



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/6
13 June 2017
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Women
Eighth session
Beirut, 4-5 October 2017

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019
in the advancement of women**

Summary

This document presents the proposed activities to be implemented by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of advancement of women. The proposed activities have been formulated with reference to subprogramme 6, Advancement of women, of the ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-ninth session (Doha, 13-15 December 2016). This document constitutes part of the comprehensive proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 that was presented to and endorsed by the Executive Committee of ESCWA at its third meeting (Rabat, 6-7 May 2017). The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the ESCWA Centre for Women.

The Committee on Women is invited to review the proposed outputs and present comments on the extent to which they meet the priorities of ESCWA member States and their relevance to the expected accomplishments in the field of advancement of women under subprogramme 6. The Committee is also invited to discuss ways to concretely measure the indicators of achievement in order to accurately monitor progress achieved in member States as a result of implementing the proposed outputs.



CONTENTS

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN	3
II. SUBPROGRAMME 6: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN	3
A. Objective.....	3
B. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.....	3
C. Strategy.....	4
D. External factors.....	4
E. Outputs	5
<i>Annex. Legislative mandates</i>	7

I. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Committee on Women is invited to review the proposed outputs and provide guidance to the ESCWA secretariat based of the following two criteria: (a) the extent to which the proposed outputs respond to the needs of intended beneficiaries, namely ministries and authorities in the Arab region in charge of social development issues; and (b) the extent to which those outputs contribute to the realization of the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 6, taking into account the endorsement of the comprehensive proposed programme of work by the Executive Committee of ESCWA at its third meeting (Rabat, 6-7 May 2017).

II. SUBPROGRAMME 6: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

A. OBJECTIVE

The objective of subprogramme 6 for the biennium 2018-2019 is to reduce gender imbalances and promote the empowerment of women, in line with international conventions and outcomes of conferences.

B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures			
			2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a) Strengthened national institutional and legal frameworks to promote gender equality and gender justice, including the elimination of violence against women	(a) (i) Increased number of member States that adopt strategies and plans promoting gender equality and gender justice	Target	6		
		Estimate		3	
		Actual			2
	(a) (ii) Increased number of legislative reforms aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women, gender inequality and/or violence against women	Target	11		
		Estimate		9	
		Actual			7
(b) Increased gender mainstreaming in national policies	(b) (i) Increased number of member States that adopt policies and plans to mainstream gender	Target	10		
		Estimate		8	
		Actual			6
(c) Increased monitoring and evaluation by member States of regional and institutional obligations on gender equality	(c) (i) Increased number of member States that submit reports on their implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and respond to the observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	Target	8		
		Estimate		6	
		Actual			5
	(c) (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt national plans to implement and report on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and gender-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Target	6		
		Estimate		3	
		Actual			0

C. STRATEGY*

19.48 The responsibility for implementing subprogramme 6 lies with the ESCWA Centre for Women. During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will continue to work with member States to reduce gender imbalances, increase the respect of the rights of women and encourage the exchange of lessons learned, pursuing the ultimate goals of promoting regional integration, implementing the 2030 Agenda, and achieving inclusive growth and social justice in the Arab region. To do so, ESCWA will work closely with national machineries for the advancement of women, national stakeholders, United Nations agencies and regional organizations to facilitate change by filling the knowledge gap and equipping member States with relevant tools to achieve gender equality and the advancement of women at all social, economic and institutional levels.

19.49 With respect to regional integration, ESCWA will build on the shared characteristics and challenges in order to create a platform for the adoption of regional measures in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It will seek to coordinate a regional position and enhance regional synergies by establishing and strengthening regional mechanisms and strategies in line with the international obligations of Arab States. ESCWA will give particular attention to subregions currently in or emerging from conflict.

19.50 ESCWA will also support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the provision of tools, advisory services and programmes to strengthen the capacity of national institutions, especially national machineries for the advancement of women, to develop and implement gender-sensitive and gender-specific strategies and action plans, particularly in the area of violence against women, ending harmful practices, and ensuring women's full and effective participation in public life.

