

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

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

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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 - (b) Extending social protection to persons with disabilities and informal workers in the agricultural sector;
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9. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Committee on Social Development.
10. Adoption of the recommendations of the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The tenth session of the Committee on Social Development will begin at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday 8 September 2015 in Rabat. The representative of the Sudan, the country which chaired the ninth session of the Committee, will deliver an opening speech. The secretariat of ESCWA will subsequently deliver a welcoming speech.

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".

With a view to ensuring continuity, the Committee has adopted the following procedure to select its two vice-chairs and its rapporteur: the vice-chairs shall be the representative of the country that chaired the past session and the representative of the country that will chair the subsequent session of the Committee according to alphabetical rotation in the Arabic language. The rapporteur shall be the representative of the country next in the alphabetical order to the country of the second vice-chair. Accordingly, the representatives of the Sudan and Oman shall be the vice-chairs and the representative of Palestine shall be the rapporteur.

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 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". In accordance with that rule, the provisional agenda and annotations for this meeting will be presented to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/L.1, and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/L.2. Both documents may be adopted by the Committee as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Implementation of social development-related activities and recommendations since the ninth session of the Committee on Social Development (E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/3)

This document contains a review of the progress made in implementing activities and recommendations related to social development under the ESCWA programme of work since the ninth session of the Committee.

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

* 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.

5. Priority issues in achieving social development in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/4)

Under this item, the Committee will discuss the following issues:

(a) The population dimension in achieving sustainable development
(E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/4(Part I))

This report highlights the close link between population and sustainable development. It identifies population issues and references to vulnerable groups and groups at higher risk of discrimination in the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs), namely youth, migrants, older persons and persons with disabilities. The paper stresses the importance of focusing on those groups with a view to intensifying development efforts to help bridge existing gaps between the disadvantaged, marginalized or vulnerable groups and the mainstream population. It also shows the similarities between the 2013 Cairo Declaration of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in the Arab States (ICPD Beyond 2014), and the proposed SDGs in the post-2015 development agenda as two complementary frameworks. The report also stresses the importance of ensuring that the final version of SDGs includes a strong focus on population as a key enabler for the achievement of sustainable development.

Representatives of member States are invited to review the document and provide comments, suggestions and recommendations thereon.

(b) Extending social protection to persons with disabilities and informal workers in the agricultural sector (E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/4(Part II))

This report addresses social protection from the perspective of inclusive, rights-based social development. It reviews available and possible means to extend social protection to specific vulnerable groups, namely persons with disabilities and informal workers in the agricultural sector. The report also proposes mechanisms for the provision of social protection to those groups and presents recommendations aimed at enhancing the capacity of member States to adopt social policies and institutional mechanisms conducive to promoting equitable and inclusive social development.

Representatives of member States are invited to review the document and provide comments, suggestions and recommendations thereon.

(c) Participation as a lever for social justice (round-table discussion)
(E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/4(Part III))

The secretariat will present this report in a round table that brings together heads of delegations, and high-level speakers and experts from the region. The report highlights the challenges associated with social justice and the different forms of social injustice experienced in the Arab region, with focus on structural obstacles that perpetuate exclusion and poverty. It emphasizes the central role of participation in furthering social justice, and highlights the main prerequisites and enabling factors needed to foster participation and advance social justice at the institutional, socioeconomic and political levels. The report also offers suggestions and recommendations to member States on actions to be taken to foster participation and advance the social justice agenda. Participants in the round table will also present overviews of their national efforts towards the achievement of social justice.

Representatives of member States are invited to review the report and provide comments, suggestions and recommendations thereon.

6. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of social development
(E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/5)

The Committee will review the proposed activities and outputs to be undertaken by ESCWA under its programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of social development. The programme of work was prepared in line with subprogramme 2 on social development of the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017, which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session (Tunis, 15-18 September May 2014).

Representatives of member States are invited to review the proposed activities and outputs and provide comments thereon, which will assist ESCWA in implementing its activities to meet their needs and priorities.

7. Results of the questionnaire on improving communication and outreach with member States

Under this agenda item, the Committee will review the results of the questionnaire prepared and conducted by the ESCWA secretariat to survey the views of member States on the communication mechanisms employed by the secretariat, and seek their suggestions for improving their effectiveness and outcomes. It was prepared within the framework of the continuous efforts exerted by ESCWA to enhance modes of communication and coordination with member States, improve the dissemination of knowledge and initiatives, raise awareness about its activities, programmes and projects, and ensure a wider distribution of its publications. In this regard, the secretariat transmitted a set of questions to member States in order to obtain their feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the communication and information dissemination methods currently utilized by the Social Development Division, and subsequently analyse the results with a view to increasing benefits.

Representatives of member States are invited to review the results of the questionnaire and make observations and recommendations in that regard.

8. Other matters

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

9. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Committee on Social Development

The Committee on Social Development will decide the date and venue of its eleventh session, which is scheduled to be held in 2017.

10. Adoption of the recommendations of the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations of its tenth session for discussion and adoption.
