



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/L.1
13 December 2010
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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

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.
4. Progress achieved in implementing social development-related activities and recommendations under ESCWA programme of work since the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development.
5. Follow-up on priority issues in the field of social development in the ESCWA region:
 - (a) Proposed methods to combat poverty among persons with disabilities;
 - (b) Civil society participation in public policy processes;
 - (c) National policies on youth.
6. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of social development.
7. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Social Development.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Social Development on its eighth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The eighth session of the Committee on Social Development will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 24 March 2011, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations House, in Beirut. The representative of Bahrain, Ms. Jamila Abdallah Al-Kohagi, in her capacity as chairwoman of the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development, will give the welcome speech. Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Mrs. Rima Khalaf, will deliver the opening speech, which will be followed by an address by Mr. Salim Sayegh, the Minister of Social Affairs in Lebanon, under whose auspices the present session convenes.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of 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 Syrian Arab Republic shall assume the chairmanship of the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development, succeeding Bahrain, which assumed the chairmanship of the seventh session, from 26 October 2009 to 24 March 2011, the date of convening the eighth session. The Committee shall elect the two vice-chairmen and the rapporteur from among its member representatives.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chairman has assumed his duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will be presented with the provisional agenda and annotations for this session in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/L.1. It will also be presented with the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Progress achieved in implementing social development-related activities and recommendations under ESCWA programme of work since the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development (E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/3)

The Committee will review in that document the progress achieved in implementing activities and recommendations related to social development under ESCWA programme of work since the seventh session of the Committee. Member country representatives will be invited to take note of those activities and make comments and recommendations thereon.

5. Follow-up on priority issues in the field of social development in the ESCWA region (E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/4)

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with the following three reports on priority issues in the field of social development:

(a) Proposed methods to combat poverty among persons with disabilities (E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/4(Part I))

This report addresses the relationship between disability on the one hand and social exclusion and poverty on the other in the ESCWA region. It was prepared in the context of implementing the Arab

* ESCWA member countries in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2004-2013 and contains a review of the main factors of disability, marginalization and deprivation, which require further efforts from policymakers in the ESCWA region. It also highlights the scarcity of data and information available on the subject. The report suggests a set of recommendations that could help in formulating policies aimed at promoting social inclusion of persons with disabilities and equality in the region. Member country representatives will be invited to take note of the report and give their comments and recommendations thereon.

(b) Civil society participation in public policy processes (E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/4(Part II))

This report highlights the status and circumstances affecting the performance of civil society organizations in ESCWA member countries, the factors contributing to enhancing their role and the new trends of their activities. The report also addresses the fundamental areas of intervention by those organizations and their impact on public policies, the obstacles hindering intervention and indicators of the effective results it achieves. Member country representatives will be invited to take note of the report and give their comments and recommendations thereon.

(c) National policies on youth (E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/4(Part III))

In the light of the Conceptual Framework adopted by ESCWA for orienting its youth-related programme of work, this report focuses on the need to reconsider the planning methods through a review and assessment of the accomplishments achieved by member countries in the area of formulating cross-sectoral policies addressing the various youth-related issues. Member country representatives will be invited to take note of the report and give their comments and recommendations thereon.

6. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of social development (E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/5)

The Committee will review the proposed activities and outputs to be undertaken by ESCWA under its programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of social development. The programme of work was prepared in line with subprogramme 2 on social development of the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013, which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-sixth session (Beirut, 17-20 May 2010). Member country representatives will be invited to review the social development-related activities proposed in the programme of work and provide comments in that regard.

7. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Social Development

The Committee on Social Development will decide the date and venue of its ninth session which is scheduled to be held in 2013.

8. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Social Development on its eighth session

The Committee will consider the draft report on its eighth session, which includes the recommendations, for discussion and adoption.
