

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

Committee on Social Development
Eleventh session
Khartoum, 17-18 October 2017

**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 1994/27 of 26 July 1994. The objective was to enhance regional cooperation in planning and implementing the ESCWA programme of work in the field of social development, through the effective participation of relevant parties in ESCWA member States. 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, its seventh and eighth sessions in Beirut in 2009 and 2011 respectively, its ninth session in Amman in 2013 and its tenth session in Rabat in 2015. The Committee will hold its eleventh session in Khartoum on 17 and 18 October 2017.

2. Objectives

The current session aims to provide a forum for representatives of member States to discuss, share experiences and present proposals on priority issues in the field of social development. The information contained in the documents and reports presented during the session shall constitute the basis for discussion, as ESCWA continuously seeks statistical data and information on major developments in, and actions taken by member States in order to enhance the quality of its services, including facilitating negotiations and adopting common regional positions, strategies, programmes and action plans on the various social issues discussed at the international forums.

The session will start with a review of actions taken by the ESCWA Social Development Division and of progress achieved in implementing the programmed activities in the field of social development and recommendations issued by the Committee at its previous session. In particular, the ESCWA secretariat will brief the Committee on actions taken to form an intersessional group of experts on persons with disabilities; the results of the questionnaire on the programmes and activities of the Social Development Division; the implementation of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice; and technical assistance for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The eleventh session will also tackle three salient issues in the field of social development in the Arab region, namely: the New Urban Agenda which was endorsed by the General Assembly at its seventy-first

session in December 2016, and the follow-up by ESCWA on its implementation from a social development angle; age structural transitions and sustainable development; and intergenerational justice.

3. Agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda and annotations of the eleventh session of the Committee on Social Development as well as the proposed organization of work are provided in documents E/ESCWA/SDD/2017/IG.1/L.1 and E/ESCWA/SDD/2017/IG.1/L.2, respectively.

4. Participants

Representatives of concerned ministries in member States will attend the session meetings. Relevant regional and international organizations will be invited to attend the session as observers. In accordance with United Nations regulations, participating Governments and regional and international organizations attending the session as observers shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives.

5. Date and venue

The Committee on Social Development will convene its eleventh session in Corinthia Hotel, Khartoum on 17 and 18 October 2017. The registration of delegates will commence at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 17 October 2017 and the session will commence at 10 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will end at 4 p.m. on Wednesday 18 October 2017.

6. Language

Session proceedings will be in Arabic and English, with simultaneous interpretation from and into both languages.

7. Entry visas

Participants are requested to apply directly to the Embassy of the Sudan in their respective countries to obtain their entry visas to the Sudan..

8. Accommodation and transportation

The ESCWA secretariat suggests that participants make reservations in a hotel close to the meeting venue. 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 eleventh session of the Committee on Social Development. The hotels may offer airport pick-up and drop-off services, organized on an individual basis and upon request.

9. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be addressed to the following ESCWA staff members:

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