

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/2008/C.1/3  
1 November 2008  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

Technical Committee  
First meeting  
Beirut, 16-17 January 2008

Item (4) of the Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

1. The Technical Committee was established pursuant to the decision of the Commission at its twenty-fourth session and with the aim of enhancing interaction and close consultation between the members of the Commission and its secretariat on substantive development issues.
2. The membership of the Technical Committee comprises high-level senior officials of the member governments of the Commission, from the capital, designated by the National Focal Points of ESCWA.
3. The members of the Technical Committee shall be responsible for self-financing their participation, as decided by the Commission.
4. The sessions of the Technical Committee shall be held every six months, starting January 2008.
5. Members of the Committee shall assume the chairmanship of the meetings on a rotating basis, for the duration of two years and in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations.
6. Chairmanship of the Committee shall coincide with the chairmanship of the Commission session.
7. The Technical Committee shall have the following functions:
  - (a) To advise and assist the secretariat in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework, the programme of work and priorities, consistent with the mandates and guidance provided by the Commission;
  - (b) To advise and assist the secretariat in following up on the implementation of Commission resolutions and any other outstanding matters that require action;
  - (c) To advise and assist the secretariat in following up the implementation of the programme of work and activities of the Commission, including the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources to support their implementation;
  - (d) To assist the secretariat in identifying emerging economic and social issues and other relevant priority issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas of the Commission sessions and the subsidiary intergovernmental Committees before finalization, and with due consideration to the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA;
  - (e) To carry out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission.

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