

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**Executive Committee  
Fourth meeting  
Beirut, 13-14 December 2017**Information note***1. Background*

The Executive Committee was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 320 (XVIII) on redesignating the Technical Committee as the “Executive Committee” and amending its terms of reference, so as to play a greater role in steering and coordinating the activities of the Commission in the period between ESCWA sessions. The Executive Committee monitors the implementation of recommendations and the application of discussed agendas, in addition to following-up on important regional and global issues, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee holds its meetings every six months. Its third meeting was held in Rabat, on 6 and 7 May 2017.

*2. Topics for discussion*

Key topics to be discussed at the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee include implementing the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, the resolutions issued at the twenty-ninth ESCWA session, and the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting. The following topics will be discussed under the agenda item on regional and global issues: financing for development with reference to two reports, one on the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard and the other on the implementation mechanisms of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: global commitments versus Arab priorities in the field of financing for development; establishing an Arab centre for climate policies; the ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region; multidimensional poverty in the Arab region; and the ESCWA vision for post-conflict recovery.

*3. Agenda and organization of work*

The provisional and annotated agenda for the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee is set out in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/L.1. The proposed organization of work is contained in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/L.2.

*4. Participants*

Representatives of ESCWA member States and relevant experts will participate in the session. Participating Governments shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives, in accordance with United Nations practice.

*5. Date and venue*

The fourth meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut, on 13 and 14 December 2017. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 December 2017, and the opening session will convene at 10 a.m. on the same day. Sessions will conclude at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 14 December 2017.

*6. Languages of the session*

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. English may be used to present some papers, if necessary. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

*7. Entry visas*

Participants may apply for an entry visa from the Lebanese Embassy in their respective countries.

*8. Accommodation and transportation*

ESCWA suggests that participants book their accommodation in a Beirut hotel near the United Nations House. The secretariat has prepared a list of hotels offering preferential rates, which will be sent to participants by email. The list is also available at [https://iseek-beirut.un.org/system/files/document\\_link/hotels\\_list\\_apr2017.pdf](https://iseek-beirut.un.org/system/files/document_link/hotels_list_apr2017.pdf). To receive the preferential rate, participants are requested to inform the hotel that they are participating in the ESCWA Executive Committee meeting. Participants are also requested to organize transport to and from the meeting with their respective hotel.

*9. Time zone*

Beirut time is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +2.

*10. Weather*

At the time of the meeting, temperatures are expected to range between 15 degrees Celsius and 20 degrees Celsius in Beirut.

*11. Currency and exchange rate*

The Lebanese lira is the main currency of Lebanon. The exchange rate in the Lebanese market is 1510.98 Lebanese lire for 1 United States dollar.

*12. Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following:

Mr. Karim Khalil  
Secretary of the Commission  
Tel.: + 961 1 978-501  
E-mail: [kali131@un.org](mailto:kali131@un.org)

Ms. Shadia Abdallah  
Administrative Assistant  
Tel.: + 961 1 978-501  
E-mail: [abdallah6@un.org](mailto:abdallah6@un.org)

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