

297 (XXVI). Arab MDG monitor for societal progress

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting with deep concern that the lack of requisite data and information in some member countries on development indicators, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the goals of promoting the gender equality and empowering women, and the situation of youth, and the impact of that lack on official statistics, thereby hindering the planning and implementation of evidence-based policies, and undermining the ability of countries to monitor their national development indicators,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of national statistical capacity in producing reliable and timely indicators of societal progress,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 of 24 July 2006, which expressed deep concern for the lack of adequate data to assess national trends in the context of monitoring progress towards the realization of all internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs, and the lack of capacity at the national level to use existing data to inform and monitor the implementation of national development policies and strategies,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/27 of 28 July 2000, in which the Council reaffirmed the importance of national efforts to build statistical capacity in all countries, including through statistical training, and of effective international support in that regard for developing countries and countries emerging from conflict,

Affirming the importance of intensifying cooperation between the countries of the region in order to realize MDGs by 2015,

Commending the efforts exerted by the secretariat in following up the realization of MDGs, in particular reports on the progress made towards realizing MDGs in the ESCWA region,

1. *Calls upon* all member countries to enhance coordination between national statistical offices and implement national strategies for statistical development, with a view to improving the coverage and transparency of indicators and methods of reporting on them and disseminating effective methods of monitoring nationally and internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs, by:

(a) Defining priorities and developing a strategy to provide data for all indicators;

(b) Identifying ways, including through capacity-building to improve monitoring and reporting on development indicators, including indicators relating to MDGs;

(c) Ensuring that the supporting metadata comply with standard guidelines;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to develop an MDG monitor for societal progress towards realization of MDGs, including gender equality and youth empowerment by:

(a) Supporting member countries, according to their needs and requirements, in realizing MDGs through capacity-building in compiling and disseminating statistics, integration of MDGs into development plans, monitoring the progress made and measuring its impact, and preparing national and regional reports in coordination with relevant parties;

(b) Assessing the quality of national data and development indicators, including MDGs, and providing adequate resources to improve data quality and convergence with international standards.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on improving gender and youth statistics at the regional level, and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.

7th plenary meeting
19 May 2010