

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

Committee on Women  
Eighth session  
Beirut, 4-5 October 2017

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations****Session main theme: “Enhancing the role of institutions in achieving gender equality in the Arab region”**

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 in the Arab region:
  - (a) Activities related to women advancement in the ESCWA programme of work, the Muscat Declaration on the Achievement of Gender Justice, and recommendations of the Committee on Women;
  - (b) Technical cooperation activities and advisory services;
  - (c) Actions taken by member States pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women.
5. Sustainable Development Goal 5:
  - (a) Gender equality indicators: data availability in Arab countries;
  - (b) Activities to support the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2016-2017;
6. Enhancing the role of institutions in achieving gender equality in the Arab region (three roundtable discussions on the main theme of the session):
  - (a) Mainstreaming gender equality in public institutions;
  - (b) The role of institutions in times of peace and war;
  - (c) The economic cost of violence against women.
7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the advancement of women.



8. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Women.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eighth session.

#### ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The eighth session of the Committee on Women will begin at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 October 2017. The representative of Oman, the country which chaired the seventh session of the Committee, will give a welcome statement. Then the representative of the ESCWA executive secretariat will give the opening 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".\* Pursuant to that rule, the State of Palestine shall chair the eighth session of the Committee, succeeding Oman which chaired the seventh session from its opening on 20 January 2016 until the opening of the present session, 4 October 2017. The Committee shall then elect, from its members, two vice-chairs and a 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 Committee shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the provisional agenda shall be submitted to the Committee on Women in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/L.1 and the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/L.2. Both documents may be adopted by the Committee as submitted or following amendments.

4. Progress made in the advancement of women in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/3)

This item comprises three sub-items which will be presented as follows:

- (a) Activities related to women advancement in the ESCWA programme of work, the Muscat Declaration on the Achievement of Gender Justice, and recommendations of the Committee on Women  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/3(Part I))

This document presents an overview of the activities and programmes undertaken by the ESCWA Centre for Women since the previous session of the Committee on Women, within the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of advancement of women, and those undertaken pursuant to the recommendations addressed to the secretariat by the Committee at its previous session and the *Muscat Declaration: Towards the Achievement of Gender Justice in the Arab Region* which was also adopted at that session. Recommendations addressed by the Committee to member States will be presented under agenda item 4 (c) below.

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\* ESCWA member States, in the Arabic alphabetical order, are: 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.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress made and make recommendations thereon.

(b) Technical cooperation activities and advisory services  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/3(Part II))

This document presents the technical cooperation activities and advisory services undertaken by ESCWA with member States in the field of advancement of women and gender justice in the context of the ESCWA Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation which provides its services to member States upon their request, and pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its seventh session.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress made and make recommendations thereon.

(c) Actions taken by member States pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women  
(Presentations to be made by representatives of member States)  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/3(Part III))

Representatives of member States shall give presentations on national actions taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its seventh session and the Muscat Declaration, mentioning challenges faced in that regard.

The secretariat asks representatives of member States to identify in their presentations the support needed by their countries to implement the recommendations that were not implemented. Representatives wishing to give a presentation should submit a request in advance to the Committee Bureau. The sequence of presentations shall follow the order of registration of requests.

5. Sustainable Development Goal 5  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/4)

This item comprises two sub-items which will be presented as follows:

(a) Gender equality indicators: data availability in Arab countries  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/4(Part I))

The secretariat will give a presentation on gender statistics and the ESCWA Programme of Gender Statistics. It will also provide an overview of the SDGs gender equality indicators, particularly SDG 5. It will highlight the recent developments in the preparation of the global framework for SDG indicators, SDGs monitoring mechanisms and the classification of indicators. It will further present an assessment of data availability in the Arab region for the preparation of SDG 5 indicators.

Representatives of member States are invited to identify the needs of national women machineries to follow up the implementation of SDG 5 and its associated indicators.

(b) Activities to support the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2016-2017  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/4(Part II))

The secretariat will present an overview of the activities undertaken by ESCWA to provide substantive support and capacity-building to the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, which was formed following a request by the ESCWA Committee on Women at its seventh session. The Subcommittee's aim is to facilitate capacity-building and knowledge generation and to monitor the implementation of SDG 5 on gender equality in the Arab region.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of those activities and discuss national actions taken to implement SDG 5, mentioning challenges faced in that regard.

6. Enhancing the role of institutions in achieving gender equality in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/5)

This is the main theme of the session under which three roundtable discussions will be held on the following subjects:

(a) Mainstreaming gender equality in public institutions  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/5(Part I))

Discussions will tackle the ways to mainstream a gender equality perspective in public institutions. The secretariat will give an overview of its activities to implement the project of mainstreaming a gender equality perspective in public institutions in the Arab region. The project draws upon ESCWA expertise in implementing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The presentation will also cover the action taken by ESCWA to adapt the Action Plan to the Arab region and transfer expertise in that area to Arab countries, including the development of a standardized Arab framework to measure progress in achieving gender equality in public institutions. It will also present the experience of Jordan in applying the Arab framework as the Jordanian National Commission for Women was the first to submit an official request to ESCWA for support in piloting the framework in public institutions.

Representatives of member States are invited to give their opinion on ways to use the Arab framework.

(b) The role of institutions in times of peace and war  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/5(Part II))

Discussions will tackle the role of institutions in responding to the requirements of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda which is based on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The secretariat will give a presentation on four categories of national institutions concerned with the Agenda, namely women's machineries, human rights institutions, security sector institutions, and civil society organizations and their duties in times of peace, war and instability.

Representatives of member States are invited to make comments on ways to ensure cooperation between national institutions in designing a national programme for women, peace and security.

(c) The economic cost of violence against women  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/5(Part III))

Discussions will tackle the importance of estimating the economic cost of violence against women, the implications of marital violence on women, children, communities and society, and the efforts exerted by Arab countries in designing strategies and adopting laws aimed at combatting violence against women. The secretariat will present the outcomes of two regional studies prepared in partnership with UN-Women on the issue with the aim of developing an economic model to measure the costs of intimate partner violence in the Arab region by estimating household costs associated with violence, community level costs of service provision, and costs related to the loss of women's productivity in the labour market. It will also give an overview of the experience of Palestine in piloting this economic model.

Representatives of member States are invited to make comments on the ways to apply the economic model as an important tool that leads to policy amendments aimed at ending violence against women.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the advancement of women  
(E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/6)

This document presents the proposed outputs and activities to be undertaken by ESCWA in the field of advancement of women during the biennium 2018-2019, under subprogramme 6 on advancement of women, which falls under the responsibility of the ESCWA Centre for Women. The 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 take note of the content of this document and make comments thereon.

8. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Women

Representatives of member States shall agree on the date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Women.

9. Other matters

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

10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eighth session

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

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