

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

SUBSTANTIVE REPORT

**EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON COORDINATION OF
TECHNOLOGY POLICIES TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY
AND COMPETITIVENESS WITHIN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT:
CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES
FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

Beirut, 1-3 November 2000



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Preface

This report summarizes the proceedings of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Expert Group Meeting on Coordination of Technology Policies to Increase Productivity and Competitiveness within the Global Context: Capacity- Building Initiatives for the Twenty-first Century. The Meeting was organized by the Technology Section of the Sectoral Issues and Policies Division of ESCWA in implementation of its programmed activity 4R22fD309 for the biennium 2000-2001.

This Expert Group Meeting constituted a platform for discussing an ESCWA initiative aimed at promoting capacity-building schemes, including technology parks, technology incubators and high-technology clusters in the member countries. Following extensive discussion, this initiative was endorsed by experts attending the meeting and the ESCWA secretariat was requested to coordinate activities with concerned parties in the national, regional and international arena with a view to its implementation. A set of notes outlining the tasks for ESCWA as well as those parties is presented herein.

As indicated in this report, the Meeting was attended by representatives of science and technology institutions and concerned decision makers, as well as representatives of private enterprises involved in the application and dissemination of new technologies in the ESCWA member countries.