



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and
Financing for Development
Twelfth session (Financing for Development)
Beirut, 4-5 December 2017



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Actions taken in the field of financing for development:
 - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its previous session;
 - (b) Implementation of activities related to financing for development under the ESCWA programme of work since the previous session of the Committee.
5. Implementation mechanisms of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: global commitments versus Arab priorities in the field of financing for development.
6. The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard:
 - (a) Overall results;
 - (b) Domestic and international private business and finance;
 - (c) International development cooperation;
 - (d) International trade as an engine for development;
 - (e) Debt and debt sustainability.
7. Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region:
 - (a) Domestic resource mobilization by curbing illicit financial flows and trade misinvoicing (panel discussion);
 - (b) The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard: domestic public resources.
8. Feasibility of an Arab forum on financing for development.

9. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of financing for development.
10. Date and venue of the next session (on financing for development) of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee at its twelfth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The twelfth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development will commence its proceedings at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 4 December 2017 in the Conference Hall of the United Nations House in Beirut. The representative of Bahrain, the country which chaired the previous session of the Committee, will make a welcome statement. The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, will then deliver the inaugural address.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia 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, Tunisia shall chair the twelfth session of the Committee, succeeding Bahrain, which chaired the previous session. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from among its member States representatives. Based on established practice, the vice-chairs shall be the past chair (Bahrain) and the subsequent chair (Tunisia) of the Committee according to alphabetical rotation.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which applies 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 have before it the provisional agenda and annotations in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/L.1 and the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

* 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, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

4. Actions taken in the field of financing for development
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/3)

The secretariat will present the following reports:

(a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its previous session
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/3(Part I))

This report presents the activities and substantive interventions implemented by the ESCWA executive secretariat in the field of financing for development pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its previous session (Amman, 7-8 April 2015). The document lists each recommendation and the related implementation actions.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of what has been implemented and make suggestions in that regard.

(b) Implementation of activities related to financing for development under the ESCWA programme of work since the previous session of the Committee
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/3(Part II))

This report reviews the activities related to financing for development under the ESCWA programme of work which were implemented by the secretariat since the previous session of the Committee.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of what has been implemented and make suggestions in that regard.

5. Implementation mechanisms of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: global commitments versus Arab priorities in the field of financing for development
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/4)

This report reviews progress made in implementing the outcomes of the Third United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development, namely the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and related processes that serve to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also highlights the global commitments versus Arab priorities in the area of financing for development, the contributions and positions of civil society, and the key messages emanating from the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, covering the period since the previous session of the Committee.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of these developments and provide guidance for further work.

6. The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/5)

The secretariat will present the following reports:

(a) Overall results
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/5(Part I))

This report presents the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard which is designed as a regional measurement tool and as an analytical compendium to assess progress made in financing for development in the Arab region according to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Taking into

consideration the cost of conflict and displacement in the region, the Scorecard presents the overall results pertaining to several areas of the Action Agenda: domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; and debt and debt sustainability.

Representatives of member States are invited to examine the findings of the Scorecard, endorse its application as a regional tool and support the presentation of its findings to the appropriate United Nations entities.

(b) Domestic and international private business and finance
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/5(Part III))

This report maps the landscape of international public and private finance in 2015 (the baseline-year established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to monitor the implementation and progress of financing for development). It also provides an analytical assessment (qualitative and quantitative) of the state of private finance in the Arab region, including cross-border flows and the main determinants affecting the mobilization of such finance, taking into account regional contexts and realities as emphasized by the Action Agenda.

Representatives of member States are invited to consider the global and regional trends in domestic and international private business and finance presented in this document and comment thereon.

(c) International development cooperation
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/5(Part IV))

This report provides analytical assessments of international development cooperation, including official development assistance and its relationships to humanitarian and in-donor refugee costs. It also provides an analytical mapping of Arab official development assistance inflows and outflows, taking into account regional contexts as prescribed by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Representatives of member States are invited to consider the global and regional trends in development cooperation presented in this document and comment thereon.

(d) International trade as an engine for development
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/5(Part V))

This report maps the international trading landscape and corresponding commitments arising from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and examines whether trade (preferential or non-preferential) has effectively served as an engine for growth and development as stipulated in the Action Agenda. The report highlights the factors that influenced the trade-growth nexus at the global and regional levels. It also examines the trade-led components of the Addis Agenda against the Arab regions' realities and national priorities, to provide an assessment of the net financial flows associated with its trade profile, terms of trade and trade-growth linkages.

Representatives of member States are invited to discuss the findings of the present document and comment thereon.

(e) Debt and debt sustainability
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/5(Part VI))

This report looks at the global situation of external debt financing and domestic capital markets and innovative debt instruments. It also reviews regional dynamics of debt and debt sustainability emphasizing the importance of debt crisis prevention, given that decision-making on sovereign

borrowing rests with debtor countries themselves. The report also examines whether external debt offers a sustainable means to finance development and whether it should be encouraged at this time in the Arab region.

Representatives of member States are invited to consider the facts presented and issues raised in this document and comment thereon.

7. Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region

The secretariat will moderate a panel discussion on financing the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region focusing on the following subject:

- (a) Domestic resource mobilization by curbing illicit financial flows and trade misinvoicing
(Panel discussion)
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/6/Panel)

This panel will provide a platform for dialogue between decision-makers and experts regarding the effects of illicit financial flows and trade misinvoicing on the mobilization of domestic resources to implement the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region. The main motives behind illicit financial flows and trade misinvoicing in the Arab region will also be addressed, along with regional estimates of illicit financial flows. The panel aims to support member States' efforts in implementing their commitments under the Action Agenda to eliminate illicit financial flows by 2030.

The secretariat will also present its findings on the issue of illicit financial flows and trade misinvoicing as reported in the following document:

- (b) The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard: domestic public resources
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/5(Part II))

This report provides the key findings and conclusions of the first ESCWA report on curbing illicit financial flows and trade misinvoicing to enhance domestic resource mobilization in the Arab region. These flows account for substantial resource leakages in the region. They undermine the rule of law, effective tax administration and revenue collection; distort trade figures and gains from multilateral and preferential trade (trade misinvoicing); and worsen macroeconomic and security conditions (terrorist or conflict financing). The report also highlights the implications of illicit financial flows on the enforcement of regional trade agreements (intra and extraregional) and on the establishment of an Arab customs union by 2021.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of those findings and make comments thereon.

8. Feasibility of an Arab forum on financing for development
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/7)

This paper, prepared in response to a request by member States in line with the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, looks at the need for a regional platform on mobilizing finance to drive the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region, as well as other regional initiatives, including priority areas identified at the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development. It examines the role of various platforms operating in the region and paths followed in other regions to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It contemplates a range of options for a proposed forum, bearing in mind the concerns and priorities of member States and the need to exploit the flexibility provided by the Action Agenda to pursue a mix of national priorities and regional sustainable development projects.

Representatives of member States are invited to discuss the paper and provide guidance on the proposed forum.

9. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of financing for development (E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/8)

This document presents activities and outputs proposed to be implemented by the secretariat in the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of financing for development under subprogramme 3 on economic development and integration which falls under the responsibility of the Economic Development and Integration Division of ESCWA. The proposed programme of work was prepared in line with the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-ninth session (Doha, 13-15 December 2016).

Representatives of member States are invited to review the proposed programme of work in the field of financing for development and provide comments and suggestions thereon.

10. Date and venue of the next session (on financing for development) of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development

The Committee will decide the date and venue of its next session.

11. Other matters

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

12. Adoption of the recommendation made by the Committee at its twelfth session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations for discussion and adoption.
