

243 (XXII). ADOPTION OF THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL  
RAILWAYS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Conscious* of the importance of facilitating transport and trade in order to achieve Arab regional integration and of working to eliminate the barriers to the movement of interregional trade,

*Recalling* the Declaration on the adoption and development of an Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, that was made by the ESCWA Committee on Transport at its first session, of which cognizance was taken in resolution 212 (XX) dated 27 May 1999, on the basis that such a system was the appropriate mechanism for integrating the various systems of transport and providing links between the countries of the region and neighbouring countries,

*Recalling also* that the third session of the Committee on Transport, held from 5 to 7 March 2002, adopted the draft agreement on international railways in the Arab Mashreq, and that the fourth session of that Committee, held from 14 to 16 January 2003, adopted the revised text of the agreement

*Cognizant* of the stages through which the agreement has passed in the course of preparation, before appearing in its current form, which takes into consideration the observations of member countries,<sup>7</sup>

1. *Adopts* the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq;
2. *Urges* member countries to make the necessary arrangements for signing and ratifying the Agreement, in order that it may enter into force as soon as possible.

6<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
17 April 2003

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<sup>7</sup> The *Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq* (E/ESCWA/TRANS/2002/1/Rev.2), which was adopted and opened for signature on 14 April 2003.