

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

Statistical Committee
Tenth session
Cairo, 30-31 January 2013

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

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ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The tenth session of the Statistical Committee will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 30 January 2013, at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of 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, Oman shall assume the chairmanship of the tenth session of the Statistical Committee, succeeding Iraq, which assumed the chairmanship of the ninth session, from November 2010 to October 2012. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur among its member representatives.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chairman has assumed his duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will review the provisional agenda for this session in document E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/L.1. It will also review the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Implications for the Statistical Committee of meetings of regional and international bodies (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/3)

The Committee will consider the following documents:

(a) Outcome of the twenty-seventh session of ESCWA in the field of statistics (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/3(Part I))

This document lists the twelve resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh session (Beirut, 7-10 May 2012) and explains the implications of each of those resolutions for the work of ESCWA in the field of statistics.

The Committee will also have before it, as a reference, document E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/CRP.1, which summarizes action taken to implement statistics-related resolutions of the twenty-sixth session of ESCWA.

Representatives of member countries are invited to make comments and recommendations thereon;

(b) Regional implications of global events (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/3(Part II))

This document presents an analysis of the impact of global statistical issues on the work of national statistical offices in the Arab region and the work of ESCWA in the field of statistics. It summarizes the regional implications of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the United

* ESCWA member countries 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, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Yemen.

Nations Statistical Commission, and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Representatives of member countries are invited to make comments and recommendations on ways of following up to those global events in the field of statistics.

5. Capacity-building in statistics for evidence-based policymaking (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/4)

This document outlines strategic issues of statistical capacity-building, including: (a) assessing capacity-building needs of national statistical offices; (b) measuring the impact of statistical capacity-building activities; (c) improving statistical capacity to monitor progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to address variations between national and international sources of statistics; and (d) global assessment of national statistical systems. Further details on those issues will be provided in the form of background documents, as appropriate. Representatives of member countries are invited to comment and make recommendations on ways of improving the work of ESCWA in statistical capacity-building.

6. Progress achieved in the field of statistics since the ninth session of the Statistical Committee (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/5)

The Committee will consider the following documents:

(a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its ninth session (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/5(Part I))

This document presents an overview of the action taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its ninth session. Representatives of member countries are invited to take note of the status of implementation and make comments in that regard.

(b) Statistics-related activities under the programme of work (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/5(Part II))

This document reports on the implementation by the secretariat of statistics-related activities since the ninth session of the Statistical Committee, as planned in the ESCWA programme of work.

In addition, and as recommended by the Working Group of the Statistical Committee at its fifth meeting in February 2012, the secretariat reported in document E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/CRP.2 on the ongoing and/or implemented projects in the field of statistics, including those financed by the Development Account or with extrabudgetary funds.

The representatives of member countries are invited to take note of the progress made in implementing the statistics-related activities and projects and give guidance regarding future work and needs in the field of statistics.

(c) Economic statistics, including energy and environment statistics (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/5(Part III))

In this document, the secretariat reports on main issues in economic statistics, tackling energy statistics and balance, and environment statistics and accounts. It highlights the progress achieved in each of the priority areas of that field, mainly the implementation of the 1993 and the 2008 System of National Accounts, the International Comparison Program, price statistics, trade and industry statistics, energy and environment statistics and accounts, in addition to information and communication technology indicators.

Also under this item, the secretariat will present to the Statistical Committee document E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/CRP.3 which contains a draft concept note for a study on short-term economic indicators to be published in 2013, seeking the views of national statistical offices prior to continuing the work on the study.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of statistics (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/6)

This document presents the proposed outputs to be delivered by the secretariat in the field of statistics during the biennium 2014-2015. It is based on the ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015 which was adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Commission. The representatives of member countries are invited to review the proposed programme of work in the field of statistics and make recommendations for amendments, as necessary.

8. Programme of statistical activities for 2013 (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/7)

This document presents the activities and outputs planned for 2013 in the field of statistics. It is based on the programme of work for 2012-2013. The representatives of member countries are invited to take note of those outputs and make recommendations for further refinement if needed.

9. Effective use of statistics in policymaking: study summary (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/8)

The discussion of this item will take the form of a seminar. It will focus on good practice in adopting a framework for effective use of statistics in policymaking.

The secretariat collected information from member countries on the practice of effective use of statistics in policymaking. That information was discussed at the workshop on effective use of statistics in policymaking in September 2012. The Committee will be presented with a summary of the information collected, in addition to the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop, in a background document.

Member countries may wish to provide information or updates and proposals on their practice in the effective use of statistics in policymaking in the form of conference room documents. Their representatives are invited to make comments on issues related to the effective use of statistics in policymaking and express their views on adopting a relevant conceptual framework.

10. Future projects and initiatives (E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/9)

The Working Group of the Statistical Committee reviewed, at its fifth meeting held in February 2012, the provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Statistical Committee. It made a recommendation to the secretariat to prepare a report on new projects and initiatives to be undertaken by ESCWA in the field of statistics. Those projects and initiatives are presented in the above-mentioned document.

The representatives of member countries are invited to consider the proposed projects and initiatives and offer comments and recommendations thereon.

11. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Statistical Committee

The Committee will discuss the date and venue of its eleventh session which will be held in 2014.

12. Other matters

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

13. Adoption of the report of the Statistical Committee on its tenth session

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