

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/9

Establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a committee on women

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the importance of action relating to the empowerment of women and the improvement of their status, and of making available equal opportunities for their empowerment and increased participation at all levels of the development process,

Aware also of the importance of coordination with regard to the empowerment of women and of respect for the particularities, customs and culture of each Arab country in order to harmonize Arab positions at global conferences and in the follow-up to global conferences organized by the United Nations, with a view to incorporating the regional dimension in international documents,

Affirming the importance of the involvement of the interested parties in member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the planning, development and follow-up to implementation of secretariat programmes relating to the empowerment of women and of mainstreaming the gender perspective in activities and policies,

Guided by the action taken by the other United Nations regional commissions that have established special committees on women,

Taking into consideration the recommendation made by the Committee on Social Development¹ of the Commission at its fourth session, held in Beirut from 3 to 5 July 2002, concerning the establishment within the Commission of a committee on women,

1. *Decides* to establish within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia a committee on women comprising representatives of member countries who are specialists in women's issues, to be responsible for the following:

(a) Identifying the women-related priorities of the programmes of work and medium-term plans of the Commission;

(b) Monitoring developments with respect to the status of women and evaluating indicators and statistics with a view to formulating an integrated policy for the advancement and empowerment of women;

(c) Monitoring the progress made in women-related activities of the Commission secretariat;

(d) Following up global and regional conferences and the participation of member countries therein and coordinating the endeavours of member countries and regional organizations with regard to implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at such conferences;

¹ See *Report on the Fourth Session of the Committee on Social Development* (E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/9).

(e) Coordinating action at the regional level towards the adoption of unified positions on the issue at international gatherings and in follow-up to the performance by member countries of the undertakings to which they made a commitment in human rights instruments concerning women;

(f) Preparing and implementing field projects for the advancement and empowerment of women in member countries of the Commission and finding the necessary funding for such projects;

(g) According the requisite importance to women in the regions, in which wars and conflicts are prevalent, and in particular to Palestinian women, who are suffering in the conditions in which the Palestinian people is living under continuing Israeli occupation;

2. *Also decides* that the Committee on Women shall hold its sessions biennially, with effect from 2004, and that an inaugural session should be held before the end of 2003;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to establish a women's centre within the secretariat of the Commission with responsibility for acting as the secretariat of the Committee on Women;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on the matter to the Commission at its twenty-third session.

*40th plenary meeting
18 July 2003*