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Technical Committee
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Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT**MAJOR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT SINCE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF ESCWA****Summary**

Under its programme of work, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held the following activities since the twenty-sixth ministerial session of the Commission:

- (a) Ninth session of the Statistical Committee (Beirut, 13-15 October 2010);
- (b) Fourteenth Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (Beirut, 11-12 November 2010);
- (c) Eighth session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 13-14 December 2010);
- (d) Ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources (Beirut, 23-25 March 2011);
- (e) Eighth session of the Committee on Social Development (Beirut, 24-25 March 2011).

This document presents information on the implementation and outcomes of these activities, as well as progress made in the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre, and the completed stages of its realization. The report is presented to the Technical Committee for discussion and proposals.

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I. NINTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

A. TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. The Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its ninth session from 13 to 15 October 2010, pursuant to resolution 179 (XVI) of September 1992. The first two days were devoted to strategic and programmatic issues of the statistical work programme of ESCWA, following up on past resolutions and decisions of parent bodies. Particular attention was paid to formulating a strategic vision for the statistical work of ESCWA in the coming five years, biennial and annual work programmes and lessons learned from past activities in the field of statistics.

2. A special session commemorating World Statistics Day was organized on the third day. This celebration, which was held under the patronage of the Lebanese Prime Minister, highlighted the importance of official statistics in decision-making by political and business leaders. This event constituted a prelude to national celebrations that took place in most of ESCWA member countries on 20 October 2010.

3. The Committee also tackled a number of strategic issues related to statistics in the ESCWA region. Representatives of national statistical offices asked the ESCWA Statistics Division to prepare the first draft of the strategic vision, reflecting priorities and needs of member countries. Discussions identified two main issues of concern:

(a) Member countries of ESCWA rely on the Statistics Division to support their need for technical expertise and assistance in statistics. Capacity-building in this field is, therefore, a high priority and member countries asked that the Statistics Division expand its pool of available experts;

(b) Statistical data produced and released by national statistical offices vary significantly from data published by United Nations agencies about ESCWA countries. Therefore, the Committee asked the Statistics Division to defend national data and work with the United Nations Statistics Division and other United Nations agencies on resolving differences.

4. The strategic vision also covers issues concerning the coordination and sustainability of regional statistical work and includes a recommendation to create three permanent groups of specialists from ESCWA countries on economic statistics, social statistics and multidomain statistics. These groups would follow work and developments in their respective areas and advise the Statistical Committee.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Recommendations to be forwarded to the ESCWA ministerial session in 2012*

5. The Statistical Committee acknowledged the need for official statistics to respond in a relatively short time to increasingly dynamic socio-economic developments. In order for ESCWA to flexibly adjust priorities, the Statistical Committee recommends:

(a) Holding sessions of the Committee annually instead of biennially;

(b) Adjusting the timing of Committee sessions to January or early February, in order to include regional preparation for the United Nations Statistical Commission;¹

(c) Discontinuing annual meetings of the Working Group of the Statistical Committee, if the above changes are agreed upon.

¹ The United Nations Statistical Commission is held annually during the last week of February. Regional preparations for the United Nations Statistical Commission are currently taking place in the form of the Working Group of the ESCWA Statistical Committee. If the recommendation to discontinue annual meetings of the Working Group is approved, all its functions would be embedded in the Statistical Committee.

2. Recommendations addressed to member countries

6. At its ninth session, the Statistical Committee addressed a number of recommendations to member countries, which comprised the following:

(a) The Statistical Committee formed a Task Force, composed of Jordan, Palestine and Saudi Arabia, to review the draft report on Statistical Developments in Western Asia prepared by the ESCWA Statistics Division. The Task Force also invited and coordinated preparations for the exhibition from national statistical offices held during the forty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. All tasks following this recommendation were completed;

(b) Countries were invited to participate in the discussion of the Regional Executive Board for the International Comparison Programme and particularly issues related to funding;

(c) Countries were encouraged to address requests for technical assistance and advice to the secretariat and copy these requests to the Statistics Division.

