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

## **Report**

### **of the Committee on Women on its seventh session Muscat, 20-21 January 2016**

#### **Summary**

The Committee on Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its seventh session in Muscat, on 20 and 21 January 2016.

At the session, the Committee considered steps taken by Arab States to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixth session; the activities of the ESCWA Centre for Women since the sixth session of the Committee; the Centre's programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the area of women's advancement; and ESCWA efforts to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system and promote them in member States. The Committee also discussed international issues, such as gender equality and women's empowerment under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and endorsed an outlook on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 20 years after their adoption (Beijing+20). Presentations covered priority women's issues for the Arab region, especially the right of women and girls to access justice, and the socioeconomic impact of conflict on women and girls. A round-table discussion was also held on progress made by Arab States in implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

At its seventh session, the Committee adopted the Muscat Declaration: Towards the Achievement of Gender Justice in the Arab Region. It presents a new concept of gender justice, which differs fundamentally from the traditional notion that limits gender equality to the elimination of all forms of gender discrimination. The new concept comprises several elements, including effective accountability mechanisms that reduce discriminatory procedures, entailing a qualitative improvement in the approach to gender equality. Member States affirmed their commitment to protecting women, to achieving social justice based on gender justice, and to indiscriminately guaranteeing all human rights for women, especially their rights to life, physical well-being and human dignity. At the final meeting, the Committee adopted a set of recommendations addressed to the ESCWA secretariat and to member States on necessary measures to be taken over the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of gender equality.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	1	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
<b>I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION .....</b>	2-4	3
A. Adoption of the Muscat Declaration: Towards the Achievement of Gender Justice in the Arab Region .....	2	3
B. Recommendations to ESCWA member States .....	3	4
C. Recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat .....	4	6
<b>II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION .....</b>	5-55	7
A. Progress made in the advancement of women .....	5-19	7
B. International issues .....	20-30	9
C. Regional issues .....	31-45	10
D. Programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of women's advancement .....	46-51	13
E. Date and venue of the eighth session of the Committee on Women .....	52	13
F. Other matters .....	53	13
G. Adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its seventh session.....	54	14
<b>III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK .....</b>	55-68	14
A. Date and venue .....	55	14
B. Opening .....	56-64	14
C. Attendance.....	65	15
D. Election of officers .....	66	15
E. Adoption of the agenda and proposed organization of work.....	67	16
F. Documents.....	68	16
<b>ANNEXES</b>		
I. List of participants .....		17
II. List of documents .....		21

## **Introduction**

1. The Committee on Women held its seventh session in Muscat, on 20 and 21 January 2016, pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 240 (XXII) of 17 April 2003, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/9 of 18 July 2004 concerning the establishment within ESCWA of a committee on women. In its resolution, the Council decided that the Committee on Women shall hold its sessions biennially, with effect from 2004, and that an inaugural session should be held before the end of 2003. The Committee held its inaugural session in Beirut on 4 and 5 December 2003; its second in Beirut from 8 to 10 July 2004; its third in Abu Dhabi on 14 and 15 March 2007; its fourth in Beirut from 21 to 23 October 2009; its fifth in Beirut from 19 to 21 December 2011; and its sixth in Kuwait on 4 and 5 December 2013.

### **I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION**

#### **A. ADOPTION OF THE MUSCAT DECLARATION: TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER JUSTICE IN THE ARAB REGION**

2. The Committee adopted the Muscat Declaration: Towards the Achievement of Gender Justice in the Arab Region, set out as follows:

*We*, the ministers, leaders and representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women in the Arab region, participating in the seventh session of the Committee on Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), held in Muscat on 20 and 21 January 2016, affirm our commitment to jointly work towards achieving gender justice as a foundation for ensuring sustainable development and security in the Arab region;

*Recognize* that the full participation of women in economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs at all levels demands equality in the distribution of roles between men and women in the family and society as a whole;

*Reaffirm* our commitment to implementing international treaties on women's rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), and other resolutions on women, peace and security;

*Welcome* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its related goals, endorsed by world leaders in September 2015, as an integrated development plan driving progress, development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the Arab region; also welcome the adoption of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region at the twenty-eighth ESCWA ministerial session as a political commitment that promotes policies aimed at achieving justice as a primary goal of development policy;

*Affirm* our responsibility and that of all stakeholders to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the goal on gender equality and its related targets as a key regional and national priority;

*Note* that, despite significant progress towards achieving gender equality, there remains a considerable degree of discrimination against women because of fragmented approaches to achieving gender justice that overlook many elements of this broad concept;

*Also note* that the Arab region requires a more modern religious discourse, especially regarding gender equality;

*Condemn* all forms of terrorism, armed conflict and the Israeli occupation that negatively affect the status of women in general, and impede the achievement of gender justice in the Arab region;

*Acknowledge* the need to adopt a comprehensive approach to gender justice, with two principal components: ensuring accountability by determining effective national accountability mechanisms that limit discriminatory measures, and achieving equality by eliminating all forms of discrimination between men and women;

*Confirm* our commitment to implement the following measures and procedures to achieve gender justice in its broadest form, including ensuring gender equality and accountability:

- Take appropriate measures to implement international treaties on equality and eliminating discrimination that member States have ratified, especially CEDAW;
- Harmonize national legislation with international and regional commitments ratified by member States, so as to ensure the repeal of all discriminatory laws;
- Bridge the gap between laws and procedures for the protection of women and girls, and implement them in practice;
- Mainstream the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment in all national strategies, policies, plans, programmes and budgets;
- Include the concept of gender equality in the justice chain to ensure women's access to justice;
- Develop national action plans and concrete procedures to strengthen peace and support the effective participation of Arab women in identifying frameworks to protect them from violence and conflict;
- Provide statistics, data and indicators disaggregated by sex to support monitoring and evaluation processes, and offer the necessary financial and human resources in that regard;
- Support cooperation between Arab countries to promote enlightened religious interpretations, in order to ensure gender justice by harmonizing the concepts of justice and gender in religious discourse;

*Request* ESCWA, on the basis of a comprehensive approach to gender justice, to continue providing support to member States, with special focus on awareness-raising, capacity-building and preparing analytical studies;

*Applaud* the vital role of ESCWA in achieving gender justice, and urge the Centre for Women to continue cooperating with international and regional organizations working in the Arab region to achieve this goal.

