

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

Sixth special session
Amman, 21-22 December 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Consideration of requests from Somalia and Algeria for ESCWA membership.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its sixth meeting.
5. Implementation of the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region:
 - (a) Activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat;
 - (b) Activities undertaken by member States.

Regional and global issues

6. Financing for development in 2019: global developments and regional challenges as reflected in the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard.
7. Belt and Road Initiative: what is in it for the Arab region?
8. Social protection reform in Arab countries.
9. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation and coping mechanisms of the Palestinian people.
10. Regional review and assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after their adoption in Arab countries.
11. Climate change: regional and global developments.
12. The Sustainable Development Goals Monitor.

Work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

13. Reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies:
 - (a) Report of the Committee on Energy on its twelfth session (E/ESCWA/C.3/2019/14/Report);
 - (b) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its thirteenth session (E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/11/Report);
 - (c) Report of the Committee on Social Development on its twelfth session (E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/9/Report).
14. Progress in ESCWA reform.
15. Technical cooperation activities in 2019.
16. Proposed programme plan for 2021.
17. Other matters.
18. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Commission at its sixth special session.

Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting

The opening of the ESCWA sixth special session will be held in Amman on Saturday, 21 December 2019.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Paragraph 1 of 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 Commission will adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted in documents E/ESCWA/S-6/L.1 and E/ESCWA/S-6/L.2, respectively, or in amended forms.

3. Consideration of requests from Somalia and Algeria for ESCWA membership (E/ESCWA/S-6/3)

Under this item, the Commission will consider requests for ESCWA membership from Somalia, dated 14 September 2019; and from Algeria, dated 21 October 2019.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its sixth meeting (E/ESCWA/S-6/4)

The Commission will review action undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat pursuant to the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its sixth meeting, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 15 and 16 June 2019.

The Commission is invited to take note of implemented activities, provide comments thereon, and review actions taken at the national level in that regard.

5. Implementation of the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region (E/ESCWA/S-6/5)

(a) Activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat (E/ESCWA/S-6/5(Part I))

The Commission will review activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat since the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee in implementation of the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, which was adopted by member States at the close of the thirtieth ESCWA session, held in Beirut from 25 to 28 June 2018.

(b) Activities undertaken by member States (E/ESCWA/S-6/5(Part II))

The Commission will review activities undertaken by member States in implementing the Beirut Consensus, based on responses to a guiding questionnaire developed by the ESCWA secretariat to monitor progress in implementation.

Member States are invited to make interventions on implementation at the national level.

Regional and global issues

6. Financing for development in 2019: global developments and regional challenges as reflected in the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard (E/ESCWA/S-6/6)

The Commission will consider financing for development issues pursuant to recommendation (e) made to the ESCWA secretariat by the Executive Committee at its second session, held in Amman from 14 to 16 December 2015, on presenting an annual report to member States on main global and regional developments in financing for development.

The Commission is invited to make proposals and comments on ESCWA work in that area.

7. Belt and Road Initiative: what is in it for the Arab region?
(E/ESCWA/C.5/2019/CRP.2-E/ESCWA/S-6/7)

The Commission will discuss the Road and Belt Initiative and its potential impact on the Arab region, and review the resulting opportunities and challenges for Arab countries, especially in trade and transport competitiveness. The ESCWA secretariat had presented an overview of this Initiative to member States at the thirtieth session, held in Beirut from 28 to 28 November, under agenda item 6 on “Megatrends in the transport sector and their impact on the Arab region” (E/ESCWA/30/4). The Belt and Road Initiative has witnessed developments since then, which will be discussed by the Commission under the present agenda item.

The Commission is invited to make proposals on this issue of significant importance to the future of trade and transport in the region.

8. Social protection reform in Arab countries (E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/CRP.1-E/ESCWA/S-6/8)

The Commission will discuss social protection as a single system comprising several interconnected parts, consider ways to improve integration between those parts, and review key reforms in various policy areas related to social protection, namely social security, health insurance, social assistance (cash transfers), and developing integrated social registers. The Commission will also discuss major issues and challenges facing countries in these reform areas, and review examples of successful solutions.

