Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Water Resources
Eleventh session
Amman, 26-27 March 2015

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.
4. Climate change and its impacts on water resources in the Arab region:
   (a) Progress achieved in implementing the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR);
   (b) Building the capacities of member States in climate change negotiations and preparations for the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP-21).
5. Integrated water resources management in the Arab region:
   (a) Progress achieved in implementing the Regional Initiative for Establishing a Regional Mechanism for Improved Monitoring and Reporting on Access to Water Supply and Sanitation Services in the Arab Region (MDG+ Initiative);
   (b) Regional cooperation for shared water resources management.
6. Natural resources management for sustainable development:
   (a) The post-2015 development agenda from the perspective of the Arab region;
   (b) The water-energy-food nexus in the Arab region.
7. Actions taken in the field of water resources since the tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources:
   (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth session;
   (b) Implementation of water resources-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work.
8. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of water resources.

9. Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Water Resources.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The eleventh session of the Committee on Water Resources will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, 26 March 2015 in Amman. Mr. Ali Subah, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs of Jordan, the country that chaired the tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources, will make a welcome statement. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, will deliver the inaugural address.

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”. Pursuant to that rule, the State, upon which the rotation by alphabetical order has fallen, shall chair the eleventh session of the Committee on Water Resources, succeeding Jordan, which chaired the tenth session. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur among representatives of member States. Based on established practice, the vice-chairs shall be the chair of the previous session of the Committee and the chair of its subsequent session; and the rapporteur shall be the representative of the country succeeding the country of the second vice-chair, according to the rotation by alphabetical order.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, 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 on Water Resources will have before it the provisional agenda and annotations in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/L.1. It will also have before it the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Climate change and its impacts on water resources in the Arab region

(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/3)

The Committee will have a general debate on climate change and its impact on water resources in the Arab region, on the basis of the following reports:

* ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
(a) Progress achieved in implementing the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/3(Part I))

This report reviews the implementation of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR). The assessment is conducted through the collaborative efforts of the United Nations and the League of Arab States regional and specialized organizations as well as international expert institutions. The Regional Initiative is based on four pillars: (1) a baseline review to increase the regional knowledge-base; (2) an integrated assessment that draws upon impact assessment and vulnerability assessment methodologies; (3) capacity-building and institution-strengthening; and (4) awareness-raising and information dissemination. Focus will be placed on the vulnerability assessment work currently being undertaken as well as the establishment of regional mechanisms for knowledge sharing and follow-up on the RICCAR outputs.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress achieved and make comments and suggestions.

(b) Building the capacities of member States in climate change negotiations and preparations for the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP-21) (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/3(Part II))

This report provides an overview of capacity-building activities provided to ESCWA member States in the field of climate change negotiations, in preparation for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 21st Conference of the Parties (COP-21), that will be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015. It presents the ESCWA Guide on Climate Negotiations for Representatives and Negotiators from the Arab Countries as well as the impact of three regional training workshops on capacity development for climate change negotiations, which were conducted by ESCWA in cooperation with the League of Arab States.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

5. Integrated water resources management in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/4)

The Committee will have a general debate on integrated water resources management in the Arab region on the basis of the following reports:

(a) Progress achieved in implementing the Regional Initiative for Establishing a Regional Mechanism for Improved Monitoring and Reporting on Access to Water Supply and Sanitation Services in the Arab Region (MDG+ Initiative) (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/4(Part I))

This report reviews the activities undertaken by ESCWA to implement the Regional Initiative for Establishing a Regional Mechanism for Improved Monitoring and Reporting on Access to Water Supply and Sanitation Services in the Arab Region (MDG+ Initiative) in partnership with the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) and Advisory Board members under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC). The MDG+ Initiative aims to support the collection and dissemination of reliable data, information and analysis on a set of regional-specific indicators on water supply and sanitation that was endorsed by AMWC. Lessons learned during the implementation of the project are informing discussions on the water-related
sustainable development goals (SDGs), which are being formulated within the framework of deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress achieved and make comments and suggestions.

(b) Regional cooperation for shared water resources management
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/4(Part II))

This report reviews recent developments in legal frameworks aimed at supporting improved shared water resources management at the global level and the activities undertaken by ESCWA to promote cooperation on shared water resources management in the Arab region. This includes supporting the Arab Ministerial Water Council, facilitating basin-level dialogues, improving the regional knowledge-base and organizing capacity-building workshops. The report also highlights efforts being undertaken by ESCWA to consider shared water resources management issues in other areas of work in support of sustainable development in the Arab region.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

6. Natural resources management for sustainable development
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/5)

The Committee will have a general debate on natural resources management for sustainable development on the basis of the following reports:

(a) The post-2015 development agenda from the perspective of the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/5(Part I))

This report provides information about the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda and formulation of sustainable development goals (SDGs). It also highlights next steps in that regard at the global and regional levels. The report focuses on the issues that need to be considered by the Arab countries during the upcoming negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda from the perspective of the Arab region based on consultations between ESCWA and partners. It also reviews the water-related goals and targets being considered within the framework of SDGs and lessons drawn from the implementation of the MDG+ Initiative to support Arab countries in that regard.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

(b) The water-energy-food nexus in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/5(Part II))

This report reviews activities being undertaken by ESCWA to raise awareness and understanding of the water-energy-food nexus as an analytical framework for supporting sustainable development in the region. This includes the preparation of the ESCWA Water Development Report 6, which focuses on the water, energy and food security nexus, and the new United Nations Development Account project on the water-energy nexus. That project was the outcome of the “Inter-governmental consultative meeting on the water and energy nexus in the ESCWA Region” (Beirut, 27-28 June 2012), which was jointly organized with members of the Committee on Water Resources and the Committee on Energy.
Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

7. **Actions taken in the field of water resources since the tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources** (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/6)

The Committee will be presented with two reports:

(a) **Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth session**
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/6(Part I))

This report reviews activities implemented in the field of water resources pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth session (Beirut, 20-22 March 2013).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of what has been implemented and make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

(b) **Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work**
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/6(Part II))

This report reviews progress achieved in implementing water resources-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work since the tenth session of the Committee.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of what has been implemented and make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

8. **Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of water resources**
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/7)

This document presents activities and outputs proposed to be implemented by ESCWA in the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of water resources. The proposed programme of work was prepared in line with subprogramme 1, “Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development”, of the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017, which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session (Tunis, 15-18 September 2014).

Representatives of member States are invited to review the proposed programme of work in the field of water resources and provide comments and suggestions thereon.

9. **Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources**

The Committee will decide the date and venue of its twelfth session.

10. **Other matters**

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

11. **Adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Water Resources**

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

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