to undertake preparations for the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2013;</li> </ul>



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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizing an open meeting at ESCWA to harmonize the plans of its divisions with the Rio +20 decisions;</li> <li>- Reporting to the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region by the end of September 2012;</li> <li>- Convening meetings between the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to discuss sustainable development goals by early December 2012;</li> <li>- Taking part in the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment by the end of December 2012 to discuss the period beyond Rio+20.</li> </ul>

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						<p>ESCWA continued to implement activities in support of the energy, water and environment sectors. It organized the Joint Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting between the Committee on Water Resources and the Committee on Energy on the Water and Energy Nexus in the ESCWA Region (Beirut, 27-28 June 2012). The meeting was attended by members of both committees, in addition to representatives from concerned ministries and departments in ESCWA member countries. The outcomes of the meeting will be presented to the Committee on Energy at its ninth session (19-20 December 2012) and the Committee on Water Resources at its tenth session (the first quarter of 2013).</p>
			<p><i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on measures taken to implement this resolution.</p>	<p>Reporting to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on measures taken to implement this resolution.</p>		<p>ESCWA has embarked on the preparation of the report.</p>

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306	Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and sustaining efforts in the Arabic domain names field	Information and Communication Technology Division	<i>Encourages</i> Governments of member countries to actively participate in the process of establishing the Arab Internet Governance Forum in coordination with the League of Arab States.		Completion of the process of establishing the Arab Internet Governance Forum, in coordination between ESCWA and the League of Arab States.	<p>ESCWA called upon the Governments of member countries to become members of the Arab Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group of the Arab Internet Governance Forum; ESCWA took part in its establishment, by setting membership conditions; assessing membership requests and candidacies; and encouraging Government representatives to join.</p> <p>As a follow-up measure, ESCWA has cooperated with the League of Arab States and the secretariat of the Arab Internet Governance Forum, represented by the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority in Egypt and the Kuwait Information Technology Society.</p> <p>ESCWA is examining the possibility of having the second annual meeting of the Forum hosted by one of the interested Arab countries in 2013.</p>

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
			<p><i>Requests</i> the secretariat to:</p> <p>(a) Facilitate the establishment of the Arab Internet Governance Forum in partnership with the League of Arab States and in cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations and the United Nations regional commissions;</p> <p>(b) Support policies and directions aiming at the implementation of the subprogrammes of the Arab Regional Road Map for Internet Governance under the umbrella of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and sustain efforts in the Arabic domain names field.</p>	<p>Facilitating the establishment of the Arab Internet Governance Forum in partnership with the League of Arab States and in cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations and the United Nations regional commissions;</p> <p>Supporting the implementation of the subprogrammes of the Arab Regional Road Map for Internet Governance and efforts for the acquisition of Arabic Top-Level Domains.</p>		<p>ESCWA took necessary measures to complete the establishment of the Arab Internet Governance Forum in partnership with the League of Arab States and in cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations and the United Nations regional commissions, primarily the Economic Commission for Africa. Key measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting up the organizational mechanisms for the Arab Internet Governance Forum and the Arab Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group, in cooperation with the League of Arab States;</li> <li>- Planning for, preparing, and taking part in the first and second meetings of the Advisory Group, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the secretariat of the Forum;</li> </ul>

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning for, preparing, and taking part in the Arab Internet Governance Forum Open Consultations (Cairo, 4 September 2012), in cooperation with the League of Arab States, the Forum's secretariat, and the Kuwait Information Technology Society;</li> <li>- Taking the lead in the preparations for the First Annual Arab Internet Governance Forum (Kuwait, 9-11 October 2012), hosted by the Kuwait Information Technology Society, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Forum's secretariat;</li> <li>- Organizing two workshops during the First Annual Arab Internet Governance Forum to address progress made in the Arabic domain names field and in supporting regional efforts in this regard;</li> </ul>

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						- Identifying necessary measures to facilitate the establishment of the Arab Internet Governance Forum, and contributing to the identification of the key issues and priorities of the region.
			<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution.	Reporting to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution.		
307	Support for the Palestinian people	Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues Division	<i>Calls upon</i> member countries to:  (a) Raise the level of their support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to obtain their full rights and establish an independent Palestinian State in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;		Raising the level of support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to obtain their full rights and establish an independent Palestinian State in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;	

