

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

Committee on Social Development
Tenth session
Rabat, 8-9 September 2015

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 resolution 1994 /27of 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 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, and its ninth session in Amman in 2013. The tenth session of the Committee will be held in Rabat on 8 and 9 September 2015, and will be hosted by the Moroccan Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development.

2. Objectives

Through its tenth session, the Committee on Social Development aims to provide a forum for representatives of member States to discuss priority issues of concern, share experiences and present proposals on all areas 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 international forums. The current session will start with a review of actions taken by the Social Development Division at ESCWA and of progress achieved in implementing activities on priority issues in the field of social development. It will then tackle three thematic issues: the population dimension of sustainable development in the Arab region; the extension of social protection to vulnerable groups with focus on persons with disabilities and informal workers in the agricultural sector; and participation as a lever for social justice. Committee members will finally examine the proposed programme of work of ESCWA in the field of social development for the biennium 2016-2017 and make recommendations on ways to streamline activities and maximize benefits. They will also be briefed on the results of the survey prepared by ESCWA to improve communication and outreach with member States.

3. Agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda and annotations of the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development and the proposed organization of work are provided in documents E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/L.1 and E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/L.2, respectively.

4. Participants

Representatives of member States will attend the session meetings. In accordance with United Nations regulations, Governments shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their

representatives. Relevant regional and international organizations are invited to attend the session as observers and are also responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives.

5. *Date and venue*

The Committee on Social Development will convene its tenth session at the Fondation Mohammed VI de Promotion des Oeuvres Sociales de l'Éducation-Formation in Rabat, on 8 and 9 September 2015. The registration of delegates will start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 8 September 2015 and the session will commence at 9.30 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will end at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 September 2015. The address and contact information of the Foundation is as follows:

Fondation Mohammed VI de Promotion des Oeuvres Sociales de l'Éducation-Formation
Avenue Allal El-Fassi-Ryad
Madinat Al-Irfane
Rabat 10000, Morocco
Phone: +212-537686909
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6. *Language of the session*

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

7. *Entry visas*

Participants may obtain entry visas through the embassy of Morocco in their respective countries.

8. *Accommodation and transportation*

Participants are expected to make reservations directly with the hotel of their choice. They can also coordinate with the hotel the transportation from and to the airport. A list of hotels that offer discounted rates to participants is posted on the ESCWA website at the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetailsAR.asp?referenceNUM=3625a>.

9. *Correspondence*

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

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