

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

Statistical Committee  
Eleventh session  
Amman, 4-5 February 2015

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS****THE DATA REVOLUTION FOR SUPPORT AND MONITORING  
OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

The meeting agenda comprises the following items:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Implications of the twenty-eighth ministerial session of ESCWA in the area of statistical monitoring of social justice:
  - (a) Issues of measuring social justice;
  - (b) Proposed methodology for measuring multidimensional poverty.
5. Round table on national strategies for the development of statistics in support of the post-2015 development agenda.
6. Official statistics and emerging sources of data: implications for ESCWA statistical activities.
7. ESCWA statistical activities:
  - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its tenth session;
  - (b) Strategic direction for the statistical work of ESCWA in 2016-2020 in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;
  - (c) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of statistics.
8. Coordinating a regional position on topics for discussion and decision on the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

9. Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Statistical Committee on its eleventh session.

### ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The eleventh session of the Statistical Committee will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 February 2015, hosted by the ESCWA Technology Centre in Amman.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: “Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”.\* Pursuant to that rule, Palestine shall chair the eleventh session of the Statistical Committee, succeeding Oman, which chaired the tenth session from January 2012 to January 2015. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur among its member representatives.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: “At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.” Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will review the provisional agenda for this session in document E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/L.1. It will also review the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Implications of the twenty-eighth ministerial session of ESCWA in the area of statistical monitoring of social justice (E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/3)

The Committee will consider the following documents:

(a) Issues of measuring social justice  
(E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/3(Part I))

The main theme of the twenty-eighth session was “Social justice in the policies of Arab States”. Delegates considered aspects of social development, economy, natural resources and measuring social justice. The outcome document of the session, entitled the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region, contains specific requests related to statistics in the Arab region. The Committee will be informed about a number of issues that were raised about the statistical measurement of social justice.

The Committee is invited to take note of the statistical implications of the ESCWA resolutions and provide guidance for the follow-up.

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\* ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

(b) Proposed methodology for measuring multidimensional poverty  
(E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/3(Part II))

This document presents a summary of the approach proposed by ESCWA for measuring multidimensional poverty. The methodology is intended for a survey that would be used for analysis by various ESCWA subprogrammes. Under this item, the secretariat will also present to the Committee a full version of the paper on the subject in document E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/CRP.1.

The Committee is invited to provide feedback on the proposed methodology and agree to the organization of the survey.

5. Round table on national strategies for the development of statistics in support of the post-2015 development agenda (E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/4)

The Committee will be invited to consider issues of strategic importance to national statistical systems in support of the post-2015 development agenda. The round-table discussion will focus on formulating national strategies supporting data needs in 2015-2030 in line with a methodology developed by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21). Background information will be made available to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/CRP.2.

6. Official statistics and emerging sources of data: implications for ESCWA statistical activities  
(E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/5)

National statistical systems face an increasing demand for more detailed data. In the absence of added resources, such demand must be met through more efficient data collection methods. Information and communications technology experts, decision-makers and the public favour use of the abundant information available electronically – also known as Big Data. National statistical offices should explore such new sources of data while maintaining their commitment to the quality, reliability, relevance, representativeness and confidentiality of all data, whatever the source.

The Committee is invited to propose an approach to the activities of ESCWA, including cooperation between member States, and technical and methodological support by ESCWA and other organizations.

7. ESCWA statistical activities  
(E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/6)

The Committee will consider the following documents:

(a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its tenth session  
(E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/6(Part I))

This document presents an overview of the action taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth session.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the status of implementation and make comments in that regard.

(b) Strategic direction for the statistical work of ESCWA in 2016-2020 in the context of the post-2015 development agenda (E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/6(Part II))

In this document, the secretariat provides a summary of issues and recommendations raised by national statistical offices of ESCWA member States at a videoconference on 22 October 2014, as

well as issues addressed in strategic documents on the data revolution and the post-2015 development agenda.

The Committee is invited to review the proposals and formulate recommendations concerning the statistical activities of ESCWA in 2016-2020.

(c) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of statistics  
(E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/6(Part III))

This document presents the proposed programme of work for ESCWA in the area of statistics during the 2016-2017 biennium. It is based on the ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium, which was adopted at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

The representatives of member States are invited to review the proposed programme of work and recommend any necessary amendments.

8. Coordinating a regional position on topics for discussion and decision on the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Under this item, the Committee will coordinate the position of ESCWA member States on key issues to be discussed at the United Nations Statistical Commission in the last week of February 2015. Committee members will have before them the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2015/1/Rev.1); they are invited to make proposals on which items should be discussed by the delegations of ESCWA member States prior to the session of the Statistical Commission.

9. Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee

The Committee will discuss the date and venue of its twelfth session, which will be held in 2016.

10. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

11. Adoption of the report of the Statistical Committee on its eleventh session

The Committee will review the draft report on the eleventh session, which includes the recommendations, for discussion and adoption.

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