## B. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ESCWA MEMBER STATES

3. At the conclusion of its seventh session, the Committee on Women issued the following recommendations to ESCWA member States:

(a) Strengthen the role of national machineries for women in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; lead the process to unite efforts to achieve those Goals at the national and regional levels; and develop national plans and monitoring and follow-up policies and mechanisms to formulate indicators aimed at mainstreaming gender in all sectors;

(b) Establish a subcommittee comprising members of the ESCWA Committee on Women, tasked with following up on the implementation of the gender aspects of the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Harmonize national plans and legislation with international treaties on women's rights that ESCWA member States have ratified, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and strive to lift reservations thereon and ratify its Optional Protocol;

(d) Amend national constitutions to ensure that they genuinely prohibit discrimination against women; amend discriminatory provisions in national legislation, especially personal status laws; and enhance gender equality by eliminating all forms of discrimination against women before the law, in both civil and religious courts;

(e) Support ESCWA during preparations for Beijing+20; and develop mechanisms to apply the Arab Declaration entitled "Towards Justice and Equality for Women in the Arab Region" issued at the Arab High-level Conference on Beijing+20, held in Cairo on 2 and 3 February 2015, and provide the necessary resources for its application;

(f) Implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and other related resolutions; develop national action plans to implement all such resolutions and allocate budgets and prepare programmes to that end; promote women's participation in mechanisms for protecting women and society from conflict; and provide protection and relief services to women in conflict situations;

(g) Provide greater protection and assistance to women and children, especially in areas affected by terrorism and armed conflict and in the occupied territories, and develop the necessary legislative and operational frameworks in that regard; and review national policies and strategies to include women's issues, peace and security, given their significant consequences on social cohesion and the role of Arab women in securing peace in their countries;

(h) Put in place measures and procedures that protect the rights of women and girls to access justice, by increasing women's representation in the justice chain; allocate national budgets for the provision of legal support services; eliminate legal fees related to personal status cases; and include training programmes on women's rights and gender equality in training curriculums for police and legal personnel;

(i) Combat all forms of negative discrimination against women; and conduct capacity-building and awareness-raising activities on legal, political, economic and social issues related to women's rights and their role in society;

(j) Stress the importance of benefiting from international frameworks and tools that support Arab countries' efforts to mainstream gender in public institutions, especially the United Nations system-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN SWAP), and build on the experience of ESCWA to implement the Plan;

(k) Join the project on mainstreaming gender in public institutions, which ESCWA is expected to implement in collaboration with Bahrain, so as to harmonize UN SWAP with regional needs and to develop the first Arab regional framework in that regard, and implement it at the level of national machineries for women and disseminate it to all public institutions;

(l) Support national women's machineries and provide them with the necessary human and financial resources to implement their programmes and tasks, so as to mainstream gender in all ministries and government institutions; strengthen the role of units specializing in gender issues in these institutions; and develop follow-up, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;

(m) Strengthen women's participation in the economy; give special attention to women in all sectors, given their role in combating poverty; and empower women refugees;

(n) Continue to support the ESCWA Centre for Women, and provide it with information and documents on national initiatives and developments concerning women's empowerment and gender equality.

#### C. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ESCWA SECRETARIAT

4. The Committee made the following recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat:

(a) Continue implementing the recommendations issued by the Committee at its sixth session and develop a programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017; and exercise flexibility in reformulating some outcomes to ensure quick responses to emerging issues in the region;

(b) Work with national women's machineries on developing national plans to implement the 2030 Agenda and to unify national and regional approaches aimed at implementing those plans; ensure that gender equality goals are consistent with all international commitments, especially the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; provide the necessary technical support; and prepare studies on this issue;

(c) Cooperate with national machineries to amend discriminatory laws, policies and systems in all areas and at all levels, and coordinate with those machineries in monitoring and following-up on reports;

(d) Continue strengthening the capabilities of national machineries to mainstream gender in national policies, plans and programmes and in the justice chain; and prepare reports and provide technical assistance and guidance in this area;

(e) Pursue efforts to mainstream gender in all the administrative activities and structures of the secretariat and to strengthen its role in that regard within the United Nations system; work with national women's machineries on implementing the project to mainstream gender in public institutions; develop an Arab framework to measure progress towards achieving gender equality in public institutions; and work on mainstreaming gender in government institutions;

(f) Continue working with national women's machineries, parliaments and all other stakeholders to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); and prepare studies, provide training and build capacities to assist member States in developing the necessary national plans and programmes for its implementation;

(g) Continue evaluating the effects of conflict on gender; study the status of women in conflict situations; measure the economic impact of gender-based violence on all social groups; and prepare a model on methods to measure this impact to be adopted as a national reference;

(h) Continue studying mechanisms and methods for achieving social justice in general, and gender justice in particular; and work with member States to propagate knowledge on gender issues at the national and regional levels;

(i) Promote women's participation in the economy in the Arab region, focusing on female migrant workers; and propose policies and strategies to achieve gender equality in the labour market;

(j) Promote partnerships between United Nations agencies and other regional organizations, especially the League of Arab States, the Arab Women's Organization, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and civil society institutions, and strengthen coordination between them.