3. Recommendations addressed to the secretariat

7. Recommendations addressed by the Statistical Committee to the ESCWA secretariat included the following:

(a) The Committee requested that the Statistics Division liaise and coordinate between statistical offices in the region and the United Nations Statistics Division in connection with preparations for the participation of member countries in the exhibition alongside of the forty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. All activities with respect to this recommendation were completed;

(b) The Committee requested that the Statistics Division include observations made by member countries in the outline of the strategic vision for the statistical work of ESCWA and prepare an advance version for their consideration. This recommendation was completed and the advance draft presented to the Working Group for the Statistical Committee in early February 2011;

(c) The Committee approved the implementation strategy of the System of National Accounts, version 2008 and requested that the Statistics Division implement capacity-building activities in this respect;

(d) The Committee requested that the Statistics Division propose to its Bureau a work programme for the Task Force on the Population and Housing Census;

(e) The Committee requested that the secretariat rely on statistical data from national statistical offices for the purposes of ESCWA publications;

(f) The Committee requested that the Executive Secretariat coordinate and communicate directly with national statistical offices on all issues related to statistical work in their countries;

(g) The Committee requested that the Statistics Division consult with member countries concerning statistical bulletins issued by ESCWA prior to printing and dissemination;

(h) The Committee approved the ESCWA programme of work in the field of statistics for the biennium 2012-2013, provided that modifications to the relevant document are introduced in the light of proposals made by member countries;

(i) The Committee recommended inviting the representative of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to attend statistical meetings organized by ESCWA;

(j) The Committee requested that the Statistics Division review the technical report of the United Arab Emirates in the field of official statistics and indicators of competitiveness and evaluate it in terms of its preparation mechanism and the extent of credibility of the indicators.

II. FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM

8. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for Arab States convened on 11 and 12 November 2010 in Beirut. The meeting was chaired by United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Asha Rose Migiros and was attended by directors and officials from twenty-five regional United Nations agencies. In addition, the Vice-chair of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) participated through videoconference.

9. The meeting was officially opened by Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri. The highest level delegation to date, from the League of Arab States, was led by Dr. Sima Bahous, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Affairs. Representatives of the Islamic Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund participated in substantive discussions.

10. The Regional Coordination Mechanism promotes thematic and policy coherence in the region around key economic and social priorities on the development agenda. The thematic focus of the Fourteenth Meeting was youth and poverty reduction, in line with global celebration of the International Year of Youth and with respect to the decision of the twenty-sixth session of ESCWA in May 2010. This year, the meeting focused on aligning the work of key regional actors with efforts underway by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

11. The following paragraphs present topics discussed and the main recommendations made.²

A. TOPICS DISCUSSED

12. Discussion focused on several themes summarized below:

- (a) Influencing regional and global policy agenda with the perspective of the Arab countries;
- (b) Considering the perspectives of young people and public and private sectors on challenges facing youth in the region;
- (c) Identifying key gaps and challenges for youth in the region;
- (d) Considering progress on outstanding key activities from the thirteenth meeting of the RCM: enhancing statistical coordination in the region, establishing and reporting back to the Civil Society Advisory Board and acknowledging progress of the three Thematic Working Groups on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Climate Change and Food Security.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

13. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the Thematic Working Groups, participants agreed to convene a joint annual meeting to synergise links between the focus areas. A Task Force on Statistical Coordination will be established to identify key capacity-building challenges to harmonizing collection approaches. The RCM will continue dialogue with the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General to determine the way forward for the engagement of the HLCP in future RCM meetings. The League of Arab States agreed to have the RCM serve as a coordinated forum to contribute to the Arab Economic and Social Development

² ESCWA, *Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism Beirut, 11-12 November 2010*, (E/ESCWA/OES/2010/RCM.14/13).

Summit. With respect to international financial institutions, it was agreed that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank would be invited to participate in the Thematic Working Groups. Other key regional actors such as the GCC, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development would be encouraged to participate in future RCM meetings.

III. EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

14. The Committee on Energy held its eighth session on 13 and 14 December 2010 and discussed the items of the agenda. The session covered several topics of priority, in particular energy policies and measures for promoting climate change mitigation in ESCWA member countries. The final report of the session was adopted on 14 December 2010 after incorporating the amendments suggested by member countries.

A. TOPICS DISCUSSED

15. In addition to the opening of the session, election of officers, adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters, as well as the date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Energy, the agenda included items on the follow-up to the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its seventh session, follow-up to the implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work between the seventh and eighth sessions, the Project on Disseminating Renewable Energy Services to Rural Villages in ESCWA member countries, in particular the photovoltaic electrification project in Kaawa, Yemen, and the ESCWA proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of energy.

16. Participants presented and discussed five papers, namely:

(a) A paper about the adverse impacts of climate change, correlation between climate change and emissions, the need to work towards limiting the adverse impacts of climate change on ESCWA member countries and their economic and social programmes and defining possible means for emission reductions, including: optimizing energy consumption, improving energy efficiency and reducing reliance on energy sources from combustion processes by using available renewable energy sources and nuclear energy for the production of electricity and water desalination. The paper indicated that in case where fossil fuels are used, priority should be given to cleaner fuels and to carbon dioxide capture and storage techniques;

(b) A paper on the possibilities of producing electricity from renewable energy, specifically solar and wind energy, with a focus on available means and technologies, international trends in that regard, future cost expectations, and challenges hindering the adoption of those technologies. The document also tackled regional and international cooperation in the field and the related situation in ESCWA member countries;

(c) A paper on the current situation of the transport sector in ESCWA member countries, the arrangements and options for reducing emissions and progress achieved in that regard. It also defined challenges and work priority areas;

(d) A paper on the possibilities of including thermal and/or electric power production in treatment procedures of liquid (sanitation water) and solid waste from plant and animal residues of the consuming society, so as to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change. The document presented noteworthy experiences and projects and reviewed policies, challenges and obstacles needed to be overcome in order to stimulate investment in that sector;

(e) A paper about available areas of regional and international cooperation for reducing emissions and mitigating climate change, particularly with regard to technology transfer and development, exchange of technical expertise among countries, capacity-building, financing mechanisms and the possibilities for ESCWA member countries to benefit from integration conventions in this regard, including previous conventions and protocols and those in preparation, especially for the period beyond the Kyoto protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

17. Following the presentation of papers, most delegates presented the programmes and achievements of their countries in the sector of energy and climate change mitigation, in order to exchange opinions, make use of experiences and explore cooperation possibilities. Mr. Mounir Bahri, director of the Rational Use of Energy in the National Agency for Energy Conservation in Tunisia, presented the National Plan for energy conservation. He reviewed, in detail, the programmes and institutional frameworks in Tunisia and the consequent achievements. He focused on the objectives of the presidential program in 2014 entitled “Towards an environment-friendly, energy-saving and innovative economy with high technological content”.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

18. At the conclusion of its eighth session, the Committee on Energy addressed a number of recommendations to ESCWA as follows:

(a) To support cooperation activities with the League of Arab States and United Nations organizations as well as regional organizations and centres operating in the energy field, in order to improve regional cooperation in the areas of energy and renewable energy efficiency, enhance the implementation of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and take necessary action to achieve integration in electric and gas networks;

(b) To prepare a draft regulatory framework aimed at developing systems of energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as subsequent applications, which would contribute to strengthening the economies of the countries of the region;

(c) To continue to prepare and implement activities on awareness-raising and capacity-building, as well as to execute pilot projects in different areas of energy for sustainable development and green economy;

(d) To provide technical support, upon request, to member countries and to enhance coordination between member countries in exchanging and evaluating expertise and pilot experiences as well as organizing field visits;

(e) To continue to prepare analytical studies and technical publications on issues related to energy for sustainable development and to organize expert group meetings and workshops in this field;

(f) To include field and case studies dealing with energy issues for sustainable development prepared by delegates of member countries in documents submitted to the Committee;

(g) To hold a follow-up meeting for the Committee on Energy in the year following that of the regular biennial meeting of the Committee, in order to follow up the implementation of recommendations and involve countries in the implementation phase;

(h) To adopt the general orientation and activities in the ESCWA proposed programme of work for the 2012-2013 biennium in the field of energy.

