

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

Executive Committee
Second meeting
Amman, 14-16 December 2015

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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 - (a) Evaluation of the Network;
 - (b) Proposed terms of reference;
 - (c) Work plan for the biennium 2016-2017.
9. Date and venue of the third meeting of the Executive Committee.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its second meeting.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

The opening session of the second meeting of the Executive Committee will convene in the Conference Hall of Kempinski Hotel in Amman at 10 a.m. on Monday, 14 December 2015. Given that the country chairing the ESCWA ministerial session also chairs the meetings of the Executive Committee, the second meeting of the Committee will be chaired by the representative of Bahrain, the country which is currently chairing the twenty-eighth session of the Commission. The representative of Bahrain will give the inaugural speech, followed by Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA who will give the welcoming speech.

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 provisional agenda and annotations for this meeting will be presented to the Executive Committee in document E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/L.1.

The proposed organization of work will be presented to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

3. Follow-up issues

(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/3)

(a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its first meeting (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/3(Part I))

This document presents the action taken by the secretariat pursuant to recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its first meeting (Amman, 8-9 June 2015).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress set out in this document and offer suggestions in that regard.

(b) Implementation of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region and resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/3(Part II))

This document presents an overview of the actions and activities undertaken by the secretariat and member States to implement the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region and the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress set out in this document and offer suggestions in that regard. They are also invited to present progress achieved at the national level.

4. Global and regional issues
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4)

(a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ESCWA strategy and plan of action
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part I))

The General Assembly adopted on 1 September 2015 the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The Agenda was welcomed and supported by the international community which was represented by a large number of heads of States and Governments including Arab States. The Agenda comprises 17 Goals and 169 targets. Therefore, a long negotiating process that lasted more than two years has ended. In that context, the secretariat will brief the Committee on its projected role in the upcoming period to support member States in the implementation of the Agenda.

Representatives of member States are invited to discuss the suggested role of the secretariat and the additional resources required for implementation.

(b) The Sustainable Development Goals: setting regional progress indicators
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part II))

The secretariat will present its report on progress made in developing indicators to monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report presents an overview of the process undertaken by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the role played by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG/SDGs) which was formed by the Commission. Regional statistical offices, including the ESCWA Committee on Statistics play a role in designating members of IAEG/SDGs and contributing to the negotiations. The report reviews the issues raised in the process with a focus on the participation of Arab States. It also clarifies recommended concepts to be used in defining the regional framework for monitoring SDGs.

Representatives of member States are invited to discuss the content of the report and make suggestions thereon.

(c) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part III))

The secretariat will present a review of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which was adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (13-16 July 2015). It will set out the ESCWA view of the impact of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Arab States and proposals for technical assistance to member States in the field of financing for development.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document and make comments thereon.

(d) Technology mechanisms to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part IV))

Technology plays a critical role in transforming societies and economies by enhancing efficiency, connectivity and access to resources and services. This document highlights the efforts

undertaken by ESCWA to support the Arab States in achieving SDGs as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. ESCWA assists Arab States in identifying science, technology and innovation priority areas, enhancing coordination and exchange of expertise in technology between stakeholders, raising awareness, building capacity and promoting regional cooperation and integration.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the important role technology can play in achieving SDGs in the Arab region and make comments thereon.

(e) Paris Conference on climate change
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part V))

The twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-21) which is held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, is expected to produce a new convention on climate change based on the principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and on the historic responsibility of States and their rights to achieving sustainable development. It is also expected that the new convention will stress the importance of full, just, transparent and consensus-based implementation of the main elements of Durban Programme of Action concerning adaptation, mitigation and financing, technology development and transfer and capacity-building.

The secretariat will give a visual presentation on the activities undertaken by ESCWA to prepare the Arab States to participate in COP-21. It will also present the COP-21 outcomes and their relevance to the Arab States.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the ESCWA activities and the COP-21 outcomes and make comments thereon.