## II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

### A. PROGRESS MADE IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (Agenda item 4)

#### 1. *Implementation of activities related to women's advancement under the ESCWA programme of work and the recommendations addressed to the secretariat by the Committee on Women at its sixth session* (Agenda item 4 (a))

5. The representative of the secretariat, referring to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/3(Part I), gave a presentation on progress made in the advancement of women since the sixth Committee session. He covered key activities undertaken by the ESCWA Centre for Women to implement the Kuwait Declaration on Combating Violence against Women and the recommendations issued by the Committee at its sixth session. He also reviewed activities implemented under the Centre's programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 aimed at women's advancement.

6. He focused on studies and training workshops carried out by ESCWA to support member States in implementing the Kuwait Declaration, and on integrated activities conducted under the Beijing+20 regional review. He also considered studies, research, conferences, expert groups, training sessions, media, advisory services, technical assistance and field projects organized by the secretariat for member States.

7. In the ensuing discussion, representatives welcomed progress in implementing the recommendations issued by the Committee at its sixth session, especially regarding combating gender-based violence and implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). They confirmed the importance of exchanging information and expertise to support combating gender-based violence, by developing national projects and laws that promoted the process. They also stressed the need to strengthen synergies between all stakeholders, so as to enhance their capacity to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

8. The Head of the Sudanese delegation thanked the Centre for Women for its support to her country in reforming national policies on women and family affairs, and in organizing capacity-building programmes for parliamentarians on implementing Security Council resolution 1352 (2000).

#### 2. *Efforts by ESCWA to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system and promote them in member States* (Agenda item 4 (b))

9. The representative of the secretariat, referring to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/3(Part II), gave a presentation on the importance of mainstreaming gender, the international definitions of gender, and obstacles faced by Arab countries in mainstreaming gender, especially lack of funding and general opposition from public institutions to gender equality.

10. She reviewed ESCWA efforts to overcome such obstacles, including a project to mainstream gender in public institutions in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain. She said that the ambitious project was aimed at establishing the first Arab framework that measured efforts to achieve gender equality in public institutions, in line with UN SWAP. She gave an overview of the contents of UN SWAP, and the 15 performance indicators used to measure progress in its implementation. She also considered ESCWA successful experiences in implementing UN SWAP, positive changes in gender equality within ESCWA, and measures to implement a project on mainstreaming gender in public institutions in Arab countries.

11. In the ensuing discussion, representatives welcomed the project proposed by the secretariat, in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain, concerned with harmonizing UN SWAP with regional needs, so as to develop the first Arab framework on the issue. They also stressed the importance of implementing the project at the level of national mechanisms for women, and disseminating it to all government institutions.

12. They confirmed the need to develop common indicators between Arab countries to measure progress in achieving gender equality, so as to ensure consistency with regional frameworks and related international standards. They requested more information on the project's implementation framework to strengthen their participation and benefit from the various tools developed under the project to promote gender justice in the Arab region.

*3. Actions taken by member States to promote women's advancement pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its sixth session*

(Presentations by representatives of member States)

(Agenda item 4 (c))

13. Representatives stressed the importance of preparing national reports on progress towards achieving gender equality, given that those reports measured commitments to women's advancement, and the importance of working with ESCWA to achieve it.

14. In their presentations, representatives reviewed procedures to implement the 2030 Agenda, especially those aimed at mainstreaming gender. They stressed the need to develop national mechanisms for follow-up and monitoring, and to identify indicators agreed upon in development plans and strategies on women. They highlighted efforts by their countries to ratify international treaties and to lift reservations on certain provisions contained in conventions on women's empowerment and gender equality.

15. Representatives indicated the continuing and varied measures taken by their countries to combat violence against women, including awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions for women, service providers and society at large. They reviewed countries' efforts to include government institutions and civil society organizations in developing plans, projects and laws to combat all forms of violence, in both the public and private sector and in situations of armed conflict and war.

16. Representatives also considered national efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), especially in view of the current difficulties faced by the region and the spread of fierce armed conflict, and country measures to prepare national mechanisms and strategies needed to implement and follow up on the resolution.

17. Representatives addressed progress in gender mainstreaming, in addition to plans and strategies to ensure gender equality at all institutional levels, in priority sectors for women and national strategies, in general, and those concerned with women, in particular.

18. Several representatives presented their countries' experiences in amending laws to grant greater rights to women in line with men, including laws on labour, social security and retirement and those on quotas, in collaboration with parliaments, municipalities and local councils, in order to ensure women's access to decision-making positions. They confirmed the considerable importance of political will in supporting efforts to achieve gender equality, in applying related treaties, in enhancing gender equality and in ensuring women's participation in all areas.

19. Representatives agreed that member States that had not submitted reports to the secretariat should do so as soon as possible, to allow the secretariat to update a consolidated report on progress in implementing the Committee's recommendations and publish it on the ESCWA website.



B. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES  
(Agenda item 5)

1. *Outlook on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration  
and Platform for Action after the Beijing+20 review*  
(Agenda item 5 (a))

20. Under this item, the representative of the secretariat, referring to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/4(Part I), gave a presentation on the key outcomes of the Beijing+20 review and on progress in enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the Arab region. She considered primary challenges and obstacles faced in the review, which participating countries tackled in the Arab Regional Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action Twenty Years Later. She also highlighted the role of ESCWA as a platform for Arab women in regional and international forums and its vital efforts in that regard, such as including the outcomes of the Arab Regional Synthesis Report in the report of the Secretary-General on Beijing+20; including commitments in the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 to work with member States in implementing the outcomes of Beijing+20, so as to continue supporting national women's machineries in mainstreaming gender in sustainable development plans; and confirming the need for cooperation and partnerships at the regional and national levels.

