

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/8

Consideration of the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a United Nations Arabic language centre

The Economic and Social Council,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999 concerning the pattern of conferences,

Referring also to the requests and suggestions put forward to the Secretariat of the United Nations by the delegations of Arab States Members of the United Nations concerning Arabic language services and, in particular, to the proposal of the delegation of Egypt that is set forth in annex II to the Report of the Committee on Conferences¹ and the letter dated 31 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, written in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of July 2001, concerning multilingualism,²

Recognizing the importance of the coordinating role that could be played by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, given that it is located in the Arab region, with respect to strengthening Arabic language services in the United Nations system in close cooperation with United Nations Headquarters Arabic translation and editorial services and benefiting from the high level of expertise in the region,

1. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to consider the establishment of a United Nations Arabic language centre, based at the Commission, of which the objective, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the United Nations, and taking into consideration the requisite technical, financial and administrative needs, shall be to raise the technical and linguistic level of the Arabic terminology used in United Nations documents, in order to facilitate the use of the Arabic language in such documents;

2. *Also calls upon* the secretariat of the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the United Nations, to undertake the establishment of a committee responsible for determining the competencies of the aforementioned centre;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to follow up implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on the progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-third session.

*40th plenary meeting
18 July 2003*

¹ A/49/32/Rev.1.

² A/56/261.