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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Women
Fourth session
Beirut, 21-23 October 2009

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Consolidated Arab Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: + 15;
5. Promoting the economic participation of Arab women:
 - (a) Women and development series: Women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources;
 - (b) Impact of the global financial crisis on women in the Arab region.
6. Progress achieved in the field of advancement of women since the third session of the Committee on Women:
 - (a) Follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its third session;
 - (b) Follow-up on the implementation of activities related to the advancement of women under ESCWA programme of work.
7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of advancement of women.
8. Date and venue of the fifth session of the Committee.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The Committee on Women convenes its fourth session under the theme “Promoting economic participation of Arab women”. The opening meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 October 2009. The representative of Bahrain, in her capacity as Chairman of the third session of the Committee, will give a welcome statement and Mr. Bader Omar AlDafa, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, will deliver the opening statement. The session is expected to take place under the auspices of the First Lady of Lebanon, Mrs. Wafaa Soleyman.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: “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”.^{*} Pursuant to that rule, the Syrian Arab Republic will assume the chairmanship of the fourth session of the Committee, succeeding Bahrain, which assumed the chairmanship of the third session, from the convening of that session on 14 March 2007 to the convening of the fourth session on 21 October 2009. The Committee shall elect from its members two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: “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”. Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will be presented with the provisional agenda and annotations in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/IG.1/L.1 and the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/IG.1/L.2. The Committee may adopt those documents as submitted or after introducing amendments to them.

4. Consolidated Arab Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: + 15 E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/IG.1/3

This report will be submitted to the Committee for adoption. It contains a review of the progress achieved by the Arab countries in implementing the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995). The report, which focuses on progress achieved in the period from 2005 to 2009, was prepared in cooperation with the secretariat of the League of Arab States and on the basis of responses submitted by Governments to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action 15 years later. The report shall form the Arab part of the world review and appraisal report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action 15 Years Later (Beijing + 15) which will be submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session to be held in New York from 1 to 12 March 2010.

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

Before submitting it to the Committee at its fourth session, the draft report will be discussed at the expert group meeting on the review and appraisal of progress achieved in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab Region: Beijing+15, which precedes the session and convenes at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut, on 19 and 20 October 2009.

5. Promoting the economic participation of Arab women

Under this item, which carries the theme of the session, the Committee will be presented with the following two reports:

- (a) Women and development series: Women' control over economic resources and access to financial resources
E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/1

This report is submitted to the Committee for discussion with a view to crystallizing recommendations on the ways to economically empower the Arab woman, eliminate challenges obstructing her way in the professional field, and increase her participation ratio in the economic activities in order to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development for the peoples of the region.

- (b) Impact of the global financial crisis on women in the Arab region
E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/IG.1/4

This report is submitted to the Committee for discussion with a view to crystallizing recommendations on policies and measures required for ESCWA member countries in order to empower women under the current global financial crisis.

6. Progress achieved in the field of advancement of women since the third session of the Committee on Women

The secretariat will present under this item, a power presentation and a document as follows:

- (a) Follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its third session

The secretariat will present a PowerPoint presentation on the activities carried out and measures taken pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its third session. The presentation covers each recommendation and the corresponding implementation actions. Representatives of member countries will be invited to give their comments on the needs of their countries to implement those recommendations.

- (b) Follow-up on the implementation of activities related to the advancement of women under ESCWA programme of work
E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/IG.1/5

The secretariat will present the Committee with this report, which contains a review of activities carried out by ESCWA Center for Women under ESCWA programme of work in the advancement of women since the third session of the Committee. The secretariat invites representatives of member countries to take note of those activities and give their suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of advancement of women
E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/IG.1/6

The Committee will consider the programme of work which will be carried out by ESCWA for the biennium 2010-2011 under subprogramme 6, Advancement of women, which is implemented by ESCWA Center for Women. Representatives of member countries will be invited to review the proposed programme of work in the field of the advancement of women, make comments and put forward suggestions.

8. Date and venue of the fifth session of the Committee

Representatives of member countries shall agree on the date and venue of the fifth session of the Committee, given that it convenes in the last quarter of 2011.

9. Other matters

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

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourth session

The Committee will consider the draft report on its fourth session, including recommendations, for discussion and adoption.