21. She reviewed the role of ESCWA in tackling various challenges in the region by considering regional difficulties and priorities when formulating its work programme; by ensuring strong cooperation with member States and national women's machineries; by providing advisory services and technical support to member States on issues of women's empowerment and gender equality and justice; and by reviewing strategies and plans to that effect. She said that a future vision for implementing emerging regional priorities could be divided into three parts. The first was the official framework to develop institutional mechanisms and strategies on women, gender and women's participation in decision-making and administration. The second was related to economic, social and health issues, reflected in legislative frameworks and legal protection measures to promote women's participation in the economy; in including the concept of justice and equality in the education system; and in providing services to the largest number of women. The third part came under protecting women from violence by enacting laws to guarantee women's rights in line with international treaties, and by developing protection and other mechanisms to apply those laws. She concluded with a set of recommendations to member States and ESCWA.

22. In the ensuing discussion, representatives stressed the need to implement the Beijing Platform for Action in line with the 2030 Agenda; to periodically monitor progress in that regard; to ensure that monitoring and follow-up processes were not limited to the periodic review that generally occurred once every five years. They said that it was necessary to consolidate reports from member States on implementing international instruments on women, so as to reduce the burden of preparing and submitting reports on national women's machineries. They also underscored the importance of culture and the media in cementing gender-based stereotypes.

23. The Committee noted ESCWA efforts to support member States in preparing for Beijing+20, stressing the need to implement the project of mainstreaming gender in public institutions in order to bridge the gender gap and tackle challenges faced by countries in mainstreaming gender at all levels.

2. *Gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*  
(Agenda item 5 (b))

24. The ESCWA secretariat held a discussion on gender equality and women's empowerment under the 2030 Agenda, with reference to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/4(Part II). The first presentation covered in detail the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda; and the importance of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and of implementing the Agenda as an international framework for sustainable development policies adopted by world leaders in September 2015.

25. The representative of the secretariat said that adopting the Agenda was an opportunity to retackle gender equality. National women's machineries must play a leading role in developing, implementing and reviewing national plans for achieving sustainable development. She affirmed the commitment of ESCWA to providing assistance and guidance to member States, especially by continuing to conduct research and develop knowledge outputs in all areas to achieve sustainable development and gender equality in the region. She added that ESCWA would share its wide expertise in all economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development with member States, and would provide advisory services to assist them in formulating effective development policies.

26. The discussion began with a presentation by the representative of the secretariat on the 2030 Agenda, in which she said that the Agenda was a component of an integrated system of related goals, and that development was a multifaceted and integrated process. She reviewed the role of national women's machineries and of ESCWA in that process, and the necessary tools for effectively implementing the Agenda.

27. Ms. Hania al-Shalqami, an expert and lecturer at the American University in Cairo, gave a presentation on approaching the Sustainable Development Goals, and proposed a vision for their achievement and to tackle shortfalls in their implementation.

28. Ms. Haifa al-Agha, Minister of Women's Affairs, State of Palestine, said that her country was making efforts to protect the achievements of Palestinian women. The Gaza blockade had negatively affected women and sustainable development; however, despite the deteriorating situation, Palestine had developed a national development plan 2012-2017 and included the fifth Sustainable Development Goal therein. She described the distinctive efforts of Palestine towards achieving gender equality, which were continuing in spite of occupation.

29. Ms. Sally al-Mahdy, Policy Advisor at the Regional Office for Arab States of UN Women, gave a historical overview on the formulation of the 2030 Agenda, developed through a participatory approach. She reviewed the fundamental role of national women's machineries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and called for measurement indicators to ensure progress towards their implementation, stressing the importance of technical cooperation between ESCWA and member States in that regard.

30. Representatives considered the expected roles of civil society and invaluable national machineries in implementing the Goals, and of parliaments in holding those machineries accountable and reviewing their work. The representative of the secretariat invited member States to unite their efforts and develop national plans to implement the 2030 Agenda, indicating the central role of the ESCWA secretariat in coordinating efforts at the regional level, and in providing expertise to member States and building their capacity.

### C. REGIONAL ISSUES (Agenda item 6)

#### 1. *Right of women and girls to access justice in the Arab region* (Agenda item 6 (a))

31. With reference to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part I), the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the efforts of member States to promote the right of women and girls to access justice, including amending discriminatory laws, propagating legal and judicial support mechanisms, preparing programmes to empower women legally, and mainstreaming gender and women's rights in the training curriculums of lawyers, judges and those responsible for applying the law.

32. The representative of the secretariat reviewed challenges faced by women and girls, limiting their access to justice at the legislative and operational levels. She said that, although most Arab countries had ratified international instruments on human rights in general, and CEDAW in particular, their provisions had not been translated into legal texts in many instances, reflected in discriminatory personal status laws. Although several

Arab countries had enacted laws to protect women and girls from human trafficking, knowledge of such laws remained weak, as did opportunities to benefit from them.

33. In the ensuing discussion, representatives concluded that countries' commitments to supporting women in accessing justice required integrated strategic reforms. Countries must amend discriminatory laws in line with international standards; and develop legal systems and judicial and policing bodies to ensure gender equality, and to address women's issues and provide legal support to access justice.

34. Representatives said that access to justice was a shared need, stressing the importance of benefiting from the experiences of other countries that applied sharia with regard to women's rights, especially in personal status laws, so as to identify means of harmonizing such laws with sharia. The representative of Bahrain highlighted the need to raise men and women's awareness of laws and rights, indicating difficulties in their application. The representative of Kuwait requested ESCWA to assist in raising women's awareness of their legal rights. Several representatives agreed that difficulties did not lie in the concept of accessing justice, but rather in the practical mechanisms that ensured accessibility, indicating that legal and judicial procedures generally deterred women from claiming their rights. Many representatives focused on the importance of raising awareness and education, and of using popular social networks to disseminate knowledge.

