

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

Executive Committee
Fourth meeting
Beirut, 13-14 December 2017



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up issues:
 - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting;
 - (b) Action taken pursuant to the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States.
4. Regional and global issues:
 - (a) The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard: overall results;
 - (b) Implementation mechanisms of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: global commitments versus Arab priorities in the field of financing for development;
 - (c) Proposal for establishing an Arab centre for climate policies;
 - (d) ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region;
 - (e) Multidimensional poverty in the Arab region;
 - (f) ESCWA vision on post-conflict recovery: towards more effective development outcomes;
 - (g) The economic cost of violence against women.
5. Session reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies:
 - (a) Report of the Statistical Committee on its twelfth session;
 - (b) Report of the Committee on Energy on its eleventh session;
 - (c) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its twelfth session.

6. The United Nations management reform: plan of the Secretary-General.
7. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Programme: progress in implementing planned activities.
8. Preparations for the ESCWA thirtieth session.
9. Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its fourth meeting.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

The opening session of the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee will convene at the United Nations House in Beirut, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 6 May 2017. Given that the country chairing the ESCWA ministerial session also chairs the meetings of the Executive Committee, the fourth meeting of the Committee will be chaired by the representative of Qatar, the country which is currently chairing the twenty-ninth session of the Commission. The representative of Qatar will give the inaugural speech, and Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, 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/2017/EC.4/L.1.

The proposed organization of work will be presented to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/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/2017/EC.4/3)

This item comprises two sub-items, for which the executive secretariat will present the following reports:

(a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/3(Part I))

This document sets out the actions undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting (Rabat, 6-7 May 2017).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress presented in this document, and offer suggestions thereon. They are also invited to brief the Committee on actions taken by their countries in that regard.

- (b) Action taken pursuant to the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/3(Part II))

This document provides an overview of the actions and activities undertaken by the secretariat and member States pursuant to the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States, which was adopted at the twenty-ninth ESCWA session.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress presented in this document, and offer suggestions thereon. They are also invited to brief the Committee on actions taken by their countries in that regard.

4. Regional and global issues
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4)

This item comprises seven sub-items, for which the executive secretariat will present the following reports:

- (a) The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard: overall results
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part I)

This document presents the components and overall results of the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard which is designed as a regional measurement tool and as an analytical compendium to assess performance in that area according to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Taking into consideration the cost of conflict and displacement, the Scorecard presents the performance assessment results in a number of the action areas set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, namely domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; and debt and debt sustainability.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the Scorecard and its results presented in the document, and make comments thereon.

- (b) Implementation mechanisms of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: global commitments versus Arab priorities in the field of financing for development
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part II))

This document reviews progress made in implementing the outcomes of the Third United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development, namely the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and related processes that serve to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also highlights the global commitments versus Arab priorities in the area of financing for development, the contributions and positions of civil society, and the key messages emanating from the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the information set out in the document, and offer suggestions thereon.

- (c) Proposal for establishing an Arab centre for climate policies
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part III))

This document presents a conceptual proposal for the establishment of an Arab centre for climate policies. The centre will build upon the experience gained by ESCWA in implementing regional

initiatives and projects and capacity development workshops on climate change negotiations and adaptation. The centre will provide member States with technical assistance, advisory services and capacity-building. It will serve as a regional platform for exchange of expertise and consensus building and will provide access to knowledge products and services.

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

(d) ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part IV))

This document describes a three-year project proposed by ESCWA to: formulate a strategic vision for a regional multimodal transport system which is expected to promote regional integration and inclusive sustainable economic and social development in the Arab region; and design appropriate tools for estimating the needed investments, reforming transport policies and addressing environmental impacts across the region.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the proposed project, and make suggestions thereon.

(e) Multidimensional poverty in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part V))

This document summarizes the findings and recommendations of the *Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report 2017*. The analysis covers 10 Arab States, which account for 75 per cent of the region's population. It examines household and child poverty using international methodologies that were adapted to the Arab region. In addition, it assesses household vulnerability to poverty, examines its underlining causes and features the results at the national and subnational levels.

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

(f) ESCWA vision on post-conflict recovery: towards more effective development outcomes
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part VI))

This document presents member States with a favourable trajectory to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 despite unfavourable conditions resulting from conflict, occupation and terrorism. It focuses on the following key areas: studying the impact of conflict on human development; analysing conflict dynamics and its spillover effects; establishing indicator baselines for SDGs; strengthening national and regional approaches to address conflict spillover effects; providing technical dialogue platforms; strengthening institutional governance practices and structures during the post-conflict recovery phase; and monitoring and preventing violent extremism and radicalization.

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

(g) The economic cost of violence against women
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part VII))

This document highlights the high costs of intimate partner violence on individuals, the economy, State institutions and society. It presents the challenges encountered when tackling violence against women in the Arab region, which include definitional issues; insufficient legal and constitutional frameworks; haphazard policy frameworks poorly aligned with legal and constitutional frameworks; inadequate reporting mechanisms; and insufficient institutional capacities both at the macrolevel and in terms of service provision on the ground. It proposes an economic model to

measure the costs of intimate partner violence by estimating household costs associated with violence, community level costs of service provision and costs related to women's loss of productivity in the labour market.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of and make comments on the proposed economic model as a policy reform tool to combat intimate partner violence against women.

5. Session reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/5)

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the session reports of three of the eight subsidiary bodies of ESCWA, held in the period between the third and fourth meetings of the Executive Committee. The 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 three reports will be submitted to the Committee:

- (a) Report of the Statistical Committee on its twelfth session E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/7/Report;
- (b) Report of the Committee on Energy on its eleventh session E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.1/9/Report;
- (c) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its twelfth session E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/8/Report.

The Committee is invited to adopt those reports.

6. The United Nations management reform: plan of the Secretary-General
(Visual presentation)

The secretariat will summarize the Report of the Secretary-General *Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: Ensuring a Better Future for All (A/72/492)* focusing in particular on the reform's implications on the ESCWA strategic planning and budget for the biennium 2020-2021.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the reform plan and its implications for ESCWA and comment thereon.

7. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Programme: progress in implementing planned activities
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/6)

This document sets out progress in implementing technical cooperation activities undertaken by ESCWA since the third meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Rabat in December 2017. Those activities include building the capacity of member States through training workshops and technical advisory services on formulating policies, strategies and workplans in the various fields of work undertaken by ESCWA.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress achieved in implementing the technical cooperation programme.

8. Preparations for the ESCWA thirtieth session
(E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/7)

The executive secretariat has started the preparations for the thirtieth ministerial session to be held from 7 to 10 May 2018 at the United Nations House. The document presented to the Executive Committee under this agenda item contains a proposal on the proceedings of the session and its main theme, in the light of emerging priorities in the Arab region and the world and major development issues, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in addition to the proposed agenda for the session.

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

The Committee will decide on the date and venue of its fifth 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 fourth meeting

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations made at its fourth meeting for adoption.
