Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Technology for Development
Third session
Online, 15-16 February 2021

Information for participants

1. *Background*

The Committee on Technology for Development of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 315 (XXVIII) of 18 September 2014, which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2014/35 of 17 November 2014. The Committee's mandate includes following up on regional priorities in the field of technology for development, including scientific research and innovation, the digital economy and the information society, Internet governance, technology transfer and knowledge-based economies; keeping pace with developments in those fields and preparing recommendations thereon; following up on relevant regional and international processes, conferences and forums, and coordinating regional efforts to implement decisions and recommendations of those conferences; and promoting the work of the ESCWA secretariat in building capacity and supporting cooperation with relevant ministerial councils of the League of Arab States and related organizations, such as the Council of Arab Ministers of Communication and Information Technology and the Arab Administrative Development Organization, to align policies and strategies, forge partnerships and coordinate positions at the international level. The Committee on Technology for Development meets biennially. Its second session was held in Beirut on 20 and 21 March 2019.

2. *Date and venue*

In view of the current health crisis, the third session of the Committee on Technology for Development will be held online, on 15 and 16 February 2021, using an electronic platform to be determined at a later date. The session will open at 10 a.m. Participants will receive a link to the session via email. In addition to the work of the session, the Committee will participate in an online seminar organized by the ESCWA Statistical Committee on "Localized big data for effective decision-making in crises", which will be held on 11 February 2021 at 10.30 a.m. Participants will also receive a link to the seminar via email.

3. *Participants*

Representatives of ESCWA member States have been invited to participate in the session. Several regional and international organizations and institutions working in the field of technology also received invitations to participate in the session as observers.

4. *Organization of work and adoption of recommendations*

In accordance with the session's online environment, the ESCWA secretariat will provide the necessary support to facilitate proceedings and allow sufficient time for discussions. It will prepare draft recommendations, emanating from the documents presented, and forward them in advance to the heads of participating delegations for their review and written comments. The secretariat will add recommendations emanating from the discussions to the draft, which will be presented at the closing of the session for adoption. The secretariat hopes that the preparatory work will facilitate the adoption of the recommendations and compensate for the extended discussion enabled by in-person meetings.

5. *Languages of the session*

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. English may be used to present some documents, if necessary. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

6. *Time zone*

Lebanese time is GMT+2 hours.

7. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to:

Mr. Juraj Riecan
Director of the Statistics, Information
 Society and Technology Cluster
Tel.: + 961 1 978 351
E-mail: riecan@un.org

Ms. Manal Tabbara
Administrative Assistant
Tel.: +961 1 978 543
E-mail: tabbaram@un.org