(f) Governance of international migration in the Arab region: promising practices
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part VI))

In the final statement issued at the conclusion of the regional consultative meeting on international migration and development in the Arab region, which was organized by ESCWA and the League of Arab States and the International Migration Organization in 2013, the Arab States stressed the necessity of filling the knowledge gaps on the nature and patterns of migration and its impact of development in the region. Migration figures among regional priorities and is also at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which opens a window of opportunity to adopt policies that protect the rights of migrants and their contribution to development.

In that context, ESCWA has prepared a report entitled *International Migration 2015: Migration, Displacement and Development in the Context of Transformations in the Arab Region*. The report describes patterns and trends of migration and the latest developments in migration governance and policies.

The document presented to the Committee under this item summarizes the issues raised in the report, including labour force migration in the Arab region, citizenship issues, illegal migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and forced migration. It also highlights promising practices in the area of international migration governance in the Arab region.

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

(g) The impact of conflict and instability on development in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part VII))

The secretariat presents an overview of the impact of conflict and crises and instability on development in the Arab region, particularly in the areas of education, health and living conditions, in addition to the long-term repercussions on economic, social and institutional development in countries directly or indirectly affected by conflict. It highlights major challenges in this area related to mitigating the negative impact of conflict, crises and instability on development and the potential eruption of violence as a consequence of present global trends in development.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of these repercussions and make suggestions on ways to address them.

(h) Israeli occupation of Palestine: social and economic repercussions and violation of international law
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part VIII))

The secretariat will present an overview of the Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory and their repercussions on the economic and social development and the living conditions of the Palestinian people. It will also address the violation by the occupying Israeli authorities of the international and how they could amount to apartheid crimes.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of these repercussions and make suggestions on ways to address them.

5. Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/5)

The secretariat will present the proposed ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017, which contains the overall orientation of the programme taking into consideration emerging priorities at the regional and global levels. It also sets the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of each subprogramme. In formulating the proposed strategic framework, the secretariat took into consideration emerging regional and global challenges upon the suggestions of member States concerning the improvement of the work of ESCWA with a view to meeting those challenges.

Representatives of member States are invited to review the proposed strategic framework and make comments thereon, prior to its submission to the ESCWA twenty-ninth ministerial session to be held in May 2016 for consideration and adoption.

6. Preparations for the ESCWA twenty-ninth session
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/6)

The secretariat has started the preparations for the twenty-ninth ministerial session of ESCWA which will be held in the last week of May 2016 at the United Nations House in Beirut, unless another member State offers to host it. The document presented to the Committee under this item a proposal for the main theme of the session and the topics to be covered taking into consideration the emerging priorities in the region and the world as well as the major development issues.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the ongoing preparations and agree on the proposals presented by the secretariat concerning the twenty-ninth ministerial session of ESCWA.

7. Session reports of the ESCWA subsidiary bodies
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/7)

The Committee will have before it the reports of two of the seven subsidiary bodies of ESCWA on their sessions, held since the twenty-eighth session of ESCWA. Those reports contain the recommendations made at those sessions, in addition to an overview of the topics discussed, information on the organization and documentation of the sessions and the participants. The following two reports will be submitted to the Committee:

- (a) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its eleventh session
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/8/Report)
- (b) Report of the Committee on Social Development on its tenth session
(E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/6/Report)

The Committee is invited to adopt those reports.

8. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8)

- (a) Evaluation of the Network
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part I))

The secretariat will present an overall review of the Technical Cooperation Programme, including activities funded by extrabudgetary resources, the regular programme for technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account. It also presents an evaluation of the work of the Technical Cooperation Network since its establishment.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the evaluation of the Network and make comments thereon.

- (b) Proposed terms of reference
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part II))

The secretariat will present a proposal for the terms of reference of the Technical Cooperation Network.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the proposed terms of reference, make comments thereon and adopt them.

- (c) Work plan for the biennium 2016-2017
(E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part III))

The secretariat will present the activities to be undertaken by the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network in the biennium 2016-2017 and information on the responsibilities of the Network and the issues addressed at its meetings.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the work plan and make suggestions thereon.

9. Date and venue of the third meeting of the Executive Committee

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

10. Other matters

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

11. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its second meeting

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations made at its second meeting for discussion and adoption.
