

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on
“Barriers Hindering Women Economic Participation in the ESCWA Region”
Beirut, 26-27 June 2012

TENTATIVE AGENDA**Day 1**

8:30 **Registration**

9:00-9:30 **Opening Session and tour de table**

- Chief of ESCWA Centre for Women; Introduction: Why is ESCWA doing this study today?
- ECW:
 - a. What are the EGM expectations?
 - b. Adoption of Agenda

9:30-11:00 **Session I: What Perspective Now?**

- Historical context of women’s work in the Arab World.
- Expanding the concept of “Economic Participation” of women beyond conventional understanding.
- Do we have the right framework to act? Moving away from shifting paradigms in pursuit of Pragmatism.

11:00-11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-13:00 **Session II: The Power and Limitations of Education**

- The very beginnings: Early Years education and its effect on shaping gender roles.
- Guided intervention during school-to-work transition.
- What are the skills that really help?

13:00-14:30 **Lunch Break**

Day 1 *(continued)*

14:30-16:00 Session III: Bringing Gender Equality into Work Policies and Practices

- Policy making: the old rules and the new ones (parochialism versus integration).
- Developing HR management with a human face? What actually works?
- The impossible job: what to do with the private sector to reflect and respond to the different needs and experiences of men and women.

16:00-16:30 Wrap Up Session

Day 2

9:00-10:30 Session IV: Developing Recommendations (3 Working Groups)

- Panel 1: Defining the problem and the perspective to act.
- Panel 2: What to do with existing skills and how to plan for acquiring new ones.
- Panel 3: Applying gender equality at work and policies through an integrated approach.

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Presentations of three sets of findings

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-15:00 Endorsement of recommendations and concluding comments.