Information Note

Expert Group Meeting:
“National Women’s Machineries, Conflict, Occupation and Transition in the Arab Region”
04-05 December 2018
United Nations House, Beirut- Lebanon

1. Background:

The adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA) came with a call to member states to establish national machineries for the advancement of women, with a mandate to, inter alia, “design, promote the implementation of, execute, monitor, evaluate, advocate and mobilize support for policies that promote the advancement of women” (Paragraph 196)

Moreover, and under the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, provided for a range of requirements to establish preventative, protection, participation, and relief and recovery tools for women and girls before, during, and after conflict. Women-related institutions, among others, are part of these tools.

There is, however, a striking paucity in research on the impact of conflict, occupation and transition on National Women Machineries (NWMs) at the international level; let alone in the Arab region. There is therefore an urgent need to examine the way NWMs react to crises from a variety of perspectives and experiences, especially given the exceptional context the Arab region suggests in terms of conflict and transition and the situation of women and women-related institutions (mainly NWMs) in many of its countries.

In this context, ESCWA’s Centre for Women has developed a draft study aiming to analyze the impact of conflict, occupation and transition on the life-cycle of NWMs in the Arab region by examining their institutional resilience in conflict, occupation, post-conflict and transition contexts. The study also brings forward regional experiences from Yemen, as a case of conflict; Jordan, as case of a country affected by a conflict in a neighbouring one (Syria); Palestine, as a case of occupation; and Tunisia as a case of political transition, and also suggests a set of drivers, both internal and external, that contribute to reinforcing and maintaining the institutional resilience of NWMs with reference to international standards and good practices.
2. **Objectives of the meeting:**

The meeting aims to bring together a group of experts from the region and beyond, to discuss the draft of the study titled “Women, Peace and Security: National Women’s Machineries, Conflict, Occupation and Transition in the Arab Region” and provide their inputs on it.

3. **Meeting Venue and Time:**

The meeting will take place at the United Nations House in Beirut (B1 Level – Committee Room I) on 04-05 December 2018.

Registration starts at 8:30 am on 04 December 2018.

4. **Language of the meeting:**

The official language of the meeting is English. Interpretation services may be provided if required.

5. **Information:**

The EGM webpage is available at:


It will be updated regularly with information and documents related to the meeting.

**For participants from outside Lebanon:**

6. **Travel:**

ESCWA will purchase the round-trip ticket to Beirut for participants based outside Lebanon. Roundtrip tickets will be issued in economy class on the most economic route in accordance with United Nations travel rules and regulations.

Participants are requested **NOT** to purchase their own tickets.

Should participants have any preferences regarding date of arrival or departure, please inform Ms. Hala Attieh (hala.attieh@un.org) by 05 November 2018 at the latest.
Participants are also kindly requested to **send a coloured copy of their valid passport along with contact details** (telephone, fax number and e-mail) to Ms. Hala Attieh no later than **05 November 2018**.

7. **Entry Visas:**

Participants are required to secure their own visa for entry to Lebanon. Participants should check with the Embassy of Lebanon in their country of residence to see if a visa is necessary and to secure their visa prior to departure if needed. Related information is also available on the World Travel Guide via the following link: [http://www.worldtravelguide.net](http://www.worldtravelguide.net).

Participants will be reimbursed the cost of their visa upon presentation of a receipt.

8. **Daily Subsistence Allowance and Terminal Expenses:**

Participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance (DSA), as per the United Nations travel rules and regulations, for up to 3 nights to cover the cost of their hotel, meals and incidental expenses during the course of the meeting. A fixed terminal expenses allowance will also be provided to cover transfers to and from the airport. Daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses will be paid to the experts in cash in United States Dollars on the last day of the meeting.

Participants are therefore kindly requested to present the following documents to the ESCWA representative at the registration desk on the day of the meeting: original passport, copy of airline ticket and original boarding pass. Review of these documents is necessary to allow for payment of allowances.

9. **Accommodation:**

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel bookings in Beirut. ESCWA Secretariat has taken the necessary arrangements to provide accommodations at discounted prices. In order to view a list of such hotels, kindly visit the following site:


Participants should contact the hotel directly for reservations as desired and indicate that they are participating in an expert group meeting at ESCWA, to be entitled for a reduced corporate UN rate. Participants are also responsible for settling their own accommodation bills and other expenses directly with the hotel before departure.
10. Correspondence

Please direct all correspondence and queries related to this meeting to the following staff members in ECW.

For inquiries regarding the program, please contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Akram Khalifa (Mr.)</th>
<th>Regional Adviser on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, ESCWA Centre for Women</th>
<th><a href="mailto:khalifaa@un.org">khalifaa@un.org</a></th>
<th>+961-1-978639</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

For inquiries regarding logistical arrangements, please contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hala Attieh (Ms.)</th>
<th>Research Assistant, ESCWA Centre for Women</th>
<th><a href="mailto:hala.attieh@un.org">hala.attieh@un.org</a></th>
<th>+961-1-978644</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>