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			<p>(b) Support Palestine's efforts to obtain full membership in international forums, organizations and bodies;</p> <p>(c) Redouble efforts and support to reinforce the resilience of the Palestinian people and ensure their continued existence on their land, and mitigate the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation and its policies.</p>		<p>Supporting Palestine's efforts to obtain full membership in international forums, organizations and bodies;</p> <p>Intensifying efforts and support to reinforce the resilience of the Palestinian people and ensure their continued existence on their land, and mitigating the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation and its policies.</p>	
			<p><i>Requests</i> the secretariat to continue to support the Palestinian people and their institutions in accordance with the priorities and needs defined by the Palestinian people and their institutions, through the following:</p>			<p>The secretariat implemented the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributed to the preparation of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation on the Living Conditions of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian</li> </ul>

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			<p>(a) Raising awareness of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and disseminating information on Israeli violations of those rights;</p> <p>(b) Monitoring and documenting the practices of the Israeli occupation and their negative economic, social and environmental repercussions, and submitting periodic reports on the subject to the ministerial sessions of the Commission;</p> <p>(c) Increasing cooperation between ESCWA and regional and international bodies, including the League of Arab States and the United Nations organizations involved in assisting and supporting the Palestinian people, to build and reinforce Palestinian institutions;</p>	<p>Raising awareness about the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and disseminating information on the Israeli violations of those rights;</p> <p>Documenting the practices of the Israeli occupation and their negative repercussions, and submitting periodic reports on the subject to the ministerial sessions of the Commission;</p> <p>Increasing cooperation between ESCWA and regional and international bodies in building and reinforcing Palestinian institutions;</p>		<p>Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Secretary-General transmitted the report to the Economic and Social Council in July 2012 and to the General Assembly in October 2012;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepared a booklet on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation, to be distributed during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly;</li> <li>- Held consultations with the United Nations Development Programme in Gaza, with a view to conducting a joint study on public sector employees and their integration options (July - September 2012);</li> <li>- Worked on strengthening partnership with the League of Arab States in order to further support the Palestinian people, through</li> </ul>



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			<p>(d) Supporting the efforts of Palestine to obtain full membership in international forums, organizations and bodies;</p> <p>(e) Developing and implementing initiatives and projects to support the Palestinian people and mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on living conditions;</p> <p>(f) Mobilizing resources and building regional and international partnerships for the implementation of projects, programmes and initiatives to support the Palestinian people in their struggle for their full rights;</p>	<p>Supporting the efforts of Palestine to obtain full membership in international forums, organizations and bodies;</p> <p>Implementing initiatives and projects to support the Palestinian people and mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on living conditions;</p> <p>Mobilizing resources and building regional and international partnerships for the implementation of projects, programmes and initiatives in support of the Palestinian people;</p>		<p>the implementation of the following joint activities:</p> <p>(a) organization of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People; (b) coordination and exchange of information for monitoring and documenting the practices of the Israeli occupation and their repercussions on the Palestinian people (from June 2012 to the present);</p> <p>- Held consultations with the network of Palestinian non-governmental organizations and the Palestinian Authority to organize a training course for researchers on scientific research skills in the Gaza Strip.</p>
			<p><i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to follow up the implementation of this resolution and report on progress made in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.</p>	<p>Following up the implementation of this resolution and reporting on progress made in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.</p>		

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308	The regional dimension of development	Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division and the Office of the Executive Secretary	<i>Welcomes</i> the recommendations of the independent study on the regional dimension of development and the United Nations system, and invites the United Nations bodies working at the global and regional levels to support their implementation.	Coordinating and cooperating with the United Nations bodies working at the global and regional levels to support the implementation of the recommendations of the independent study.		<p>ESCWA seeks, in close coordination with the United Nations Development Programme-Regional Bureau for Arab States, to ensure that the work of the United Nations Development Group and that of the Regional Coordination Mechanism complement each other.</p> <p>ESCWA identified a set of activities to be carried out jointly with the United Nations Development Programme-Regional Bureau for Arab States.</p> <p>ESCWA maintains intensive communication with a group of United Nations bodies with a view to involving them in the work of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, and promoting regional approaches to development issues. Those bodies include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The World Trade Centre in Geneva (on regional integration in trade);</li> </ul>

