

**246 (XXII). THE FORMULATION OF A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION  
FOR AN INFORMATION SOCIETY**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Cognizant* of United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/183 dated 21 December 2001, concerning the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in two phases, the first in Geneva in December 2003 and the second in Tunis in 2005,

*Aware* of the great importance of information and communication technologies as effective tools for accelerating economic and social development and establishing the information society,

*Guided by* the outcomes of the preparatory conferences for the Summit and, in particular, the draft declaration of principles and plan of action that will be submitted for adoption to the World Summit in December 2003,

*Commending* the Western Asia Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society, which was held in Beirut from 4 to 6 February 2003, and the Declaration of Principles issued by that Conference,

*Taking into consideration* the role that ESCWA expects to play in the consultations undertaken with the regional and international organizations working in Arab countries with a view to formulating a single regional plan of action for the Arab region, given that the countries of the region are culturally and historically related,

1. *Calls upon* the secretariat to propose a regional plan of action for building the information society that respects the particularities and linguistic and cultural priorities of the region, and to coordinate in that regard with the League of Arab States;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to make the necessary amendments to the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003, in conformity with the outcomes of the preparatory conferences and the Western Asia Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to review the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2004-2005 in order to ensure that it contains activities relating to that regional plan;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to continue the effective participation in the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society and, accordingly, to make the requisite amendments to the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003.

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