

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

Committee on Water Resources
Thirteenth session
Beirut, 27-28 June 2019

**Information note***1. Background*

The Committee on Water Resources was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution [205 \(XVIII\)](#) of 25 May 1995, which was endorsed by Economic and Social Council resolution [1995/26](#) of 24 July 1995. The decision to establish the Committee on Water Resources took into account the importance of the participation of ESCWA member States in the planning, development and monitoring of ESCWA programme of work in the field of water resources. The Committee held its first session in Amman in 1997, the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth sessions in Beirut in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2004 respectively, the seventh session in Muscat in 2007, the eighth, ninth and tenth sessions in Beirut in 2008, 2011 and 2013, and the eleventh and twelfth sessions in Amman in 2015 and 2017. The Committee will hold its thirteenth session in Beirut on 27 and 28 June 2019.

2. Objectives

The thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources aims to provide ESCWA member States with an intergovernmental forum to discuss progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly with respect to the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Discussions with ESCWA member State representatives will focus on the water-energy nexus within the context of the 2030 Agenda. Exchanges will also focus on regional cooperation for climate change adaptation in the Arab region. Moreover, member State representatives will review progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its twelfth session, and the work undertaken by ESCWA in the field of water resources under its programme of work since that session, in addition to the ESCWA programme plan for 2020.

3. Agenda

The provisional agenda for the current session includes items and annotations related to the above-mentioned issues, and will be presented to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/L.1.

4. Participants

Representatives of ESCWA member States will participate in the session. Relevant international and regional organizations and institutions and civil society organizations are also invited to attend the session as observers. Participating Governments are responsible for travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives, in accordance with United Nations practice, which also applies to participating organizations.

5. *Date and venue*

The thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut on 27 and 28 June 2019. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 27 June 2019 and the opening session will convene at 9:30 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will conclude by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 28 June 2019.

6. *Language of the session*

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. English may be used to present some parliamentary documents. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

7. *Accommodation and transportation*

Names of hotels offering preferential room rates in Beirut will be provided to registered participants upon request. Airport pick-up can be arranged with the hotel management.

8. *Entry visas*

Participants are required to secure their own visas for travel to Lebanon, as necessary. A personalized letter of invitation can be provided by ESCWA for nominated participants to facilitate the visa request process. Lebanese visa and entry requirements are available at the following site: <http://www.general-security.gov.lb/en/posts/159>.

ESCWA can coordinate with the Government of Lebanon to assist in obtaining entry visas for participants who are unable to secure visas in their home countries. Those who need assistance in this matter should send a colour, scanned copy of their national passport to the ESCWA secretariat, at their earliest convenience.

9. *Correspondence*

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

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