



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Social Development
Thirteenth session
Online, 22-23 September 2021

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The thirteenth session of the Committee on Social Development will convene on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, at 10 a.m. The session will be held online via a conference platform to be determined at a later date. The representative of the State of Palestine, Chair of the twelfth session of the Committee, will deliver the welcome speech. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat will then deliver the opening statement.

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".* The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from representatives of member States.

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 shall adopt the provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work as presented in documents E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/L.1 and E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/L.2, respectively, or in amended forms.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work and of recommendations made by the Committee on Social Development at its twelfth session (E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/3)

The Committee will review the activities implemented in the field of social development since its twelfth session, held in Beirut on 8 and 9 October 2019, including activities under the ESCWA programme of work and those undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat pursuant to the recommendations issued by the Committee at its twelfth session.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and provide guidance to the ESCWA secretariat on the way forward.

5. Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/4)

The Committee will consider technical cooperation activities carried out by the ESCWA secretariat in the field of social development upon member States' requests since its twelfth session, including advisory services, training workshops and capacity-building activities.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and discuss technical cooperation priorities and needs for the coming years.

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

6. Activities of the Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability
(E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/5)

The Committee will review the activities of the Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability (IGED) since its twelfth session, its major achievements, and the priorities identified for its future work. IGED was established pursuant to a recommendation made by the Commission for Social Development at its tenth session, held in Rabat on 8 and 9 September 2015, to follow up on disability issues between sessions of the Commission, to support member States in implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to increase regional cooperation in that field.

The Committee is invited to take note of IGED activities and priorities and provide comments thereon to guide its work in the coming period.

7. Activities of the Expert Group on Social Protection Reform (E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/6)

The Committee will review the activities of the Expert Group on Social Protection Reform (EGSPR) since its establishment in 2019, pursuant to a recommendation made by the Committee for Social Development at its twelfth session (Beirut, 8-9 October 2019). EGSPR aims to support regional coordination, cooperation and the exchange of experiences on social protection issues, especially expanding social protection systems and improving their quality.

The Committee is invited to review EGSPR activities, to take note of the progress made, and to provide comments thereon to guide EGSPR work in the coming period.

Integrated social policies

8. Towards integrated social policies in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/7)

The Committee will discuss how to implement the concept of integrated social policies through a practical approach that addresses the fragmentation of social policies, whether within or between various sectors or at the implementation level. The approach presented in the document is complemented by the solutions provided by ESCWA tools to support countries in the design of integrated social policies, which are reviewed in item 9 of the provisional agenda.

The Committee is invited to enrich the discussion and provide comments and recommendations thereon.

9. ESCWA tools to support countries in designing integrated social policies
(E/ESCWA/C.2/2021/8)

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 comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding their development.

10. Date and venue of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Social Development

The Committee will agree on the date and venue of its fourteenth session, to be held in 2023.

11. Other matters

This item covers any other issues that Committee members may wish to raise and discuss.

12. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Social Development at its thirteenth session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations of its thirteenth session for discussion and adoption.
