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

Technical Committee  
Fifth meeting  
Beirut, 6-7 April 2011

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. The intergovernmental mechanism of ESCWA and its subsidiary bodies:
  - (a) Evaluation of the intergovernmental mechanism of ESCWA and its subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Key options for the intergovernmental mechanism of ESCWA and its subsidiary bodies for consideration by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh session.
4. Views of member countries on the work of ESCWA: successes and areas of improvement.
5. Regional and global priorities: the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20); and good governance during conflict and associated crises.
6. ESCWA proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013.
7. Implementation of resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-sixth session.
8. Progress achieved in the work of the secretariat:
  - (a) Major activities carried out since the twenty-sixth session of ESCWA;
  - (b) Implementation of recommendations made by the Technical Committee at its fourth meeting.
9. Date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Technical Committee.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its fifth meeting.

## ANNOTATIONS

### 1. Opening of the meeting

The opening session of the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 6 April 2011, at the Conference Hall of ESCWA headquarters, at the United Nations House in Beirut.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 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 on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the Technical Committee will be presented with the provisional agenda and annotations for this meeting in document E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/L.1. The secretariat has prepared the provisional agenda in coordination with Jordan's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the body responsible for coordination with ESCWA, given that Jordan is currently chairing the Technical Committee in its capacity as chair of the twenty-sixth session of ESCWA, pursuant to 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. The Committee will also be presented with the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

### 3. The intergovernmental mechanism of ESCWA and its subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/3)

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will present the following two documents to the Committee:

#### (a) Evaluation of the intergovernmental mechanism of ESCWA and its subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/CRP.1)

This evaluation has been conducted by ESCWA consultants and was carried out pursuant to resolution 291 (XXV) on the "Frequency of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies", which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-fifth session (Sana'a, 26-29 May 2008) and in which member countries requested the secretariat to "carry out an in-depth evaluation of the intergovernmental structure of ESCWA in the light of the programme priorities, as identified by member countries, and ongoing United Nations reforms".\*

#### (b) Key options for the intergovernmental mechanism of ESCWA and its subsidiary bodies for consideration by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh session (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/3)

This report has been prepared by the secretariat and contains recommendations for action in response to the findings of the evaluation, to be submitted for consideration by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh session in 2012.

Member country representatives are invited to review the findings of the evaluation and the recommendations made by the secretariat in that regard and provide their comments and suggestions.

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\* The seven subsidiary bodies of ESCWA are as follows: Committee on Water Resources; Committee on Energy; Committee on Social Development; Committee on Transport; Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region; Statistical Committee; and Committee on Women.

4. Views of member countries on the work of ESCWA: successes and areas of improvement

In an effort to enhance cooperation and coordination between ESCWA and its member countries, promote exchange of experience 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 their development needs, the Committee has included this item on its agenda since its fourth meeting. At the present meeting, three member countries will present their views on the work of ESCWA focusing on strengths and successes and offering suggestions for enhancing performance. It should be noted that at the previous meeting of the Committee, the following countries gave their views on the work of ESCWA: Bahrain, Jordan, Palestine and Saudi Arabia.

5. Regional and global priorities: the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20); and good governance during conflict and associated crises (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/4)

This document addresses two subjects that are vital for the countries of the region, namely: (a) the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012, known as Rio+20 (as it convenes 20 years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992); and (b) good governance during conflict and associated crises. Member country representatives are invited to discuss those two subjects and offer views and comments thereon.

6. ESCWA proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/5)

Under this item, the Committee will review the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013, which includes the objective, strategy, and expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of each of the seven subprogrammes of the programme of work of ESCWA, as well as the proposed outputs. In preparing the proposed programme of work, the secretariat has taken into consideration emerging priorities at the regional and global levels. Member country representatives are invited to review the proposed programme and provide guidance in that regard.

7. Implementation of resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-sixth session (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/6)

Under this item, the Committee will review the actions taken in implementation of the resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-sixth session (Beirut, 17-20 May 2010) concerning the various aspects of the work of ESCWA and issues of concern to member countries. Member country representatives are invited to take note of what has been implemented pursuant to those resolutions and offer their views in that regard.

8. Progress achieved in the work of the secretariat (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/7)

Under this agenda item, the Committee will be presented with the following two documents:

(a) Main activities carried out since the twenty-sixth session of ESCWA (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/7(Part I))

This document presents an overview of the following main activities that were carried out by the secretariat since the twenty-sixth session of ESCWA:

- (i) The ninth session of the Statistical Committee (Beirut, 13-15 October 2010);
- (ii) The fourteenth meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (Beirut, 11-12 November 2010);
- (iii) The eighth session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 13-14 December 2010);
- (iv) The ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources (Beirut, 23-25 March 2011);
- (v) The eighth session of the Committee on Social Development (Beirut, 24-25 March 2011).

The activities carried out by the secretariat also included taking the necessary steps for the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC) pursuant to resolution 294 (XXVI) which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-sixth session on 19 May 2010. ESCWA and the Government of Jordan signed on 23 December 2010 the Host Country Agreement for the Centre, and letters were sent to ESCWA focal points on 19 January 2011 seeking their country nomination to the ETC Board of Governors.

(b) Implementation of recommendations made by the Technical Committee at its fourth meeting (E/ESCWA/2011/C.5/7(Part II))

This document contains a review of the actions taken and activities implemented by the secretariat pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its fourth meeting (Beirut, 26-27 January 2010). Member country representatives are invited to take note of what has been accomplished and offer suggestions in that regard.

9. Date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Technical Committee

The Committee will decide the date and venue of its sixth meeting.

10. Other matters

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

11. Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its fifth meeting

The Committee will consider the draft report on its fifth meeting, which includes the recommendations, for discussion and adoption.

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