19. Representatives of member countries agreed on the need for their respective countries to adopt national strategies to encourage sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption which would contribute to the development of applications for energy efficiency and renewable energy. They agreed, as well, to periodically notify ESCWA of programmes, policies and measures taken by member countries in energy fields, as well as all associated statistical data, to prepare energy balances on both national and regional levels and provide ESCWA with a copy of these balances, to build the necessary capacity to follow up work, and to prepare documents on national experiences, including policies and procedures adopted in this field, to be presented at the meeting of the Committee on Energy.

IV. NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

20. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is preparing for the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources to be held from 23 to 25 March 2011 at United Nations House in Beirut. The aim of the session is to provide a formal forum for discussion of the challenges and obstacles confronting the region in the field of water resources.

21. The Committee aims to review, at its ninth session, progress achieved in the implementation of ESCWA activities in the field of water resources since the eighth session held in December 2009 and to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations. The session will also discuss the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field. Technical papers presented at the session will cover several themes of concern to the Arab region, namely the regional vulnerability assessment of climate change impacts on the water resources sector, progress achieved towards the preparation of a regional initiative for monitoring progress of water and sanitation MDGs and the development of the regional legal framework for shared water.

A. TOPICS DISCUSSED

22. The ninth session agenda of the Committee on Water Resources consists of a number of priority topics and items. The session will comprise several meetings, each of which will tackle a theme according to the above outline. The discussion will assist in shaping the priorities and main issues of concern to member countries as well as the main issues on the ESCWA agenda and orient ESCWA activities and programmes during the 2012-2013 biennium.

23. The first item of the agenda includes the status of the vulnerability assessment of the Arab water sector to climate change. Under this item, the Committee will review progress made in the preparation of the study, in order to prepare national and regional strategies aimed at adapting to the impact of climate change on water resources. Under the item on the regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of MDGs related to water and sanitation in the Arab Region, the Committee will review the activities implemented in launching the initiative, which included consultation, coordination and cooperation processes.

24. Under the item on integrated management of shared water, the Committee will be presented with two reports. The first covers the development of a regional legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region, including the mandate, regional institutional development and a description of the proposed two-phase approach to develop the legal framework. The second report presents the Protocol on Shared Watercourses signed by the Southern African Development Community and related organizations to manage common river basins.

25. Regarding what was implemented in the field of water resources since the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources, the Committee will be presented with two papers. The first reviews progress made in the implementation of ESCWA activities in the field since the eighth session, whereas the second follows up the implementation of recommendations made at that session. As for the document on the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of water resources, the programme will be presented to Committee members and activities to be undertaken by ESCWA will be discussed.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

26. It should be noted that the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources was postponed from 8-10 February to 23-25 March 2011. The Committee recommendations will therefore be made in time. Main themes presented and discussed as well as recommendations made will be presented during the meeting of the Technical Committee.

V. EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

27. The Commission is preparing to hold the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development on 24 and 25 March 2011 at United Nations House in Beirut. The session aims to provide a formal and practical framework to discuss social development priorities and challenges in the countries of the region. The session will consist of six meetings, covering key issues and topics in the field aimed at orienting ESCWA work in the coming period.

A. TOPICS DISCUSSED

28. The agenda of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Social Development consists of a number of topics and items crucial to the region. The Committee will be presented with three reports on priority issues in the field of social development. The first document was prepared in the context of implementing the Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2004-2013 and addresses the relationship between disability on the one hand and social exclusion and poverty on the other in the ESCWA region and suggests a set of approaches aimed at fighting poverty among persons with disabilities. The second report highlights the participation of civil society organizations in policy processes. It presents the status of civil society in ESCWA member countries, factors affecting the performance of organizations including enhancing their role and new trends in activities. The third document focuses on the need to reconsider planning methods through a review and assessment of the accomplishments of member countries in the area of formulating cross-sectoral policies addressing various youth-related issues. The Committee will also review progress made in the implementation of social development-related activities and recommendations under the ESCWA programme of work since the seventh session, as well as proposed activities and outputs under the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of social development.