The Commission is invited to make proposals on improving social protection systems in the Arab region.

9. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation and coping mechanisms of the Palestinian people (E/ESCWA/S-6/9)

Pursuant to ESCWA resolutions, especially resolutions 326 (XXIX) and 330 (XXX), the Executive Committee will present to the Commission at its sixth special session a report on Israeli practices and policies in the occupied Palestinian territory as part of a three-dimensional strategy, based on land control, demographic change, and suppression of any Palestinian resistance to such policies. The report also reviews the repercussions of the occupation on the social and economic situations in the occupied Palestinian territory, and presents coping mechanisms employed by Palestinians to adapt to the living conditions imposed upon them and to resist Israeli policies and practices and their repercussions, towards ending the occupation and realizing their rights.

The Commission is invited to take note of the report's findings and comment thereon.

10. Regional review and assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after their adoption in Arab countries (E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/5-E/ESCWA/S-6/10)

The Commission will consider the regional review process on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after their adoption in Arab countries, based on a joint work programme comprising activities, regional meetings and technical support to countries to assist them in preparing national reports and conducting periodic progress reviews.

The Commission is invited to take note of the regional review and assessment process and comment thereon.

11. Climate change: regional and global developments (E/ESCWA/S-6/11)

As part of efforts to follow up on climate change issues and their repercussions for Arab countries, the Commission will review major regional and international developments in the field, preparations for the twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and activities of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies and efforts to mobilize related resources. The Commission will also consider key activities and events organized by ESCWA in 2019 on this topic, and those that will be implemented in the first half of 2020.

The Commission is invited to comment on the secretariat's efforts in the field of climate change, and make proposals thereon.

12. The Sustainable Development Goals Monitor (E/ESCWA/S-6/12)

The Commission will review a tool developed by the ESCWA secretariat to monitor Arab countries' progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. This tool, like many others under preparation by the secretariat, is part of efforts to provide a direct means for policymakers to access reliable information and data, pursuant to a recommendation made by the Executive Committee at its sixth meeting requesting the ESCWA secretariat to "intensify efforts to transform knowledge generated (...) through studies and reports into tools and interactive platforms, to be used by willing member States in decision-making".

The Commission is invited to make proposals to improve the tool.

Work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

13. Reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/S-6/13)

Under this item, the Commission will consider the reports of three subsidiary bodies that held their sessions since the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee, namely:

- (a) Report of the Committee on Energy on its twelfth session (E/ESCWA/C.3/2019/14/Report);
- (b) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its thirteenth session (E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/11/Report);
- (c) Report of the Committee on Social Development on its twelfth session (E/ESCWA/C.2/2019/9/Report).

The reports contain recommendations made at those sessions, a summary of discussions, and information on organization, documentation and participants. The Commission is invited to adopt the reports.

14. Progress in ESCWA reform (E/ESCWA/S-6/14)

The Commission will consider the Executive Secretary's plan to reform ESCWA. The plan's general orientation was presented to the Executive Committee at its sixth meeting, which requested that ESCWA present a report on progress in implementing it.

The Commission is invited to take note of the proposed reform plan and comment thereon.

15. Technical cooperation activities in 2019 (E/ESCWA/S-6/15)

The Commission will review progress in implementing technical cooperation activities undertaken by ESCWA in 2019, including building member States' capacity by organizing training workshops and providing advisory services and technical guidance in public policy, strategies and action plans.

The Commission is invited to take note of progress in implementing technical cooperation activities, and to make proposals on ways to strengthen them.

16. Proposed programme plan for 2021 (E/ESCWA/S-6/16)

The Commission will consider the proposed programme plan for 2021, review its general orientation and the work of each ESCWA subprogramme.

The Commission is invited to take note of the proposed programme plan for 2021 and make recommendations thereon as appropriate.

17. Other matters

This item will cover any other matters that the members of the Commission may decide to discuss.

18. Adoption of the resolutions and recommendations made by the Commission at its sixth special session

The Commission will consider draft resolutions and recommendations for adoption.
