

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/INF.1  
7 January 2011  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

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

Committee on Social Development  
Eighth session  
Beirut, 24-25 March 2011

**INFORMATION NOTE***1. Background information*

The Committee on Social Development was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 198 (XVII) of 31 May 1994, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 27/1994 of 26 July 1994. The objective of establishing the Committee was to enhance regional cooperation through the effective participation of relevant parties in member countries in planning and implementing the programme of work of ESCWA in the field of social development. The Committee held its first session in Amman in 1997, its second, third, fourth and fifth sessions in Beirut in 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2005 respectively, its sixth session in Amman in 2007, and its seventh session in Beirut in 2009. The Committee will hold its eighth session at the United Nations House in Beirut on 24 and 25 March 2011.

*2. Aims*

The eighth session of the Committee on Social Development aims at providing an official forum for discussing proposals related to the formulation of the programme of work of ESCWA in the field of social development and making recommendations on the ways to improve the activities included in that programme. It also aims at reviewing and discussing actions taken by the Social Development Division (SDD) at ESCWA and the reports it prepared on priority issues in the field of social development. The information contained in the documents and reports presented to the Committee on Social Development at its eighth session represents the basis for discussion, exchange of experience and making suggestions, noting that ESCWA continuously seeks information on major developments, statistical data, and action and measures taken by member countries in order to provide quality services, including facilitating negotiations and adopting regional common positions, strategies, programmes and action plans on the various social issues discussed at the international forums. Therefore, the current session constitutes a platform for dialogue where member countries could share experience and present proposals on all areas of social development. The secretariat hopes that this session will lead to concrete approaches and proposals on maximizing the benefit derived from the activities and services included in the programme of work of ESCWA for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of social development which is implemented by SDD.

*3. Agenda*

The provisional agenda and annotations of the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development are provided in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/INF.1.

#### 4. *Participants*

Representatives of member countries will attend the meetings of the session. In accordance with the United Nations regulations, participating governments shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives. Relevant international and regional organizations as well as civil society organizations will be invited to attend the session as observers, on the understanding that they are also responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives.

#### 5. *Date and venue*

The Committee on Social Development will convene its eighth session at the United Nations House in Beirut on 24 and 25 March 2011. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Thursday 24 March 2011 and the session will be opened at 10 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will end at 4 p.m. on Friday 25 March 2011.

#### 6. *language of the session*

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. If needed, English may be used for paper presentations. Simultaneous interpretation into and from English and Arabic will be provided.

#### 7. *Entry visas*

Participants may obtain entry visas through the Lebanese embassy in their respective countries.

#### 8. *Accommodation and transportation*

A list of some suggested hotels is provided below. Participants may make reservations directly with the selected hotel through the telephone and fax numbers listed, and mention the name of the event while making the reservation, as well as the flight number and time of arrival and departure to and from Beirut. The hotels listed below may provide welcoming and escorting services in and to Beirut airport as well as transportation to and from ESCWA headquarters, upon arrangements made by participants with the hotel. All participants shall pay their accommodation expenses to the hotel directly.

Hotel	Rating	Address	Telephone	Fax
Commodore	*****	Hamra, Beirut	350400	345806/7
Crowne Plaza	*****	Hamra, Beirut	754755	749555
Lancaster	****	Raouche, Australia Street, Beirut	790810	790820
Markazieh Monroe Suites	****	Downtown Beirut	991200	991211
Cavalier	****	Hamra, Beirut	353001-5	347681

#### 9. *Correspondence*

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