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

Committee on Water Resources  
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN THE ESCWA REGION**

In the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and specifically Target 10 of MDG 7, the countries of the world have undertaken to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by the year 2015. The Committee on Water Resources reviews in this session the progress achieved in implementing this target in the countries of the ESCWA region. It also examines a study prepared by ESCWA assessing water quality management in the region.

This item consists of two parts. The Committee considers the first part based on the document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/4(Part I) which reviews the progress achieved in providing safe drinking water and sanitation. The document is based on the results of a regional survey ESCWA conducted of the progress achieved in attaining Target 10 of MDG 7, covering all the member countries. This document also presents the proposals arising from an examination of the regional survey results, in terms of policies, legislative and regulatory reforms and measures needed to expedite the provision of drinking water and sanitation. These proposals are made in the framework of an integrated approach, applying the principles of integrated water resource management (IWRM). After a presentation and discussion of this document, the representatives of the member countries present their countries' achievements in the area of safe drinking water and sanitation services and consider the extent to which the policies proposed for expediting the attainment of said target are realistic.

The Committee examines part II of this item based on the document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/4(Part II) which includes an assessment of the state of water quality management in the countries of the ESCWA region and a set of proposals for policies and measures likely to improve water quality and the preservation of water resources and to ensure their sustainability on both the national and regional levels, in the context of a comprehensive strategy embodying the principles of IWRM.

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