

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

Statistical Committee  
Fourteenth session  
Online, 10-11 February 2021

**Information note***1. Background information*

The Statistical Committee was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution [179 \(XVI\)](#) of 2 September 1992, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution [1993/2](#) of 2 February 1993, to follow up on progress achieved by member States in developing their statistical systems; provide them with technical advice; propose training programmes and organize workshops and seminars to enhance their statistical capacity; assist them in standardizing national statistics to ensure their comparability at the regional and international levels; coordinate the exchange of statistical data and information between member States and the United Nations Statistical Commission; and coordinate the statistical programmes of member States, especially in matters relating to surveys and censuses. The Statistical Committee holds its sessions biennially. It held its thirteenth session in Beirut on 29 and 30 January 2019.

*2. Date and venue of the session*

In view of the current health crisis, the fourteenth session of the Statistical Committee will be held online on 10 and 11 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.

*3. Participants*

The invitation has been extended to heads of national statistical offices in ESCWA member States, national technical focal points and experts interested in the topics set out in the agenda. Representatives of regional and international organizations involved in statistical work are welcome to participate 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 meeting-related correspondence should be sent to:

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