

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

Committee on Women
Seventh session
Muscat, 20-21 January 2016

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
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 - (a) Implementation of activities related to women advancement under the ESCWA programme of work and recommendations addressed to the secretariat by the Committee on Women at its sixth session;
 - (b) Efforts by ESCWA to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system and promote them in the member States;
 - (c) Actions taken by member States to promote the advancement of women pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its sixth session.
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 - (b) Gender equality and women empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. Regional issues:
 - (a) The right of women and girls to access justice in the Arab region;
 - (b) Economic and social repercussions of conflict on women in the Arab region;
 - (c) Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.
7. Programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of women advancement.
8. Date and venue of the eighth session of the Committee on Women.

9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its seventh session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The seventh session of the Committee on Women will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 January 2016. The Minister of Social Development in Oman, the hosting country, will give a welcome statement. Then the representative of Iraq, the country which chaired the sixth session of the Committee, will make a statement which will be followed by the opening speech given by Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of 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." Pursuant to that rule, the representative of Oman shall chair the seventh session of the Committee, succeeding Iraq which chaired the sixth session from its opening on 4 December 2013 until the opening of the present session, 20 January 2016. The Committee shall then elect, from its members, two vice-chairs and a rapporteur. Following the practice in previous sessions, the session Bureau members are selected according to Arabic alphabetical order of member States.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of 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 provisional agenda shall be submitted to the Committee on Women in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/L.1 and the proposed organization of work shall be submitted in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/L.2. Both documents may be adopted by the Committee as submitted or following amendments.

4. Progress made in the advancement of women
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/3)

This item comprises the following three sub-items:

- (a) Implementation of activities related to women advancement under the ESCWA programme of work and recommendations addressed to the secretariat by the Committee on Women at its sixth session
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/3(Part I))

The secretariat will give a presentation based on the document submitted to the Committee under this item, which includes a review of the activities and programmes undertaken by the ESCWA Centre for Women to promote the advancement of women since the previous session of the

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

Committee, within the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 and those undertaken to implement the recommendations addressed to the secretariat by the Committee at its sixth session, including the 2013 Kuwait Declaration on Combating Violence against Women which was also adopted at the sixth session. Recommendations addressed by the Committee to member States are reviewed under agenda item 4 (c) below.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of those activities and make recommendations thereon.

- (b) Efforts by ESCWA to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system and promote them in the member States
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/3(Part II))

Based on the document submitted to the Committee under this sub-item, the secretariat will present the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP) and the activities undertaken by ESCWA for its implementation. The presentation will also introduce a proposal for a project to be jointly conducted by ESCWA and the High Council for Women in Bahrain to adapt SWAP and tailor it to the priorities and requirements of Arab States with a view to designing the first Arab framework for assessing the efforts to achieve gender equality in public institutions.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of SWAP and the outcomes of its implementation in ESCWA and offer suggestions on the way to adapt it as a guiding tool for policymakers in the Arab region.

- (c) Actions taken by member States to promote women advancement pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its sixth session
(Presentations to be made by representatives of member States)

Member State representatives shall give presentations on national actions taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixth session, and the Kuwait Declaration on Combating Violence against Women, mentioning challenges faced in that regard.

The secretariat asks member State representatives to identify in their presentations the support needed by their countries to implement the recommendations that were not implemented. Member State representatives wishing to give a presentation should submit a request in advance to the Committee Bureau. The sequence of presentations shall follow the order of registration of requests.

5. International issues
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/4)

This item comprises the following two sub-items:

- (a) Outlook on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after the Beijing+20 review
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/4(Part I))

Based on the document submitted to the Committee under this sub-item, the secretariat will give a presentation on the process of reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 20 years after their adoption and the review outcomes. A document issued at the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will also be presented.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the content of this document and make comments thereon.

- (b) Gender equality and women empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/4(Part II))

This document explains the link between achieving gender equality and advancement of women and meeting the sustainable development goals as set out in the 2030 Agenda which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Also under this sub-item, a representative of UN-Women will give a presentation on the subject followed by comments by an expert and an open discussion on the role of national women machineries in implementing and following up the sustainable development goals, in particular goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Furthermore, the role of ESCWA in providing those machineries with the technical support needed to implement and follow-up on SDGs will be explained.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the content of this document and make comments thereon. They are also invited to present their country's vision on the ways to mainstream women in national plans to achieve SDGs.

6. Regional issues
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5)

This item comprises the following three sub-items:

- (a) The right of women and girls to access justice in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part I))

The secretariat will give a presentation based on the document submitted to the Committee under this sub-item, which tackles the right of women and girls to access justice in the Arab region. It examines the ability of women, both citizens and non-citizens, to access judicial processes and gain just remedies for violations of their rights. The presentation will cover the challenges faced by women at the legislative and institutional levels and will present policy recommendations aimed at improving women's access to justice, thereby translating internationally guaranteed rights into practice.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the content of this document and make comments and recommendations thereon.

- (b) Economic and social repercussions of conflict on women in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part II))

The secretariat will give a presentation based on the document submitted to the Committee under this sub-item, which highlights the economic and social repercussions of war and conflict on women and girls in the Arab region. The presentation will underscore the challenges faced by women and girls in the fields of education, health and access to resources and economic opportunities in conflict settings. It will also offer national and regional policy recommendations to protect women and girls in times of war or armed conflict.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document's content and recommendations and make comments thereon.

(c) Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part III))

A roundtable will be held under this sub-item to discuss the condition of women in conflict settings and the obligation to protect them as set out in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. The secretariat will present the ESCWA report on results achieved in implementing the resolution and the responsibilities of States in that regard. The report contains a review of legislative and institutional actions taken by member States to implement the resolution at the national and regional levels. Presentations will be made by the League of Arab States and UN-Women on the strategic framework that guides the development of national plans for women, peace and security with a view to formulating recommendations on improving response to resolution 1325 and ensuring its effective implementation to guarantee the protection of women and girls before, during and after armed conflict.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the presentations made, participate in the discussions and offer suggestions and recommendations on the issues raised.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the advancement of women
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/6)

This document presents the proposed outputs and activities to be undertaken by ESCWA in the field of advancement of women during the biennium 2016-2017, under subprogramme 6 on advancement of women, which falls under the responsibility of the ESCWA Centre for Women. The programme of work was prepared in line with the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session (Tunis, 15-18 September 2014).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the content of this document and make comments thereon.

8. Date and venue of the eighth session of the Committee on Women

Representatives of member States shall agree on the date and venue of the eighth session of the Committee on Women.

9. Other matters

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

10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its seventh session

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