

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

Committee on Technology for Development
Second session
Beirut, 20-21 March 2019



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The second session of the Committee on Technology for Development will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 20 March 2019, at the United Nations House in Beirut. The Chair of the first session of the Committee will give the opening address and the ESCWA secretariat will deliver a welcome statement.

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".¹ The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from representatives of member States.

3. 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 Committee shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will have before it the provisional agenda in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/L.1 and the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/L.2. Both documents may be adopted by the Committee as submitted or in amended forms.

Progress made since the first session of the Committee

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work and of recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its first session (E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/3)

The Committee will consider activities carried out under ESCWA subprogramme 4 on technology for development and regional integration, and in implementation of recommendations made at its first session (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 11-12 February 2017). This includes meetings, publications and technical papers, and advocacy for evidence-based policymaking.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and provide guidance to the ESCWA secretariat on the way forward.

¹ ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

5. Technical cooperation activities
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/4)

The Committee will consider technical cooperation activities carried out by the ESCWA secretariat in the field of technology for development since its first session, which include advisory services, capacity-building and field projects implemented upon the request of member States.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and discuss technical cooperation priorities and needs for the coming years.

6. Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/5)

The Committee will consider activities carried out since its first session by the ESCWA Technology Centre, including meetings, advisory services and support in technology-related policymaking, and the Centre's programme of work for 2019.

The Committee is invited to take note of the Centre's activities and provide comments thereon.

7. Meetings of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/6)

The Committee will consider activities of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States, in particular meetings held since its first session, and proposals to increase regional cooperation on e-government issues.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and provide comments thereon.

Technology and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

8. Technology for sustainable development: creating decent jobs and empowering youth in Arab countries
(E/ESCWA/30/17-E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/7)

The Committee will consider action required from Governments, the private sector and civil society in Arab countries in response to the exponential, frontier or disruptive technologies sweeping the world. It will also look into means to maximize their benefits for sustainable development and lower associated risks of abuse and possible negative impact.

The Committee is invited to comment on the proposals put forward in that regard.

9. Technology and innovation in the Arab region: current situation and policy frameworks
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/8)

The Committee will consider the current situation in Arab countries in terms of information and communications technology and innovation, related policy frameworks, and a proposal for an innovation policy framework comprising four components: education and training; research and development; regulatory frameworks; and supporting mechanisms for innovators.

The Committee is invited to discuss the proposal and make comments thereon.

10. Implementation of the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region
(E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/4/Rev.1-E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/9)

The Committee will consider an action plan formulated by the ESCWA secretariat to implement the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, which was adopted by member States at the thirtieth ESCWA session (Beirut, 25-28 June 2018).

The Committee is invited to take note of the action plan.

11. Technology as a tool to make cities safe and combat violence against women
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/10)

The Committee will consider an overview of international frameworks on women's safety in cities and public spaces, and of laws adopted in several Arab States on sexual harassment. It will also examine the role of technology-based solutions in making cities safe and combating violence against women.

The Committee is invited to discuss recommendations proposed by the ESCWA secretariat in that regard.

12. Digital development in the Arab region and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/11)

The Committee will consider work carried out by the ESCWA secretariat on digital development since its first session, in particular the findings of a publication entitled "Arab Horizon 2030: Digital Technologies for Development", which was issued in 2018. The Committee will also consider the national reviews undertaken by ESCWA in partnership with several member States to assess their situations in terms of digital technologies and their readiness to harness them for development. The review process will yield national reports, which will feed into a regional digital development report whose first edition is to be published in the second half of 2019.

The Committee is invited to provide comments on the national review process and enhance participation in it.

13. Strengthening Governments' role in Internet governance: the Arab process
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/12)

The Committee will consider Internet governance mechanisms and ways to increase Arab Governments' participation in them. It will also review ongoing preparations for the fifth conference of the Arab Internet Governance Forum, to be held in June 2019.

The Committee is invited to review activities in that area and comment on means to increase government participation in Internet governance.

Programmatic issues

14. Proposed programme plan for 2020 in the field of technology for development
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/13)

The Committee will review the proposed programme plan for 2020 prepared under ESCWA subprogramme 4 on technology for development and regional integration. The proposed ESCWA programme plan for 2020 was presented to the Executive Committee, which adopted it at its fifth meeting held in Beirut on 18 and 19 December 2018.

The Committee is invited to take note of the plan and make comments thereon.

15. Round-table discussion: Strategic directions for ESCWA work on technology for development in the period 2020-2025
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2019/CRP.1)

The round-table discussion is aimed at developing strategic guidelines for the work of the ESCWA secretariat in the period 2020-2025 under subprogramme 4 on technology for development and regional integration, and determining priorities for the support it provides to member States, especially regarding 2030 Agenda implementation.

The Committee is invited to highlight key national priorities in the field for the coming years.

16. Date and venue of the third session of the Committee on Technology for Development

The Committee shall agree on the date and venue of its third session.

17. Other matters

This item covers any other issues that Committee members may wish to raise and discuss.

18. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its second session

The Committee shall consider the draft recommendations of its second session for discussion and adoption.
