

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

Executive Committee  
Eighth meeting  
Amman, 23-24 December 2021



Item 2 of the provisional agenda

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  - (d) Report of the Statistical Committee on its fourteenth session;
  - (e) Report of the Committee on Technology for Development on its third session;
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16. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its eighth meeting.

### **Annotations**

1. Opening of the meeting

The eighth meeting of the Executive Committee will open in Amman at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 23 December 2021.

2. 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 Commission 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 annotations for this session in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/L.1 and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/L.2 or as amended.

### **Follow-up issues**

3. Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its seventh meeting (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/3)

The Committee will review action undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat pursuant to the recommendations made at its seventh meeting, which was held online on 21 December 2021.

The Committee is invited to take note of the implemented activities, provide comments and review actions taken at the national level in that regard.

4. Technical cooperation activities in 2021 (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/4)

The Committee will review technical cooperation activities undertaken by ESCWA in 2021 to build member States' capacity through training activities, advisory services and technical advice on public policies, strategies and action plans.

The Committee is invited to take note of progress made in technical cooperation activities and to suggest ways to enhance them.

5. Progress in administrative reforms in ESCWA (presentation to the secretariat)

The Committee will review the progress of the administrative reforms undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat since 2019. The Committee reviewed their general orientation in June 2019, and the consequent changes in the structure of the secretariat and the ESCWA programme plan in December 2020. At its eighth meeting, the Committee will review the most prominent results of the administrative reforms as they relate to ESCWA's work and outputs.

The Committee is invited to take note of progress made in administrative reforms at ESCWA and suggest ways to enhance it.

**Overview of ESCWA policy tools and e-portals**

6. ESCWA toolkit to support countries in designing integrated social policies  
(E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/5-E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/8/Rev.2)

The Committee will consider the policy tools designed by ESCWA to support the development of social policies that link the social and economic visions of Arab countries to their means of implementation, based on a comprehensive approach to policy formulation that ensures integration. These policy tools cover several areas, including measuring multidimensional poverty, identifying new labour market needs, analysing policies from a social justice perspective and assessing institutions from a gender equality perspective.

The Committee is invited to take note of these tools, and make suggestions and recommendations regarding their development.

7. Arab SDG Gateway (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/6)

The Committee will review the Arab SDG Gateway, which ESCWA has been developing for two years. The Committee will focus on the statistical and financial components of the portal, the first of which contains statistical tools developed by ESCWA to support member States in producing high-quality data and enhancing their ability to monitor and report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the Arab SDG Monitor, the SDG Data Portal, the E-Handbook on SDG Metadata and the "Leave no one behind" portal.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the Arab SDG Gateway and make comments for its further development.

8. Arab Trade Gateway (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/7)

The Committee will review the Arab Trade Gateway, a dynamic and up-to-date data platform and one-stop-shop for trade operators and policymakers for all trade-related data for knowledge- and data-based decision making.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the Arab Trade Gateway and make comments for its further development.

### **Regional and global issues**

9. Activities of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/8)

The Committee will review the activities of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies over the past two years, after member States welcomed its establishment at ESCWA pursuant to resolution 329 (XXX) of 28 June 2018. It will also examine the mandates of ACCCP and its scope of work, highlighting how partnerships have been pursued to scale up that work.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the activities of ACCCP and present views about them.

10. Outcomes of the 2021 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/9)

The Committee will review the outcomes of the 2021 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, held online from 29 to 31 March 2021, and its core messages, which were submitted to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York and online, 6-15 July 2021). The Committee will also review the ongoing preparations for the 2022 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development.

The Committee is invited to take note of the Forum's messages for the current year and the preparations for next year and make comments thereon.

11. Regional preparations for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/10)

The Committee will review regional actions by ESCWA to support the least developed countries in the Arab region, States and donors in preparing for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Doha in January 2022. These included subregional and bilateral meetings and a report analysing the challenges and opportunities resulting from the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. The regional preparations process culminated in agreement on foundational elements towards a common Arab vision for the decade 2021-2030.

The Committee is invited to take note of the actions launched by ESCWA to prepare for the Doha Conference and to express its views on this matter.

### **Programmatic issues**

12. Reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/11)

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the reports of the ESCWA subsidiary bodies that have held their sessions since the seventh meeting of the Committee (Marrakesh, Morocco, 15-16 June 2019):

- (a) Reports of the Committee on Transport and Logistics on its twentieth and twenty-first sessions;
- (b) Report of the Committee on Trade Policies in the States Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on its first and second sessions;
- (c) Report of the Committee on Financing for Development in the States Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on its first session;

- (d) Report of the Statistical Committee on its fourteenth session;
- (e) Report of the Committee on Technology for Development on its third session;
- (f) Report of the Committee on Social Development on its thirteenth session.

The reports contain the recommendations made at those sessions, a summary of discussions and information on the organization, documentation and participants. The Executive Committee is invited to adopt those reports.

13. Proposed programme plan for 2023 (E/ESCWA/EC.8/2021/12)

The Committee will examine the proposed ESCWA programme plan for 2023 and the general orientation of each subprogramme.

The Commission is invited to review the programme plan and make recommendations thereon as appropriate.

14. Date and venue of the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee

The Committee will decide on the date and venue of its ninth meeting.

15. Other matters

This item will cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may decide to discuss when adopting the agenda.

16. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its eighth meeting

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations made at its eighth meeting for adoption.

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