



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee for Programme and Coordination

### Fifty-second session

4-29 June 2012

Agenda item 7

### Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

## Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

### Addendum

## Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (b))

### Programme 19

### Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 19th meeting, on 15 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 19)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

### Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme and the work carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).
4. Concerns were expressed about the new approach taken to preparing the strategic framework, specifically with regard to the consultation process undertaken outside of the membership of the Commission. It was also expressed that, in developing the strategic framework, caution should be taken not to deviate from the established procedures. It was noted that the strategic framework for the programme needed clarity and balance, in particular with the introduction of new directions.
5. Clarification was sought on the organizational designation of the ESCWA Centre for Women pursuant to ESCWA resolution 293 (XXVI) entitled "Upgrading



the ESCWA Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15”.

6. It was noted that the strategy of subprogramme 6, Advancement of women, required a more positive tone and that a more balanced approach was necessary.

7. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of harmonization in the structure and presentation of the strategic frameworks for the regional commissions, and clarification was sought on the existing coordination mechanisms among them.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in preparing future strategic frameworks of the programmes, consultations outside of the Commission take fully into account the opinions and guidelines of the Member States of the region.**

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015.**

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