



American Model United Nations
**Economic and Social Commission for Western
Asia**

ESCWA/I/3

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: The Governance Deficit and Conflict Relapse in the ESCWA Region

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

1 *Recognizing* the negative consequences of systemic political corruption,

2 *Drawing attention to* the importance of fighting corruption in building public trust,

3 *Noting with concern* the decades of conflict and its destabilizing effect on the Member States of the Economic
4 and Social Commission for Western Asia,

5 *Also recognizing* the strong connections between regional employment and sustainable economic growth and
6 the prevention of conflict relapse,

7 *Acknowledging* the work of the Arab Administration Reform and Development Organization (ARADO)
8 within the Arab League towards combating the problems associated with government deficit and conflict relapse,

9 *Reaffirming* the agreements made at the first annual Arab Conference on Administrative Reform and De-
10 velopment,

11 *Emphasizing* the connection between governance deficit and conflict relapse,

12 *Deeply concerned* about dependence on a small number of natural resources, especially petroleum-based
13 products, and the vulnerability that has been so clearly displayed by the recent fluctuations in oil prices,

14 *Encouraging* a comprehensive, regional approach to the diversification of the economies of each Member
15 State,

16 *Reminding* each State that primary education is a universal human right and should be prioritized in our
17 region,

18 *Also acknowledging* the importance of universal education comprised of basic literacy, mathematics and
19 vocational training for the welfare of our citizens and the overall economic and political stability of the region,

20 *Stressing* every Member State's national sovereignty,

21 1. *Encourages* the development of education in the region through:

22 (a) Physical development of primary, secondary, vocational and higher educational institutions, with
23 an emphasis on primary education where it does not exist;

24 (b) A focus on establishing national programs which specifically target illiteracy;

25 (c) Structural development of government systems through which States provide access (and knowl-
26 edge to all citizens of such access) to technology which will allow the citizens of our region to access and compete in
27 the global job market;

28 (d) Vocational training and re-education programs for adults who need increased human capital in
29 order to enter new markets, diversifying Member States' economies;

30 2. *Stresses* the importance of entrepreneurship in our attempt to modernize our region and enter new
31 markets, and suggests:

32 (a) Accelerator programs intended to provide personal support, lend financial assistance, and offer
33 networking opportunities to young entrepreneurs be made widely accessible to citizens of all backgrounds across each
34 State, with an emphasis on the establishment of mentorship programs which allow citizens to be quickly connected
35 to existing support structures;

36 (b) Microfinance loans for small business development, utilizing existing funding organizations such
37 as ARADO, Kiva, Grameen Bank, etc.;

38 (c) The establishment of meaningful connections between local investors and local startups;

39 3. *Recommends* international cooperation on encouraging transparency within regional hydrocarbon indus-
40 tries because:

41 (a) Transparency in negotiations with domestic and foreign hydrocarbon companies can help prevent
42 corruption;

43 (b) Funds freed by decreased corruption in the hydrocarbon industry can be allocated to benefit
44 the citizens of Member States, especially through the development of education and entrepreneurship programs
45 mentioned above;

46 4. *Encourages* the establishment of "Wakf-el-Fassad" an investigative and judicial body at local, state and
47 federal levels in order to investigate and prosecute issues of corruption in the public and private sectors that for
48 example could have a:

49 (a) Judicial/Investigative body, as appointed through the State government, which will use infor-
50 mation sent through the local bodies to judge and prosecute investigated issues of corruption;

51 (b) a legislative body comprised solely of multiple local offices where corruption complaints can be
52 made and that will compile various reports to be sent to the State government;

53 5. *Also recommends* that the Economic and Social Council encourage Member States of the Economic and
54 Social Council for Western Asia meet for a summit in six months time to discuss issues of corruption within our
55 region including:

56 (a) discussion of the creation of a regional body for governments to collaborate on issues regarding
57 corruption and to assist Member States with their own corruption based investigations;

58 (b) discussion of guidelines to help States deliberate upon their own policies regarding corruption;

59 6. *Stresses* that Member States with proper infrastructure should collaborate on using technological and
60 analytical advancements to deter supply-side systemic corruption, especially at higher levels;

61 7. *Asks* States to investigate their own various government agencies in an attempt to reduce corruption in
62 all interconnected sectors and levels of government;

63 8. *Requests* States to evaluate their legal system in order to analyze laws and regulations that may endorse
64 or support corruption;

65 9. *Suggests* Member States adopt regional participation in a civil servant exchange program to facilitate the
66 improvement of bureaucratic capacity throughout the region:

67 (a) The civil servant exchange is a voluntary program determined on a State-by-State basis;

68 (b) Involves the voluntary swapping of civil servants between subscribing States in the hopes that the
69 individual servants will take their experience back to their home State and help improve the institutional operations
70 of their domestic civil service;

71 10. *Promotes* transparency and accountability in the operation of State governments through programs in
72 which:

73 (a) Citizens are engaged in the process of governance;

74 (b) Governments would have the right to determine what is considered sensitive information, but
75 otherwise must provide the requested information under the stipulations outlined in the individual laws;

76 11. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council reference existing methodology in measuring citizens'
77 trust in government and adapt such methodologies to create a new formula to measure citizen trust in governments
78 in Western Asia and that the council report back to Member States with their findings.

Passed, Yes: 15 / No: 0 / Abstain: 0