

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

Committee on Technology for Development
Third session
Online, 15-16 February 2021



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The third session of the Committee on Technology for Development will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 15 February 2021. It will be held online, using an electronic platform to be determined at a later date. The Chair of the second session of the Committee will give the opening address and the ESCWA secretariat will deliver a welcome statement.

On the sidelines of the session, the Committee will hold a webinar on “localized big data for effective decision-making in crisis situations”, jointly with the ESCWA Statistical Committee, on Thursday, 11 February 2021 at 10.30 a.m.

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”.* The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from the representatives of member States.

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”. Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will have before it the provisional agenda in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/L.1 and the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/L.2. Both documents may be adopted by the Committee as submitted or in amended forms.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work and of recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its second session (E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/3)

The Committee will consider activities carried out in the field of technology for development under the ESCWA programme of work and in implementation of recommendations made at its second session (Beirut, 20-21 March 2019). These activities include holding meetings, issuing publications and technical papers, and advocating for evidence-based policymaking.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and provide guidance to the ESCWA secretariat on the way forward.

5. Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/4)

The Committee will consider technical cooperation activities carried out by the ESCWA secretariat in the field of technology for development since its second session, which include advisory services, capacity-building and field projects implemented upon the request of member States.

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

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and discuss technical cooperation priorities and needs for the coming years.

6. Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre (E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/5)

The Committee will consider activities carried out since its second session by the ESCWA Technology Centre, including meetings, advisory services and support in technology-related policymaking.

The Committee is invited to take note of the Centre's activities and provide comments thereon.

7. Meetings of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States (E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/6)

The Committee will consider activities of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States, in particular meetings held since its second session, and proposals to increase regional cooperation on e-government issues.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and provide comments thereon.

Programmatic issues

8. Round-table discussion: Regional priorities for the coming years in the field of technology for development (E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/CRP.1)

The round-table discussion is aimed at presenting and discussing regional priorities in the field of technology for development in the Arab region and the work of the ESCWA secretariat in the period 2021-2026, under its cluster 4 on Statistics, Information Society and Technology.

The Committee is invited to highlight key national and regional priorities in the field for the coming years.

9. Date and venue of the fourth session of the Committee on Technology for Development

The Committee shall agree on the date and venue of its fourth session.

10. Other matters

This item covers any other issues that Committee members may wish to raise and discuss.

11. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session

The Committee shall consider the draft recommendations of its third session for discussion and adoption.
