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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Water Resources
Eighth session
Beirut, 17-19 December 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNEXATIONS

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational work.
4. General debate on climate change and the water resources sector in the ESCWA region:
 - (a) Potential impacts of climate change on the water resources sector and possible adaptation measures;
 - (b) Member country actions to deal with potential impacts of climate change on the water resources sector.
5. Achieving the MDGs and water quality management in the ESCWA region:
 - (a) Progress made by member countries in achieving Target 10 of MDG 7 on safe drinking water and sanitation as well as relevant proposed policy options;
 - (b) Presentations on achievements made by member countries in securing access to drinking water and sanitation services;
 - (c) Water quality management in the ESCWA region.
6. Review of actions taken in the field of water resources since the seventh session of the Committee on Water Resources:
 - (a) Follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its seventh session;
 - (b) Progress made in carrying out water resource-related activities under ESCWA programme of work between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Committee on Water Resources.
7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of water resources.

8. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Water Resources on its eighth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The opening session will begin at 10:00 precisely on Wednesday, 17 December 2008, at United Nations House, the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut. As chairman of the bureau of the seventh session of the Committee on Water Resources, Mr. Sulaiman Said Alobaidani, Deputy Director-General of Water Resources Assessment in Oman, will make a welcoming statement, after which the inaugural address will be delivered by Mr. Badr Al-Dafa, Executive Secretary of ESCWA.

2. Election of officers

Pursuant to rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA, "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of 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".* As the seventh session was held away from headquarters, the host country of Oman, in conformity with observed practice, assumed the chairmanship of that session from 20 March 2007 to 17 December 2008, the starting date of the eighth session. Also in accordance with the same rule, Saudi Arabia which follows Egypt, the chair of the sixth session, in the Arabic alphabetical order, shall assume the chairmanship of the eighth session. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur among its members.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational work

Pursuant to rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA, which applies to subsidiary bodies, "At the beginning of each session, once the Chairman has assumed his duties in accordance with rule 12, the Committee shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". The committee will have before it the provisional agenda and annotations contained in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/L.1.

The Committee will also have before it document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/L.2, which contains proposals relating to the organization of work of the session. The Committee may adopt that document in the form in which it is submitted, or make amendments thereto.

4. General debate on climate change and the water resources sector in the ESCWA region

Under this agenda item, the Committee will address the following two topics:

- (a) Potential impacts of climate change on the water resources sector and possible adaptation measures (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/3)

The Committee will review the potential effects on climate change on water resources in the ESCWA region and possible adaptation action related to applying the principles of integrated management of water resources at the national level. Committee members are requested to take note of the content of the presentation on this topic and express their views and observations on it.

* The Arabic alphabetical order of ESCWA member countries is as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

(b) Member country actions to deal with the potential impacts of climate change on the water resources sector

Member country representatives participating in the session will have an opportunity to make interventions on the potential impacts of climate change on the water resources sector in their countries, with emphasis on the degree of readiness and availability in institutional, technical, and financial capacity in those countries to adapt to this phenomenon. The floor will open for participating member countries to make interventions in the order in which they request permission to speak, provided that no intervention should exceed five minutes. Time permitting, regional and non-governmental organizations participating as observers may also do the same.

5. Achieving the MDGs and water quality management in the ESCWA region

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/4, which consists of two parts:

(a) Progress made by member countries in achieving Target 10 of MDG 7 on safe drinking water and sanitation as well as relevant proposed policy options (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/4(Part I))

The Committee will have before it the report ESCWA prepared, using the results of the questionnaire it has conducted, in order to review the progress made in the ESCWA region in achieving target 10 of MDG 7 concerning safe drinking water and sanitation. The report also reviews some proposed policies regarding the accelerated achievement of Target 10. Members of the Committee will be requested to look at the report and express their comments and observations on it.

(b) Presentations on achievements made by member countries in securing access to drinking water and sanitation services

Member country representatives participating in the session will have an opportunity to make interventions on the achievements of their countries in securing access to drinking water and sanitation services as well as on how realistic are the proposed policies on the accelerated achievement of Target 10 of MDG 7.

(c) Water quality management in the ESCWA region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/4(Part II))

The Committee will have before it an assessment of the management of water resources quality in the countries of the ESCWA region as well as a set of guidelines and proposals which may contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources with a view to protecting those resources and pointing out ways for their sustainable use. Members of the Committee will be requested to take note of the assessment and to express their opinions and observations on it.

6. Review of actions taken in the field of water resources since the seventh session of the Committee on Water Resources

The Committee on Water Resources will have before it document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/5, which consists of two parts:

(a) Follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its seventh session (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/5(Part I))

The Committee on Water Resources will review the action taken in the field of water resources in implementation of its recommendations made at its seventh session which was held in Muscat in March 2007. Representatives of member countries will be requested to review the action taken and submit proposals and recommendations thereon.

- (b) Progress made in carrying out water resource-related activities under ESCWA programme of work between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Committee on Water Resources (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/5(Part II))

The Committee will review the progress made in implementing water resource-related activities under ESCWA programme of work between its seventh and eighth sessions.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of water resources (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/6)

The Committee will consider the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of water resources, which was prepared in accordance with the strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011 and which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-fifth session held in Sana'a from 26 to 29 May 2008. The representatives of member countries will be requested to review the proposed programme of work in the field of water resources, make comments and put forward suggestions.

8. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources

The Committee will discuss the date and venue of its ninth session.

9. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee wish to discuss.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Water Resources on its eighth session

The Committee will consider and adopt the draft report, including recommendations, that is contained in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2008/IG.1/L.7.