## *2. Socioeconomic impact of conflict on women and girls in the Arab region* (Agenda item 6 (b))

35. Referring to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part II), the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the socioeconomic impact of conflict on women and girls in the Arab region, and the principal repercussions of war and conflict for them. She analysed links between gender and conflict, which created a complex dynamic with dangerous effects, especially regarding poverty, livelihoods, education, access to health care, and gender-based violence.

36. Nevertheless, armed conflict could drive affected countries to achieve gender equality in priority areas, by enacting laws ensuring equality, by determining tools and mechanisms to effectively implement international instruments on women's rights and empowerment, and by making concerted efforts to monitor progress in that regard, for example.

37. In the ensuing discussion, representatives stressed the importance of analysing the socioeconomic impact of conflict on women and girls in the Arab region, indicating that conflict could take many forms, including civil unrest and actions targeting specific social groups, with significant consequences on health care and education. Conflict could also fuel gender-based violence in both the public and private spheres. They highlighted the need to consider the fundamental causes of conflict and identify practical and innovative solutions to address the resulting education and health-care challenges, to provide women and girls with better protection in emergencies, and to determine methods to transform difficulties into opportunities that empowered women. They also stressed the necessity to tackle the social and psychological effects of conflict at an early stage, so as to promote reconciliation and the rebuilding of societies torn apart by conflict.

## *3. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security* (Agenda item 6 (c))

38. The ESCWA secretariat held a discussion on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. The Minister of Women's Affairs of the State of Palestine, the Minister of Human Rights of Yemen, the Secretary-General of the National Committee for Women's Affairs of Jordan, and representatives of the secretariat, the League of Arab States and UN Women participated therein. Referring to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part III), the representative of the secretariat gave a comprehensive presentation on the content of the resolution, the response of Arab countries to its provisions, and initiatives for its implementation. Such initiatives included developing national action plans on women's issues, peace and security and policies on combating violence against women, and including those issues in national policies and

legislation. The presentation clarified the role of plans on women, peace and security in providing support frameworks to protect women and girls from conflict, and in strengthening cooperation between countries, ESCWA and specialized international bodies, so as to enable countries to develop legislation and institutional systems for ensuring women's rights during conflict.

39. The representative of the secretariat stressed the need to develop an Arab vision in line with regional priorities and the challenges faced by conflict-affected countries. She affirmed the importance of building the capacity of national cadres to implement national policies and work programmes aimed at limiting the effects of conflict on women and strengthening their resilience. She added that it was necessary to consider successful experiences and good practices when tackling the issues of displaced women across the world.

40. The representative of the League of Arab States reviewed preparations for the regional strategy on women, peace and security, and its related action plan that took into account proposals from member States and civil society. She said that the action plan could be divided into four parts and set out necessary monitoring and evaluation procedures for the period 2015-2030. She added that reports would be prepared periodically on the plan's implementation, and a coordination meeting would be held with all national stakeholders.

41. The Policy Advisor at the Regional Office for Arab States of UN Women stressed the need to implement the resolution in all Arab States, even in conflict-affected countries, given its importance to preventing conflict. She reviewed the experience of the Governments of Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates in adopting laws protecting women during and following conflict situations, urging parliaments to mainstream gender in legislation.

42. The Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs said that Jordan had begun implementing the resolution in 2010, in broad collaboration with various bodies and institutions. Despite a 2012 draft plan to protect women from violence, developments and emerging issues, such as terrorism and the flow of refugees into Jordan, had highlighted the need to reformulate the plan, especially given the importance of continually updating national plans.

43. The Yemeni Minister of Human Rights said that all Arab countries were concerned with resolution 1325 (2000), and had begun identifying methods to meet the aspirations of demonstrators demanding their human rights. He considered developments in Yemen since 2011, with many movements led by women, noting that the absence of women from public life was a key factor driving the civil unrest. He affirmed the importance of the role of women and of implementing the resolution, focusing on its four pillars, as a tool for securing peace.

44. The Palestinian Minister of Women's Affairs gave an overview of measures to implement the resolution, which serves Palestinian women in particular given that they were victims of conflict and occupation. She affirmed that her country would include the resolution's provisions in national legislation and would use it to hold Israel accountable in international forums for its violations of women's rights.

45. Representatives noted the vital role of the secretariat in assisting national machineries to galvanise the political will necessary for protecting women and implementing the resolution. They confirmed the need to develop action plans to implement the resolution and link them to the Sustainable Development Goals, and allocate funds to achieve those Goals at the national level. They said that efforts should continue to evaluate the impact of conflict on Arab women, to measure the effects of the economic situation faced by women on society as a whole, and to develop legislative and operational frameworks on peace and security given their importance to social cohesion and women's participation in ensuring peace and stability in their countries. They stressed the need to cement partnerships between ESCWA, the League of Arab States and other regional and international organizations to protect Arab women in times of peace and conflict.

D. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017 IN THE FIELD  
OF WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT  
(Agenda item 7)

46. The representative of the secretariat, referring to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/6, gave a presentation on the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of women's advancement, including expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, and the strategy and vision of the ESCWA Centre for Women with regard to the implementation of the programme of work amidst the challenges currently facing the Arab region.

47. The presentation highlighted the Centre's expected achievements regarding several issues, such as building the capacity of member States to formulate and implement comprehensive policies and plans on mainstreaming gender, strengthening cooperation between member States in developing and implementing regional frameworks pursuant to international conventions on gender equality, and enhancing countries' capability to develop institutional mechanisms ensuring effective women's participation in decision-making.

