

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

Committee on Social Development
Seventh session
Beirut, 26-27 October 2009

INFORMATION NOTE**A. 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 concerning the establishment of a committee on social development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 27/1994 of 26 July 1994. It was established with the aim of promoting regional cooperation through the effective participation of relevant parties in member countries in planning the ESCWA programme of work in the field of social development. The Committee on Social Development held its first session in Amman in 1997, its second, third, fourth and fifth sessions in Beirut in 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2005 respectively, and its sixth session in Amman in 2007. The Committee will hold its seventh session at UN House in Beirut on 26-27 October 2009.

B. AIMS

The aim of the current session is to provide an official forum for discussion of proposals and recommendations related to the formulation of the ESCWA programme of work in the field of social development and the ways to improve the activities included in that programme. The session also aims at reviewing and discussing the action taken by ESCWA Social Development Division (SDD) and its reports on the 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 seventh session, represents the basis for discussion, experience sharing and submission of proposals, noting that ESCWA always seeks to obtain information on major developments, statistical data, action and measures taken by member countries, in order to provide quality services, including facilitating negotiations and the adoption of 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 experiences 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 ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of social development and implemented by SDD.

C. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The provisional agenda of the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development is contained in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/L.1.

D. PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of member countries will attend the meetings of this session. In accordance to the United Nations regulations, governments participating in the session are responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives. Relevant international and regional organizations as well as civil 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.

E. ARAB FORUM ON SOCIAL POLICY

Pursuant to resolution 277 (XXIV) adopted by ESCWA at its twenty fourth session, the Social Division is organizing the Arab Forum on Social Policy, which will be held after the conclusion of the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development, on 28-29 October 2009. In conjunction with the Forum, an exhibition on Social Policy Knowledge will take place, in which books, publications and posters will be displayed and audio-visual material provided for visitors to get information on the activities of participating organizations and institutions. A separate information note on the Forum will be issued containing details on the meetings and participants.

F. DATE AND VENUE

The seventh session of the Committee on Social Development will be held at UN House in Beirut on 26 and 27 October 2009. Registration will commence at 9:30 a.m. on Monday 26 October 2009 and the session will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will end at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 27 October 2009. Following the conclusion of the session, the Arab Forum on Social Policy and the exhibition on Social Policy Knowledge will be held at UN House in Beirut on 28-29 October 2009.

G. LANGUAGE OF THE SESSION

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

H. ENTRY VISAS

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

I. ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION

A list of some suggested hotels is provided below. Participants may make the 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 arrival and departure time 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, upon arrangements made by participants with the hotel. Participants must settle hotel accommodation and other expenses directly with the hotel. Commodore hotel is offering special rates to participants in the session at US\$ 69.00 for a single room in addition to 10 per cent tax.

| Hotel | Rating | Address | Telephone (961-1) | Fax (961-1) |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Commodore | ***** | Hamra-Beirut | 350400 | 345806/7 |
| Crowne Plaza | ***** | Hamra-Beirut | 754755 | 749555 |
| Lancaster | **** | Raouche-Beirut | 790810 | 790820 |
| Markazieh Monroe Suites | **** | Downtown-Beirut | 991200 | 991211 |
| Cavalier | **** | Hamra-Beirut | 353001-5 | 347681 |

J. CORRESPONDENCE

All session related correspondence should be sent to the following ESCWA officials:

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