Information note

1. Background information

The Committee on Social Development was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 198 (XVII) of 31 May 1994, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/27 of 26 July 1994. The aim of establishing this Committee was to participate in identifying and formulating priorities for programmes of work and activities in the social development field; monitoring progress in social programmes and activities in ESCWA member States; preparing recommendations to promote social development in the region; following up on international and regional conferences and coordinating regional efforts to implement their decisions and recommendations; and identifying points of contact with the ESCWA secretariat to coordinate and follow up on various social activities.

The Committee on Social Development holds its sessions biennially. It held its twelfth session in Beirut, on 8 and 9 October 2019.

2. Date and venue

In view of the current health crisis, the thirteenth session of the Committee on Social Development will be held online on 22 and 23 September 2021, starting at 10 a.m. and using an electronic platform to be determined later. Participants will be provided with the link to the meeting by e-mail.

3. Participants

Representatives of ESCWA member States have been invited to participate in the session. Representatives of regional and international organizations involved in social development work were also invited to participate as observers.

4. Organization of work and adoption of recommendations

In accordance with the session’s online environment, the ESCWA secretariat will provide the necessary support to facilitate proceedings and allow sufficient time for discussions. It will prepare draft recommendations, emanating from the documents presented, and forward them in advance to the heads of participating delegations for their review and written comments. The secretariat will add to the draft recommendations emanating from the discussions and will present them at the closing meeting for adoption. The secretariat hopes that the preparatory work will facilitate the adoption of the recommendations and compensate for the extended discussions enabled by in-person meetings.
5. **Languages of the session**

Session proceedings and discussions will be in Arabic. English may be used to present some documents, if necessary. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

6. **Time zone**

Beirut time is three hours ahead of G.M.T

7. **Correspondence**

All session-related correspondence should be sent to:

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