48. The proposed ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of women's advancement was based on partnerships with national women's bodies and United Nations organizations, notably on cooperation between ESCWA and UN Women to implement the project on measuring the economic impact of violence against women.

49. The presentation covered the external factors required to implement the programme of work successfully, such as the political will to strengthen the role of national machineries for women's advancement, measures to harmonize national laws and practices with international treaties on gender equality and women's advancement, and preserving achievements in equality.

50. The presentation also reviewed expected accomplishments, including servicing intergovernmental meetings, convening expert group meetings on women, and preparing studies and publications and technical material funded from the regular budget. The representative of the secretariat affirmed the need for flexibility in determining outputs and for their review, if necessary, to speedily address emerging issues in the region.

51. Several representatives requested further information on the Centre's proposed activities for the biennium 2016-2017, and expressed their interest in the Centre's study on the economic cost of violence against women. They suggested that the Centre should exchange and compare data with specialized national institutions, so as to assess their accuracy. The representative of the secretariat noted that the lack of data and information from countries was a principal challenge when preparing the study, and urged member States to cooperate with ESCWA to produce consolidated data at the regional level.

E. DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN  
(Agenda item 8)

52. Participants agreed that the eighth session of the Committee on Women would be held in Beirut in December 2017, provided that no other member State requested to host it. The representative of the State of Palestine expressed her wish to hold the eighth session in Palestine, if circumstances allowed.

F. OTHER MATTERS  
(Agenda item 9)

53. No matters were discussed under this item.

G. ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN  
AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION  
(Agenda item 10)

54. The recommendations of the seventh session of the Committee were reviewed and adopted as amended. The Muscat Declaration was also adopted.

**III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

A. DATE AND VENUE

55. The Committee on Women held its seventh session in Muscat, on 20 and 21 January 2016. The session's proceedings were conducted over four meetings.

B. OPENING

56. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, made the opening statement. She welcomed participants and thanked Oman for hosting the session. She said that sessions of the Committee on Women, held biennially, were a regional platform for Arab women's voices and for discussing their issues. She praised member States for their concerted efforts to uphold gender equality, stressing that equality was not simply a human right provided to women in legislation or a gift bestowed on them, but rather an urgent economic and social need benefiting society as a whole.

57. She said that the region was mired in difficulties that not only affected Arab women but all Arabs, men, women, children and older persons alike. Women and girls, whose rights were being violated in times of war and peace, were the primary victims of senseless wars. She discussed several of the most painful scenarios affecting women, including loss of breadwinners and loved ones, homelessness, rape, abuse and stripped dignity. She considered all types of discrimination faced by women in times of peace, in the form of discriminatory laws and practices, and violence at home, in the streets and official institutions, noting the daily oppression of Palestinian women since the occupation of Palestine 68 years previously.

58. She added that, despite the bleak situation in the region, there were successful attempts towards change in several Arab countries. Saudi women had made a step towards securing political participation; Tunisian women had effectively participated in the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet that had been awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for its role in the peaceful transition towards democracy; Yemeni women, who had led popular movements in Yemen, had been among the negotiators at the National Dialogue sessions; Egyptian women had achieved great success in parliamentary elections; and Omani women's horizons had broadened following a reduction in the legal age for political nomination.

59. She said that the 2030 Agenda was an opportunity to work towards women's advancement, given that it strengthened the links between development benefits on the one hand, and gender equality on the other. She affirmed that ESCWA, as part of the international system supporting the Agenda, had developed policies, strategies and programmes to enhance gender equality at all levels. She underscored the continued commitment of ESCWA to working with member States on transferring expertise and developing regional and national strategies and plans to achieve the shared goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.

60. Mr. Mohamed bin Saeed bin Saif al-Kalbani, Minister of Social Development of Oman, gave an opening statement in which he welcomed participants, and expressed his country's pleasure at holding the seventh session of the Committee. He thanked Iraq for chairing the sixth session, and expressed his gratitude to Ms. Khalaf and the ESCWA team for their tireless work to ensure the session's success. He confirmed his country's commitment to gender equality, combating all forms of discrimination against women and empowering them to ensure their effective participation in sustainable development, in line with countries' constitutions, highlighting various aspects of gender equality contained in Omani legislation and laws. He noted the increased

participation of Omani women in politics, the economy and other areas of public life, which had led to a drop in women's illiteracy and to improvements in health indicators. He also mentioned that Oman had ratified several international treaties and had acceded to CEDAW.

61. He affirmed the great concern of Oman for the circumstances that women were facing in Arab countries suffering from occupation or armed conflict, stressing the need for tireless efforts to achieve the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals and to ensure the success of such endeavours through concerted national, regional and international efforts.

62. Ms. Shihab al-Nuaimi, representative of Iraq and Chair of the sixth session of the Committee, thanked Oman for hosting the seventh Committee session and Kuwait for hosting the sixth session, held in December 2013 and chaired by Iraq. She stressed the importance of cooperation between member States to ensure women's advancement, to overcome the challenges they faced, and to achieve gender equality in all areas.

63. She noted the tireless efforts of Iraq, through its ministries and national women's machineries, to tackle women's issues and ensure their advancement and empowerment and to mainstream gender and women's issues. She said that Iraq had developed national strategies for women's advancement and to combat violence against them; adopted the national strategy to implement resolution 1325 (2000); and prepared its national report on Beijing+20 and other reports on the post-2015 development agenda. She mentioned several strategies adopted by Iraq to improve the status of women, notably a strategy on poverty reduction. She reviewed measures to empower women politically, such as providing enabling circumstances for their participation, including the adoption of quotas and allocation of 25 per cent of parliamentary seats to women. Although 22 women had been elected independently of a quota, the quota system had increased the number of parliamentary seats filled by women to 83 of 328.

