

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Social Development
Ninth session
Amman, 12-13 October 2013

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 Committee was established 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 and eighth sessions in Beirut in 2009 and 2011 respectively. The Committee will hold its ninth session in Amman on 12 and 13 October 2013.

2. Aims

The Committee on Social Development aims, through its ninth session, to provide an official forum for discussing proposals related to the formulation of the ESCWA programme of work in the field of social development and making recommendations on ways to improve the activities included in that programme. It also aims to review and discuss actions taken by the Social Development Division (SDD) at ESCWA and its reports 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 ninth session shall constitute the basis for discussion and exchange of experience, as 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 propositions on maximizing the benefit derived from the activities implemented by SDD and included in the programme of work of ESCWA for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of social development.

3. Agenda

The provisional agenda and annotations of the ninth session of the Committee on Social Development are provided in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/L.1.

4. Participants

Representatives of member countries will attend the session meetings. 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, and 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 ninth session at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman on 12 and 13 October 2013. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 12 October 2013 and the session will be opened at 10 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will end at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 13 October 2013.

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 embassy of Jordan in their respective countries.

8. *Accommodation and transportation*

The Kempinski Hotel is offering special rates to the participants of the ninth session of the Committee on Social Development. Participants may make reservations directly with the hotel through the telephone and fax numbers listed, and mention the name of the event while making the reservation. The hotel may provide welcoming and escorting services from and to the airport, upon arrangements made by participants with the hotel. All participants shall pay their accommodation expenses to the hotel directly.

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Abdul Hamid Shouman Street
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9. *Correspondence*

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