

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/L.1/Add.1
1 July 2002
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Committee on Social Development
Fourth session
Beirut, 3-5 July 2002

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. *Opening of the session*

The fourth session of the Committee on Social Development will be opened on 3 July at 10 a.m. at the permanent headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut.

2. *Election of officers*

The Commission decided in its resolution 226 (XXI) that, "with effect from 2002, members shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, on a rotating basis, in Arabic alphabetical order", in the knowledge that Saudi Arabia assumed the chairmanship of the third session. In accordance with rule 12 of the *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, which apply to its subsidiary bodies, the Commission "shall, at the commencement of each session, elect from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who shall be eligible for re-election".

3. *Adoption of the agenda*

In accordance with rule 8 of the *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, which apply to its subsidiary bodies, "the Commission shall at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Chairman as required under rule 12, adopt the agenda for that session" (E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/L.1).

4. *Proposed organization of work*

The Committee will consider document E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/L.2, which includes the proposed organization of work for the session. It may adopt the document in its present form or make amendments, as participants see fit.

5. *Discussion*

(a) Under this agenda item, the Committee will consider document E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/3. In this document, the Secretariat will summarize progress made by the Social Development Division (SDD) since the third session of the Committee, held on 27 and 28 March 2001 and, also, make a brief review of the major technical studies, advisory services and field activities conducted by the Division during that period.

(b) Member countries will make interventions not exceeding five to seven minutes duration on major developments, accomplishments, measures, procedures and obstacles at the national level in the following spheres: (a) integrated social policies; (b) population policies; (c) social integration; (d) empowerment of

women and incorporation of gender issues in policies, programmes and activities; (e) urban development and housing policies; and (f) compilation of social statistical data. Member countries should inform the secretariat in advance of their readiness to make an intervention under this sub-item of the agenda, in the message covering the appointment of the official State delegation to the fourth session of the Committee. Arab non-member countries may make interventions and their request to do so should be recorded by the secretariat in accordance with United Nations rules on the 'Speakers' List'.

6. *Discussion of various social development issues: follow-up on implementation of recommendations of the third session of the Committee on Social Development*

In recent times, ESCWA has given considerable attention to publicizing its social development programmes and activities and has brought out numerous publications and brochures on the issues dealt with and activities undertaken with regard to young persons, the ageing, the family, the disabled, local development, population policies systems, urban development, women and gender, including development of a database that provides statistics disaggregated by gender, and other relevant areas. The Commission continues to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and build their capacity through the provision of technical support and advisory services.

(a) *Report on social policies*

Under this agenda sub-item, the Committee will review document E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/5, which includes a report on major social issues. The report focuses on the formulation of a regional vision of integrated social policies based on a comprehensive and standardized view of successful experiences in the developed countries and in Arab countries, in order to benefit from them in the formulation of comprehensive and integrated social policies that are culturally sensitive and appropriate to the region, practical and applicable. It is anticipated that a round table discussion will be held for review of this report.

(b) *Report on the Population Policies Information System (PPIS)*

Under this agenda sub-item, the Committee will review document E/ESCWA/POP/2001/7/Rev.1, which includes a report on PPIS. The report will be launched with a presentation, designed to assist member countries in confronting population dynamics and challenges.

(c) *Report on the consultative body of NGOs*

The report deals with implementation of the recommendation arising from the third session of the Committee with regard to the establishment of a consultative body of NGOs to integrate the roles of Governments, civil society and the private sector. The report also reviews major elements of the pioneer field project being implemented by ESCWA in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs to conduct a survey of NGOs in Lebanon. This project will be successively extended to other ESCWA member countries.

(d) *Report on follow-up to some international conferences convened by the United Nations during the 1990s*

Under this agenda sub-item, the Committee will review document E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/7, which includes a report on follow-up to the recommendations and plans of action arising from international conferences convened during the 1990s, including preparations for review and assessment of these plans and recommendations following the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), United Nations Conference on Human Developments (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 1996) and International Year of the Family (1994). The Committee will also review the accomplishments of the international forums and associations for young people and the ageing that were convened at the start of the present decade, including the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Dakar, 2001), Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 2002) and World Summit for Children (New York, 1990). It will also deal with

implementation of the Integrated Regional Follow-Up by the Arab States to United Nations Global Conferences Project.

7. *Review of outcomes of the fourth special session of ESCWA (11 March 2002)*

(a) Under this agenda item, the Committee will consider document E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/8. This comprises document E/ESCWA/S-4/3, which includes the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and, also, document E/ESCWA/S-4/4, which includes the revised programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2002-2003, for integrated social development. The Commission adopted these two documents at its fourth special session, held in Beirut on 11 March 2002, following the broad restructuring and revitalization of the Commission by the secretariat. As a result of that restructuring, the Social Development Issues and Policies Division (SDIPD) became the Social Development Division and the subprogramme, formerly known as the subprogramme on improvement of the quality of life, was renamed "integrated social policies". Then former SDIPD was composed of three sections, namely, human development, population and human settlements, as well as the women and development unit and the multidisciplinary social issues unit. The SDD now concentrates on six priority spheres, namely, social policies, social integration, empowerment of women and the inclusion of gender issues in major activities, population policies, urban development policies and housing and, also, compilation of social statistical data.

(b) Through consideration of the second sub-item of this agenda item, proposals for the programme of work and priorities for the coming biennium 2004-2005 will be reached during the current session. The secretariat therefore urges member countries to identify their social development needs and raise them as part of the formulation of proposals to be dealt with under this agenda item.

8. *Other matters*

Any other matters that members of the Committee wish to discuss is covered by this agenda item, including the date and venue of the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development.

9. *Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourth session*

The Committee considers and adopts the draft report as well as the proposed recommendations.