64. She noted the abuse suffered by Iraqis, especially women and children, at the hands of the so-called Islamic State since November 2014, requiring the Government to interfere to mitigate its effects especially its psychological, social and economic impact. The situation had coincided with a financial crisis in Iraq, resulting from a drop in global oil prices, leading to austerity that had negatively affected the implementation of Iraqi commitments to women's advancement and empowerment in society. She stressed that guaranteeing women's rights and achieving gender equality would not succeed so long as Arab societies had not undergone genuine social and cultural developments, if stakeholders remained inert, and if cooperation, consultation and information and expertise exchange between countries remained weak. She lauded progress made since the sixth Committee session in terms of formulating plans, enacting laws and preparing national and international reports on the status of women, expressing her complete confidence that the seventh session would result in effective plans and build upon past achievements.

#### C. ATTENDANCE

65. The session was attended by representatives of national machineries for women, ministries, councils and committees on women from Arab countries in the capacity of government experts. Observers included representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and programmes, governmental and non-governmental regional and international organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council; other governmental organizations; national and regional networks, several research centres; and bilateral and multilateral national and regional donors. A number of experts, advisors and academics were also in attendance. Annex I to the present report sets out the list of participants.

#### D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

66. Pursuant to article 18 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA, which provides that member States shall assume the presidency of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in Arabic alphabetical order as established by the United Nations, Oman assumed the presidency of the seventh session, succeeding Iraq, which had assumed the presidency of the sixth session from 4 December 2013 to 20 January 2016. The

Committee elected the representative of Iraq by consensus as First Vice-Chair and the representative of the State of Palestine as Second Vice-Chair. The representative of Kuwait was elected as Rapporteur.

E. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROPOSED  
ORGANIZATION OF WORK

67. At its first meeting, the seventh session of the Committee on Women adopted the following proposed agenda as contained in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/L.1.

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Progress made in the advancement of women:
  - (a) Implementation of activities related to women's advancement under the ESCWA programme of work and recommendations addressed to the secretariat by the Committee on Women at its sixth session;
  - (b) Efforts by ESCWA to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system and promote them in member States;
  - (c) Actions taken by member States to promote the advancement of women pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its sixth session.
5. International issues:
  - (a) Outlook on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after the Beijing+20 review;
  - (b) Gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. Regional issues:
  - (a) The right of women and girls to access justice in the Arab region;
  - (b) Socioeconomic impact of conflict on women and girls in the Arab region;
  - (c) Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.
7. Programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of women's advancement.
8. Date and venue of the eighth session of the Committee on Women.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its seventh session.

F. DOCUMENTS

68. Annex II to the present report lists the documents presented to the Committee on Women at its seventh session.



## Annex I

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### A. ESCWA MEMBER STATES

##### Jordan

Ms. Salma al-Nems  
Secretary-General  
Jordanian National Commission for Women

##### United Arab Emirates

Ms. Ahlam Saeed Allamki  
Head of research and development  
General Women's Union- GWU

##### Bahrain

Ms. Bahija Mohammed al-Dailmi  
Advisor on mainstreaming women's needs in  
development programmes  
Supreme Council for Women (SCW)

##### Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Hadeel al-Asmar  
President  
Syrian Commission for Family and Population  
Affairs

Ms. Rana Khalfaoui Jazarili  
Director of the Family Affairs Department  
Syrian Commission for Family and Population  
Affairs

##### Sudan

Ms. Machaer Ahmad al-Amin al-Dawlab  
Ministry of Welfare and Social Security

Ms. Manazel al-Sharif Hasan  
Deputy Director, Directorate-General for Women  
and Family  
Ministry of Welfare and Social Security

##### Iraq

Ms. May Shihab Ahmad al-Nuaimi  
Second Secretary  
Iraqi Foreign Ministry

##### Oman

Mr. Mohamed bin Saeed bin Saif al-Kalbani  
Minister for Social Development

Ms. Zakia bint Hamdan al-Farisiya  
Advisor to the Minister on Women's associations  
affairs  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Yahya bin Mohammed al-Hinai  
General Director of the Family Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Labiba bint Mohammed al-Maouliya  
Expert on women's affairs, Office of the Under-  
Secretary of the Ministry  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Sahiha bint Moubarak al-Ozriya  
Assistant Director-General for Family Affairs  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Mohammed Abdo al-Zaghir  
Expert on childhood affairs - Directorate General  
for Family Affairs  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Jamila bint Salem Jaddad  
Director - Women's Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr Ahmed bin Hamid al-Sarkhi  
Royal Oman Police  
Directorate General of Operations

Ms. Fatima Bint Ibrahim al-Hanaei  
Director of Women and Child Welfare Department  
Ministry of Health

Ms. Juma bin Saeed al-Habsi  
Director of the Security Section  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Younis bin Khalfan al-Maachari  
Director of Information and Public Relations  
Ministry of Social Development

Oman (continued)

Mr. Ali bin Khamis al-Yahyaei  
Assistant Director - Financial Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Zadjali  
Director  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Abdul Aziz bin Sulaiman al-Balushi  
Assistant Director- Financial Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Hanan bint Hilal al-Busaidi  
Assistant Director - Women's Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Fatima bint Muhammad al-Hashimia  
Head of the Awareness and Education Section-  
Women's Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Salim bin Abdullah al-Kasaby  
Chief of Section - Transportation Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Aida bint Nasser al-Asiabih  
Head of the Programmes Section- Women's  
Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Ahmed bin Hamid al-Badi  
Chief of Childhood Programmes  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Kamila bint Abdullah al-Hashimiya  
Social Worker- Women's Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Fahd bin Yusuf al-Aghbari  
International Affairs Specialist  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Fawziah bint Mohammed al-Meamari  
Writer and Coordinator  
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Aida bint Ali al-Farisiya  
Coordinator  
Ministry of Social Development

