

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

Committee on Social Development
Twelfth session
Beirut, 8-9 October 2019



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Social development and the Sustainable Development Goals

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14. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Social Development at its twelfth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The twelfth session of the Committee on Social Development will convene at the United Nations House in Beirut, on Tuesday, 8 October 2019, at 10 a.m. The representative of Oman, in their capacity as Chair of the eleventh session of the Committee, will deliver the welcome speech. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat will then deliver the opening speech.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the 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".* The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from representatives of member States.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the 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 Committee shall adopt the provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work as presented in documents E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/L.1 and E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/L.2, respectively, or in amended forms.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work and of recommendations made by the Committee on Social Development at its eleventh session (E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/3)

The Committee will review social development-related activities implemented under the ESCWA programme of work and pursuant to recommendations made at its eleventh session (Khartoum, 17-18 October 2017).

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and provide guidance to the ESCWA secretariat on the way forward in that regard.

5. Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/4)

The Committee will consider technical cooperation activities carried out by the ESCWA secretariat in the field of social development upon member States' requests since its eleventh session, including advisory services, training workshops and capacity-building activities.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and discuss technical cooperation priorities and needs for the coming years.

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

6. Activities of the Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability
(E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/5)

The Committee will review activities and main achievements of the Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability (IGED) during the 2018-2019 biennium, as well as priorities set for its future work. The IGED was formed pursuant to a recommendation made by the Committee on Social Development at its tenth session, which was held in Rabat on 8 and 9 September 2015, to follow-up on disability issues between Committee sessions and increase regional cooperation in that regard.

The Committee is invited to take note of IGED activities and priorities and provide comments thereon.

7. Action taken by member States pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Social Development (Briefings by State representatives)

The Committee will be briefed by member State representatives on national actions taken to implement the recommendations made at its eleventh session.

Representatives who wish to make a presentation are kindly asked to submit a request in advance to the ESCWA secretariat. The sequence of presentations will follow the order of requests registration.

Social Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

8. Round-table discussion: Social protection reform in Arab countries
(E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/CRP.1)

The Committee will discuss how social protection can be conceptualized as one system of interrelated parts and how these parts can be better integrated. It will review the main lines of reforms in the different policy areas that compose social protection, namely social insurance, health insurance, social assistance (cash transfers) and the establishment of social and integrated registries. The discussion will also address the main questions and challenges facing countries in those reform areas and review examples of successful solutions.

9. Inclusion of older persons: policy implications for the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/6)

The Committee will examine the different dimensions of older persons' inclusion in society, namely economic, social and political inclusion. It will discuss opportunities, challenges and some promising practices emerging in the region, and consider policy recommendations on inclusion of older persons in Arab countries.

The Committee is invited to provide suggestions and recommendations for the way forward in that regard.

10. The nexus approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/7)

The Committee will explore the difficulties of adapting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the strategies, policies and programmes of Arab States, and the main challenges and opportunities related to its implementation. It will discuss policy actions aimed at ensuring that the equality-inclusion-justice nexus is adequately mainstreamed in national development processes.

The Committee is invited to provide comments, suggestions and recommendations on means to uphold equality and justice and ensure inclusion in the context of 2030 Agenda implementation.

Programmatic issues

11. Proposed programme plan for 2020 in the field of social development
(E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/8)

The Committee will take note of the proposed programme plan for 2020 prepared under ESCWA subprogramme 2 on social development. The plan for the year 2020 is presented in a new and different format compared with previous plans, following the decision in the United Nations system to shift from biennial to one-year planning and budgeting process as of 2020. The proposed ESCWA programme plan for 2020 was presented to the Executive Committee, which adopted it at its fifth meeting held in Beirut on 18 and 19 December 2018.

The Committee is invited to take note of the plan and make comments thereon.

12. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Social Development

The Committee shall agree on the date and venue of its thirteenth session, to be held in 2021.

13. Other matters

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

14. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Social Development at its twelfth session

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