19.51 ESCWA will foster inclusive growth and social justice in the Arab region by enhancing the knowledge and institutional capacities of member States to comply with their international obligations. It will assist them in identifying and overcoming gaps in the implementation of regional and international instruments, in particular concerning social, economic and governance issues.

19.52 In order to reach those objectives, ESCWA will conduct evidence-based research and prepare high-quality knowledge products, including in-depth studies, situation analyses and policy briefs. It will design and deliver tailor-made capacity-building programmes and tools, including training modules, based on international standards and responding to the needs of the region. It will partner with a range of national and regional stakeholders and implement joint activities, including expert groups meetings, workshops, thematic conferences and awareness-raising events on women's rights and gender equality.

D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

Subprogramme 6 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there is political will for enhancing the role of national mechanisms for the advancement of women and strengthening dialogue with civil society; (b) the political situation in the region does not further deteriorate; and (c) current political changes in the region do not reverse acquired gains in gender equality.

* Paragraphs under the heading "Strategy" are numbered 19.48 to 19.52, where 19 indicates programme 19, concerning economic and social development in Western Asia, of the United Nations strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019; and 48 to 52 reflect the sequential numbering of the paragraphs contained in that document which sets out all United Nations programmes. This numbering is retained under the heading "Strategy" in the ESCWA programme of work and the programme of work of each of the seven subprogrammes.

E. OUTPUTS

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 6:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

Report of the Committee on Women on its eighth session (1).

(ii) *Committee on Women*

Substantive servicing of the ninth session of the Committee on Women (4).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert meetings*

- a. Expert group meeting on gender justice and intersecting inequalities (1);
- b. Expert group meeting on the gender justice strategy (1);
- c. Expert group meeting on Horizon 2030: what it takes to achieve gender equality targets in the SDGs (1);
- d. Expert group meeting on gender equality in recovery from war to work for all women and men (1);
- e. Expert group meeting on the Status of Arab Women Report on Violence against Women: Cultural and Political Dynamics (1);
- f. Expert group meeting on women's advancement with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*

(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Gender justice and intersecting inequalities (1);
- b. Status of Arab Women Report on Violence against Women: Cultural and Political Dynamics (1).

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

- a. Horizon 2030: what it takes to achieve gender equality targets in the SDGs (1);
- b. Gender equality in recovery: from war to work for all women and men (1).

(iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

Poster and info kit on gender justice (1).

(iv) *Technical material*

- a. Policy brief on gender justice and its links with SDGs, or on member States' experiences in promoting gender justice (1);

- b. Policy brief on gender and SDGs (1 of 2) (1);
- c. Policy brief on gender and SDGs (2 of 2) (1);
- d. Policy brief on gender equality in post-conflict recovery settings (1);
- e. Policy brief on combating violence against women in the Arab region using the estimation of its cost as a tool (1);
- f. Report on the Social and Economic Situation of Palestinian Women and Girls (1);
- g. Gender and SDGs: the reporting process (1);
- h. Report on the advancement of women with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1).

(v) *Special events*

- a. International Women's Day 2018 (focus on gender justice) (1);
- b. International Women's Day 2019 (focus on women, peace and security) (1);
- c. Gender discussion series: selected topic on gender justice and SDGs (1 of 4) (1);
- d. Gender discussion series: gender and the SDGs (2 of 4) (1);
- e. Gender discussion series: gender equality in post-conflict recovery (3 of 4) (1);
- f. Gender discussion series: combating violence against women in the Arab region (4 of 4) (1);
- g. Annual advocacy events on prevention of violence against women – 2018-2019 (including 16 days of activism against gender-based violence) (2).

Annex**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES****Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women***General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/137 Violence against women migrant workers
- 68/138 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 68/139 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
- 68/140 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
- 68/181 Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: protecting women human rights defenders
- 68/191 Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls
- 68/227 Women in development
- 69/147 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
- 69/149 Trafficking in women and girls
- 69/150 Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations
- 69/151 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
- 69/236 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 2014/1 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- 2014/2 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
- 2015/6 Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
- 2015/12 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
- 2015/13 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- 2015/21 Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls

ESCWA resolution

- 286 (XXV) Gender statistics for equality and empowerment of women