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (on the mobilization of regional efforts to participate in the preparations for the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council).</li> </ul>
			<p><i>Requests</i> the secretariat, in consultation with regional and subregional organizations and with the Regional Coordination Mechanism where appropriate, to ensure implementation of those recommendations, so that the engagement of the United Nations system with regional and subregional organizations is coherent and coordinated, contributes to the realization of strategic goals and fits into a larger comprehensive approach in support of regional integration efforts.</p>	<p>Holding consultations with regional and subregional organizations, and with the Regional Coordination Mechanism and coordinating the implementation of those recommendations in a way that contributes to the realization of strategic goals within a comprehensive approach in support of regional integration.</p>		<p>ESCWA continues to work closely with the League of Arab States in order to develop a new cooperation framework, support decision-making structures in the League of Arab States and enhance ties with its ministerial councils.</p> <p>ESCWA seeks to enhance cooperation with international and regional organizations concerned with the region. For instance, it invited the International Food Policy Research Institute and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas to join the Working Group on Food Security of the Regional Coordination Mechanism.</p>

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			<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the implementation of this resolution.	Submitting a report on the implementation of this resolution to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.		
309	Adoption of the amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013	Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division	<i>Requests</i> the secretariat to follow up the implementation of the programme of work and, if necessary, include activities to address any challenge that emerges in the ESCWA region.	Implementing the programme of work and, if necessary, including activities to address any challenge that emerges in the ESCWA region.		Member countries adopted the proposed amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013.
			<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to convey to member countries information on further amendments that may be introduced to the programme of work, in the report on progress made in implementing the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 that will be distributed to member countries.	Conveying to member countries information on further amendments that may be introduced to the programme of work, in the report on progress made in implementing the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 that will be distributed to member countries.		No further amendments were introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013, which was adopted by member countries.

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
310	Adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015	Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division	<i>Requests</i> the secretariat to distribute the strategic framework in the form adopted by member countries.	Distributing the strategic framework in the form adopted by member countries.		ESCWA distributed the strategic framework in the form adopted by member countries.
			<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress made in implementing the strategic framework as well as the amendments introduced thereto.	Submitting a report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress made in implementing the strategic framework as well as the amendments introduced thereto.		
311	Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Office of the Executive Secretary and the concerned divisions	<i>Calls upon</i> member countries to cooperate with ESCWA in initiating and implementing measures to ensure that those recommendations are put into effect.		Cooperating with ESCWA in implementing measures to ensure that those recommendations are put into effect.	
312	Evaluation of the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division and the Office of the Executive Secretary	<i>Endorses</i> the recommendations contained in the report on the evaluation of the work of the Commission and requests that they be implemented.	Implementing the recommendations contained in the report on the evaluation of the work of the Commission.		

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
			<p><i>Calls upon</i> the Executive Secretary to continue efforts to improve the performance of the secretariat through, inter alia, evaluation of the work of the secretariat and review of its internal structure to achieve the highest standards of effectiveness and efficiency.</p>	<p>Continuing efforts to improve the performance of the secretariat through, inter alia, evaluation of the work of the secretariat and review of its internal structure to achieve the highest standards of effectiveness and efficiency.</p>		<p>ESCWA seeks to improve the performance of the secretariat, by addressing functional and institutional gaps, and expanding the scope of internal audits to cover the performance of all its subprogrammes. Such internal audits aim to disseminate a culture of innovation, adapt to current transformations in the region, and take advantage of past experience with a view to improving subprogramme performance. Therefore, the secretariat continues to improve audits and allocate the necessary resources to improve budget preparation.</p> <p>The evaluation plan adopted by ESCWA covers subprogramme performance, Development Account projects, current working procedures, and the intergovernmental meetings mechanism.</p> <p>In that context, ESCWA reviewed the internal structure of the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division</p>

No.	Title of the resolution	Division(s) concerned	Operative paragraphs	Action required by ESCWA	Action required by member countries	Action taken
						<p>(PPTCD) to ensure greater efficiency and harmony.</p> <p>ESCWA is currently evaluating the performance of two subprogrammes, namely subprogramme 2 on social development and subprogramme 4 on information and communication technology for regional integration.</p> <p>Furthermore, it amended its method of assessment of its expert group meetings.</p>
			<p><i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress made in implementing this resolution.</p>	<p>Reporting to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the progress made in implementing this resolution.</p>		

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