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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Technical Committee
Fourth meeting
Beirut 26-27 January 2010

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

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 - (b) Follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the third meeting of the Technical Committee.
9. Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its fourth meeting.

ANNOTATIONS

1. *Opening of the fourth meeting of the Technical Committee*

The opening session of the fourth meeting of the Technical Committee will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 26 December 2010, in the main conference hall at ESCWA headquarters, United Nations House in Beirut.

2. *Adoption of agenda and other organizational matters*

Pursuant to rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which apply to subsidiary bodies, "At the beginning of each session, once the Chairman has assumed his duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session". In accordance with the terms of reference of the Technical Committee, which stipulate that the chairmanship of the Committee shall coincide with the chairmanship of the Commission session, Yemen is currently chairing the Technical Committee, in its capacity as chair of the twenty-fifth session of ESCWA. The secretariat has therefore prepared a provisional agenda in cooperation with Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the body responsible for coordination with ESCWA. The Technical Committee will have before it the provisional agenda and annotations in E/ESCWA/2010/C.4/L.1.

The Technical Committee will have before it as well E/ESCWA/2010/C.4/L.2 containing the organization of work. The Committee may adopt the organization of work as submitted or introduce amendments thereto.

3. *Consideration of Terms of Reference of the Technical Committee*

The secretariat presents in document E/ESCWA/2010/C.4/3 the terms of reference of the Technical Committee, which set out its objectives and functions, upon introducing certain amendments and identifying follow-up tasks, particularly follow up of the implementation of resolutions taken by the Commission at its ministerial sessions and of any issues that require action. The Technical Committee is invited to discuss the revised terms of reference, and approve them as submitted or introduce amendments thereto.

4. *Views of member countries of ESCWA work: successes and possible areas of improvement*

In an effort to enhance cooperation and coordination between ESCWA and the member countries, promote exchange of experiences and information in order to benefit from and disseminate successful practice, improve the services provided by ESCWA to member countries, and implement activities commensurate with the development needs of member countries, the Committee will review the views of Bahrain, Jordan, Palestine and Saudi Arabia of ESCWA work, focusing on strengths and weaknesses and some suggestions for enhancing performance.

5. *Regional and global priorities: climate change, food security and empowerment of women*

Under this item, the Committee will address three issues of priority for the countries of the region; namely, climate change, food security and empowerment of women. The Committee will have before it E/ESCWA/2009/C.3/5, which outlines the consequences of these global challenges to development in the ESCWA region, in addition to ways of dealing with their potential impact and the adaptive measures that might be taken. The Committee is requested to discuss and comment upon these important issues.

6. *Proposed Strategic Framework for the 2012-2013 biennium*

The secretariat presents to the Committee document E/ESCWA/2010/TC.4/6 dealing with the proposed strategic framework for the 2012-2013 biennium. The document includes an overview of the work programme, and an account of the objectives and expected accomplishments for each of the seven sub-programmes that make up ESCWA's programme of action. It also includes the activities of the regular programme of technical cooperation, activities financed by the United Nations account for development, and activities financed from extrabudgetary resources. In preparing the proposed strategic framework, the secretariat has taken into account emerging priorities at the global and regional levels. The Committee is requested to review the proposed programme of action for the 2012-2013 biennium, and provide guidance and endorsement in principle, in preparation for submitting it to the governments of member countries for approval.

7. *Ongoing preparations for the twenty-sixth ESCWA ministerial session (May 2010)*

The secretariat started preparations for the twenty-sixth ESCWA ministerial session, to be held in May 2010 at United Nations House in Beirut should none of the member countries offer to host it. In addition to the session agenda proposed by the secretariat, document E/ESCWA/2010/C.4/7 includes an overview of the ongoing preparations for the ministerial session, date and venue of the meeting, and proposed session themes in the light of developments and outstanding development issues. The secretariat requests that the Committee review the ongoing preparations, decide the theme of the session, and select the topics for the ministerial round tables that will be held within the session.

8. *Progress achieved in implementing the activities of the secretariat*

The Committee will have before it two documents. The first addresses the activities carried out by the secretariat since the third meeting of the Committee in July 2009, and the second implementation of the recommendations made by Technical Committee at its third meeting:

(a) *Activities carried out since July 2009*

The committee will have before it E/ESCWA/2010/C.4/8(Part I), The document presents to the Technical Committee a brief overview of the main activities undertaken by the secretariat since the third meeting of the Committee in July 2009, namely:

- (i) The Fourth Session of the Committee on Women (Beirut, 21-23 October 2009);
- (ii) The Seventh Session of the Committee on Social Development (Beirut, 26-27 October 2009);
- (iii) The Arab Forum on Social Policy (Beirut, 28-29 October 2009);
- (iv) The Thirteenth Regional Coordination Mechanism Meeting (Beirut, 3-4 November 2009);
- (v) Expert Group Meeting on Moving the Development Agenda Forward: Opportunities and Potential Gains (Beirut, 5-6 November 2009).

(b) *Follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the third meeting of the Technical Committee*

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCWA/2010/C.4/8(Part II) which describes the actions taken and the activities undertaken by the secretariat in implementation of the recommendations of the Technical Committee at its third meeting (Beirut 21-22 July 2009).

Representatives of member countries are requested to look into what has been implemented, and to make proposals and recommendations in this regard.

9. *Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee*

The date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee will be considered.

10. *Other matters*

This agenda item covers any other issues that the members of the Committee may wish to introduce and discuss.

11. *Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its fourth meeting*

The Committee will consider the draft report of its fourth meeting, which includes recommendations, with a view to adopting it as submitted in document E/ESCWA/2010/C.4/L.9 or subsequent to making amendments thereto.
