



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)Statistical Committee
Twelfth session
Beirut, 4-5 April 2017**INFORMATION NOTE****A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Statistical Committee was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 179 (XVI) on setting up a statistical committee within ESCWA, endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1993/2 of 2 February 1993. The Committee was established to follow up on progress achieved by member States in developing their statistical systems; provide them with technical advice; propose training programmes and organize workshops and seminars to enhance their statistical capacity; assist them in standardizing national statistics to ensure their comparability at the regional and international levels; coordinate the exchange of statistical data and information between member States and the United Nations Statistical Commission; and coordinate the statistical programmes of member States, especially in matters relating to surveys and censuses. The Statistical Committee holds its sessions biennially. It held its eleventh session in Amman, on 4 and 5 February 2015.

B. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

At its twelfth session, the Statistical Committee will discuss the role of official statistics in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region, the statistical capacity development in ESCWA member States, the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of statistics and the meeting outcomes of consultative committees in economic and social statistics in addition to other items as set up in the proposed agenda.

C. AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The provisional agenda and annotations of the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee are provided in document E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/L.1. The proposed organization of work is contained in document E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/L.2.

D. PARTICIPANTS

The invitation has been extended to heads of national statistical offices in ESCWA member States, national technical focal points and experts interested in the topics set out in the agenda. In accordance with United Nations rules, Governments participating in the session are responsible for the travel and subsistence expenses of their delegates (with the exception of one representative from Mauritania, the State of Palestine,

the Sudan and Yemen). Representatives of regional and international organizations involved in statistical work are welcome to participate as observers. Similarly, these organizations shall cover the travel and subsistence expenses for their representatives.

E. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SESSION

The twelfth session of the Statistical Committee will be held at United Nations House in Beirut, on 4 and 5 April 2017. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 4 April 2017, and the inaugural meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on the same day. The twelfth session will conclude at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 April 2017.

Participants can register online, by filling the form available on the ESCWA website. They are required to attach a digital personal photo (jpeg format) which is needed for the issuance of the entry pass to the ESCWA headquarters.

F. LANGUAGES OF THE SESSION

The session will be conducted in Arabic, with some papers presented in English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in both Arabic and English.

G. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Participants can apply directly to the Lebanese Embassy in their respective countries for entry visas. More details about visa requirements and issuance procedures are available from the website of the General Directorate of the General Security <http://www.general-security.gov.lb>.

H. ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

ESCWA suggests that participants make reservations in a hotel close to its headquarters. A list of nearby hotels that offer discounted rates will be provided by e-mail to registered participants. Participants can contact the hotel of their choice directly, indicating that they are attending the twelfth session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee. The hotels may offer an airport pick-up and drop-off service, organized on an individual basis.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

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