29. The agenda consists, as well, of administrative and organizational items related to the opening of the session, election of officers, adoption of the agenda, date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Social Development and the adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighth session.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

30. During the meeting of the Technical Committee, the secretariat will present key issues discussed as well as main recommendations made by representatives of member countries at the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development.

VI. PROGRESS MADE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ESCWA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

31. At its twenty-third session, ESCWA adopted resolution 254 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC). This resolution requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a detailed study, financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the establishment of ETC and to submit this study to the ESCWA Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation before submitting a report on the matter to the twenty-fourth session of the Commission.

32. At its twenty-fourth session, ESCWA adopted resolution 274 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre. That resolution approved, in principle, the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre as defined in the pre-feasibility study; and requested the secretariat to follow up with member countries with respect to the hosting of the Centre and securing its sources of finance. The resolution also requested the secretariat to take the necessary action aimed at establishing the Centre and to submit a report to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission in this regard.

33. At its twenty-fifth session, ESCWA adopted resolution 284 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre for development. The resolution accepted the outcomes of the preparation stages as presented, and requested the ESCWA secretariat to finalize the hosting arrangements of ETC, to coordinate with member countries over the establishment of a board of governors and to take the necessary measures to draft administrative regulations for approval by the board of governors.

34. At its twenty-sixth session, ESCWA adopted resolution 294 (XXVI) of 19 May 2010 on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre. The resolution expressed the appreciation of ESCWA to Jordan for its offer to host the Centre. The resolution adopted the statute of the ESCWA Technology Centre and requested the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations; it also requested the Executive Secretary to establish the first founding board of governors by soliciting nominations from member countries; and requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of this resolution, including the initial operating phase of the Centre and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.

35. At its forty-second plenary meeting on 20 July 2010, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2010/5, endorsed ESCWA resolution 294 (XXVI) on the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre and the statute of the Centre, as set out in annexes I and II.

36. The Government of Jordan and ESCWA signed the Host Country Agreement for the ESCWA Technology Centre on 23 December 2010.

37. Letters were sent to ESCWA Focal Points on 19 January 2011 seeking the nomination of their countries to the ETC Board of Governors. It is expected that the establishment of the first founding board will be implemented in March 2011.

38. Based on the above-mentioned Economic and Social Council resolution and its annexes, the Executive Secretary assigned Mr. Fouad Mrad as the Executive Director of the ESCWA Technology Centre.

39. The Royal Scientific Society of Jordan, as part of the governmental commitment for ETC establishment, prepared and equipped a location inside the El-Hassan Science City as of March 2011.

Annex I

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2010/5
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its twenty-sixth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010, of its resolution 294 (XXI) on the establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre, by which the Commission adopted the statute of the Centre,

Endorses the resolution on the establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre and the statute of the Centre, as set out in annexes I and II to the present resolution.

*42nd plenary meeting
20 July 2010*

Annex II

294 (XXVI). ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ESCWA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹ Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 of 5 November 2004 and the Millennium Declaration,² which identified the promotion of science and technology as a United Nations priority,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009 adopting the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,³ which emphasized the need to promote, including through South-South cooperation, access to and the transfer of technology,

Further recalling its resolution 284 (XXV) of 29 May 2008, which approved the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre for Development,

Expressing its appreciation to Jordan for its offer to host the Centre, and noting that resources for the centre should come from the following sources:

- (a) Support from the host country;
- (b) Support from ESCWA;
- (c) Income received by the Centre for services provided to beneficiaries;
- (d) Any other funding sources approved by the board of governors.