State of Palestine

Ms. Haifa Fahmi al-Agha  
Minister of Women's Affairs

Mr. Hanna George Nakhle  
Advisor to the Ministry  
Ministry of Women's Affairs

Kuwait

Ms. Suad Abdul Wahab Abdel Rahman  
Advisor to the Women's Affairs Committee

Ms. Badria Nawar Muhannad Jaber  
Coordinator (between the Women's Affairs  
Committee and the Government)  
Ministry of Education

Mrs Nassima al-Ghays  
Advisor to the Women's Affairs Committee

Lebanon

Mr. Fadi Karam  
Secretary-General  
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Egypt

Ms. Najla Mohammed al-Aadly  
Director General for International Cooperation  
National Council for Women

Ms. Gihan Ahmed Toufik  
Director, Department of International Agencies  
National Council for Women

Saudi Arabia

Ms. Latifa bint Suleiman Abouniyan  
Assistant Deputy for Family Affairs  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Ms. Noura Suleiman al-Sabti  
Coordinator - Women's Affairs Development  
Centre

Ms. Machael bint Khaled al-Senany  
Legal Advisor

Mauritania

Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Walad Sidi Yahya Abd al-Rahman  
Secretary-General  
Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family

Mr. Talal Mohammed Ali al-Hrazi  
Financial and Administrative Officer  
Embassy of Yemen in Oman

Mr. Nibal Mohammed Ali al-Dolei  
Chief of Documentation and Information Section  
Embassy of Yemen in Oman

Yemen

Mr. Ezzedine al-Sobhy  
Minister of Human Rights

B. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Ms. Sally el-Mahdy  
Political Participation Advisor  
Regional Bureau for Arab States  
Cairo, Egypt

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Ms. Malika Martini  
Regional Advisor for Rural Development  
Regional Office for Near East and North Africa  
Cairo, Egypt

United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Lina al-Qudwa  
Programme Specialist  
Regional Bureau for Arab States, Oman

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Mr. Osama Makkawi Khogali  
UNICEF Representative  
Ruwi, Oman

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Aser Ahmed Toson  
Representative  
Sub-regional Office for the Gulf Cooperation  
Council Muscat, Oman

International Organization for Migration

Ms. Carmela Godeau  
Regional Manager for the Middle East and North  
Africa (MENA) Region  
Cairo, Egypt

C. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

League of Arab States

Ms. Mai Ali Ahmed  
Women's Affairs Officer  
Women, Family and Childhood Department  
Cairo, Egypt

Arab International Women's Forum

Ms. Haifa Fahoum al-Kilany  
Forum President

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Mr. Bou Bakri Mayga  
Directorate of the Cultural, Social and Family  
Affairs Departments  
Specialist  
General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic  
Cooperation  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

#### D. Other INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

##### Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

Ms. Nora-Elise Beck  
Senior Programme Director  
Ramallah, State of Palestine

##### German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GIZ)

Mr. Mohamed Kolak  
Project Coordinator  
Open Regional Fund for MENA  
Amman, Jordan

#### E. EXPERTS

Ms. Hania Sholkamy  
Professor/Researcher  
Social Research Center  
American University in Cairo

Ms. Badr Ben Saif al-Houkani  
Director, Office of Coordination between  
Compromise and Reconciliation Commissions  
Ministry of Justice  
Oman

Ms. Anne Lammila  
Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues  
and Gender Equality  
Political Department  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Finland

Ms. Halima bint Youssef al-Wahibiah  
Acting Director, Department of Social Statistics  
National Centre for Statistics and Information  
Oman

Ms. Myriam Sfeir  
Director Assistant  
Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World  
Lebanese-American University (LAU)  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Nasraa bint Saleh al-Numaniyah  
Accountant, Project Follow-up Section,  
Directorate-General for Administrative and  
Financial Affairs  
Ministry of Information  
Oman

Ms. Nehmeh bint Jamil al-Busaidi  
Member to the Consultative Assembly  
Oman

#### F. CIVIL SOCIETY

Ms. Iman Bint Rashed al-Ghafriah  
Chairperson  
Omani Women's Association, Muscat

Ms. Shatha bint Abdulmajid al-Zadjaliyah  
Director, Information and Research Department  
National Human Rights Commission  
Oman

Ms. Nashiaa bint Saud al-Khrousiyah  
Member of the State Council and Omani Women's  
Association  
Muscat, Oman

Ms. Hamida bint Salloum al-Shukiriyah  
Assistant General Director on Issues Related to  
Loans and Feasibility Studies  
Al Raffd Fund  
Oman

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/INF.1
Provisional agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/L.1
Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/L.2
Progress made in the advancement of women	4	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/3
Implementation of activities related to women's advancement under the ESCWA programme of work and recommendations addressed to the secretariat by the Committee on Women at its sixth session	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/3(Part I)
Efforts by ESCWA to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system and promote them in member States	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/3(Part II) (Arabic)
International issues	5	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/4
Outlook on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after the Beijing+20 review	5 (a)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/4(Part I) (Arabic)
Gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	5 (b)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/4(Part II)
Regional issues	6	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5
The right of women and girls to access justice in the Arab region	6 (a)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part I)
Socioeconomic impact of conflict on women and girls in the Arab region	6 (b)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part II)
Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security	6 (c)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/5(Part III) (Arabic)
Programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of women's advancement	7	E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/6