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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Committee on Women  
Ninth session  
Amman, 26-27 November 2019



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

**Follow-up issues**

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work, recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eighth session and the Beirut Declaration on Building Effective Institutions to Empower Women in the Arab Region.
5. Technical cooperation activities.
6. National action to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eighth session.

**Implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action  
25 years after their adoption**

7. Review and regional assessment of the implementation by Arab countries of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after their adoption.
8. Action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women in national institutions.
9. Combating domestic violence: protection orders and shelters in the Arab region.
10. Women in the judiciary in the Arab region: removing barriers, increasing numbers.
11. Cultivating resilient institutions in the Arab region: national women's machineries in challenging times.
12. Social and economic situation of Palestinian women and girls.

## **Gender equality and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

13. Supporting the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals.
14. Round-table discussion: technology as a lever for gender equality in the Arab region.
15. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Women.
16. Other matters.
17. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its ninth session.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

1. Opening of the session

The ninth session of the Committee on Women will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 26 November 2019. The representative of the State of Palestine, as the chair of the eighth session of the Committee, will give a welcome statement. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat will give the opening speech.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: "Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers"\*. In accordance with this rule, Qatar will assume the presidency of the ninth session of the Committee on Women, as the successor to the State of Palestine which chaired the eighth session from its onset on 4 October 2017 until the beginning of the ninth session on 26 November 2019. The Committee shall then elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Committee shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will adopt the provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work presented in documents E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/L.1 and E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/L.2, as submitted or following amendments.

### **Follow-up issues**

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work, recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eighth session and the Beirut Declaration on Building Effective Institutions to Empower Women in the Arab Region (E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/3)

The Committee will review the activities undertaken by ESCWA under its programme of work in the field of advancement of women for the biennium 2018-2019, and pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its eighth session and to the Beirut Declaration on Building Effective Institutions to Empower Women in the Arab region, which was issued during the same session.

The Committee is invited to take note of the progress made, and to express its views and make recommendations thereon.

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\* ESCWA member States, in the Arabic alphabetical order, are: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

5. Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/4)

The Committee will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken at the request of member States in support of their efforts to achieve gender justice. These activities include advisory services, field projects and capacity-building activities.

Representatives of member States are invited to discuss the needs and priorities of their countries in the area of technical cooperation for the period ahead.

6. National action to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eighth session (E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/CRP.1 and country presentations)

Representatives of member States will give presentations on national action taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its eighth session and the Beirut Declaration on Building Effective Institutions to Empower Women in the Arab Region. They are invited to highlight the requirements for the implementation of the above, in order for ESCWA to prioritize its work in this respect for the period ahead.

Representatives of ESCWA member States wishing to give a presentation or make an intervention are invited to submit a request in advance to the Committee Bureau.

**Implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform  
for Action 25 years after their adoption**

7. Review and regional assessment of the implementation by Arab countries of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after their adoption (E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/5)

The Committee will take note of the regional review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab countries 25 years after their adoption. The review process is based on a participatory programme of work that includes the implementation of regional activities and events, and the provision of technical support to member States in the preparation of national reports and in conducting periodic reviews of progress. The Committee will review the outcome of the consolidated Arab report on this matter and national achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It will also review the mechanisms for enhancing monitoring of and follow-up on gender equality issues, mainly the role of national women's machineries in monitoring the implementation of international instruments such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security, as well as their role in the preparation of the required periodic reports.

The Committee is invited to discuss the outcome of the regional review and the consolidated report, and to express its views on how to continue the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region.

8. Action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women in national institutions (E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/6)

The Committee will review the plan of action devised by the secretariat under the project for mainstreaming gender equality in public institutions in the Arab region, based on the successful experience of ESCWA in implementing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP). This plan aims to build the capacity of national institutions to mainstream gender in their work, structure and achievements.

The Committee is invited to express its views on how to build on this plan and implement it in all national institutions.

9. Combating domestic violence: protection orders and shelters in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/7)

The Committee will examine the legal challenges facing the provision of services to victims of violence, and the complexities of personal status laws, penal laws and protection orders in the Arab States. It will also discuss the importance of effective use of resources and services as a key element in addressing domestic violence.

The Committee is invited to express its views on how to improve the effectiveness of services provided to survivors of violence and bring them into line with international frameworks, and on how to increase survivors' access to protection.

10. Women in the judiciary in the Arab region: removing barriers, increasing numbers  
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/8)

The Committee will examine the obstacles to women's participation in the judiciary in the Arab region, and will focus on efficient measures which were undertaken by countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, the Sudan and Tunisia, and which have led to the removal of several barriers.

The Committee is invited to express its views on ways to increase the participation of women in the judiciary and on how to build on successful stories in the region.

11. Cultivating resilient institutions in the Arab region: national women's machineries in challenging times  
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/9)

The Committee will discuss the resilience of the national women's machineries under conflict and occupation, and during transitions. It will review regional success stories from Jordan, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and the Yemen, and several internal and external factors that contribute to enhancing the resilience of such machineries.

The Committee is invited to express its views on how to enhance the resilience of national women's machineries and on cooperation for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

12. Social and economic situation of Palestinian women and girls  
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/10)

The Committee will review a summary of the findings of a periodic report prepared by the ESCWA secretariat on the social and economic situation of Palestinian women and the impact of occupation on their right to access basic services, economic resources and social justice, and on their participation in the development process. This edition of the report covers the period from July 2016 to June 2018.

The Committee is invited to take note of the summary and make comments thereon.

### **Gender equality and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

13. Supporting the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals  
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/11)

The Committee will review the activities undertaken in support of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, established pursuant to a recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its seventh session (Muscat, 20-21 January 2016). The Subcommittee's aim is to facilitate capacity-building and knowledge generation, and to monitor the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, in the Arab region.

The Committee is invited to express its views and make interventions in relation to national action undertaken for the implementation of SDG 5 and challenges facing its implementation.

14. Round-table discussion: technology as a lever for gender equality in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/CRP.2)

The Committee will discuss the use of technology as a lever to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. It will consider ways to build upon good practices drawn from international experiences and adapt them to the regional context, taking existing challenges into consideration. The discussion will be based on a background paper prepared by the ESCWA secretariat.

15. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Women

The Committee shall agree on the date and venue of its tenth session.

16. Other matters.

This item shall cover any other matters that the Committee may wish to raise and discuss.

17. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its ninth session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations for discussion and adoption.

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