1. *Adopts* the statute of the ESCWA Technology Centre, in accordance with the present resolution, as the basis for its operations;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to establish the first founding board of governors by soliciting nominations from member countries;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of this resolution, including the initial operating phase of the Centre, and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³ General Assembly resolution 64/222.

Annex III

DRAFT STATUTE OF THE ESCWA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Establishment

1. The ESCWA Technology Centre shall be established in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

Mission

2. The mission of the Centre is to assist members of ESCWA and public and private organizations to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to accelerate socio-economic development in order to attain technological parity with other nations and regions of the world and to contribute to convert the economies of member countries into economies based on scientific and technological knowledge.

Objectives

3. The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members of ESCWA by strengthening their capabilities to develop and manage national systems; develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; determine the suitable technology for the region and facilitate its development and improve the legal and commercial framework for the transfer of technology. The Centre also aims at enhancing the technological and scientific knowledge content of major economic sectors in member countries.

Functions

4. The Centre will achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:

- (a) Conducting research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities;
- (b) Providing advisory services;
- (c) Disseminating information and promoting good practices;
- (d) Developing partnerships and other networks with regional and international organizations and key stakeholders;
- (e) Training national personnel, particularly scientists and policy analysts;
- (f) Assessing the scientific and technological level and content of production and service sectors and measuring performance indicators of those sectors in relation with the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge.

Status and organization

5. The Centre shall have a board of governors (herein referred to as Board), an executive director and staff, and a technical committee.

6. The Centre shall be located in Amman, Jordan. A host country agreement shall be concluded between the Government of Jordan and the United Nations.

7. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and applicable administrative instructions and issuances.

Board of governors

8. The Centre shall have a board of governors consisting of a standing representative designated by the Government of Jordan, and no fewer than six additional representatives nominated by the other members of ESCWA and elected by the Commission. The representatives who are elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election one more time only. If a representative is unable to serve for the full term, the vacancy shall be filled by the Government of that representative. The Executive Secretary of ESCWA or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the board but shall not have the right to vote.

9. During the two year establishment period, a board of governors will be constituted comprising representatives of all member countries who so wish.

10. The Executive Director of the Centre shall serve as secretary of the board of governors and, in such capacity, shall keep and circulate minutes of board meetings to its members.

11. Representatives of (a) any State Member of the United Nations; (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies; and (c) such other organizations as the Board may deem appropriate as well as experts in fields of interest to the board may, at the board's discretion, be invited to attend board meetings.

12. The board shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the board shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, who may propose special sessions of the board at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of board members.

13. A quorum for board meetings shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the board shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the board shall be made by consensus or, where this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

15. The board shall, at each regular session, elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson shall hold office until the next regular session of the board. The chairperson or, in his/her absence, the vice-chairperson shall preside at board meetings. If the chairperson is unable to serve for the full session for which he/she has been elected, the vice-chairperson shall act as chairperson for the remainder of that session.

16. The board shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCWA shall submit an annual report as adopted by the board to the Commission at its regular sessions.

Executive director and staff

17. The Centre shall have an executive director and such additional staff as are appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The executive director and additional staff shall have the status of ESCWA staff members.

18. The executive director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCWA for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical committee

19. The Centre shall have a technical committee consisting of experts from members of ESCWA and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the technical committee shall be appointed by the executive director in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ESCWA.

20. The technical committee shall be responsible for advising the executive director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the technical committee, and the executive director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the board at its next session.

22. The chairperson at each meeting of the technical committee shall be elected by the majority vote of those members of the technical committee present and voting.

Resources of the Centre

23. The Centre shall be financed from the following sources:

- (a) Support from the host country;
- (b) Support from ESCWA;
- (c) Income received by the Centre for services provided to beneficiaries;
- (d) Any other funding sources approved by the board of governors.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities in addition to those received from the host country pursuant to the agreement signed between the host country and the United Nations.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for donations for technical cooperation projects or other special contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the board of governors, the pertinent part of the terms of reference and rules of procedure of ESCWA shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

*7th plenary meeting
19 May 2010*
