

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/INF.1
7 October 2015
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Women
Seventh session
Muscat, 20-21 January 2016

INFORMATION NOTE**1. Background**

The Committee on Women was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 240 (XXII) of 17 April 2003, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/9 of 18 July 2004. It was established with the aim of following up regional and international conferences on women, ensuring the participation of the ESCWA member States in those conferences and coordinating the efforts exerted by member States and regional organizations in the implementation of resolutions and recommendations adopted by those conferences. The Committee on Women held its first founding session in Beirut, on 4 and 5 December 2003 and its subsequent sessions biannually. It held its sixth session in Kuwait, on 4 and 5 December 2013 and will convene its seventh session in Muscat, on 20 and 21 January 2016.

2. Aims

The Committee on Women at its seventh session aims to promote cooperation between member States and with regional organizations active in the advancement of Arab women. It will focus on the progress achieved in the Arab region towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 20 years after their adoption and the effects of international development processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on women in the Arab countries. Discussions will also address the challenges faced by women in the Arab region, especially in conflict-affected countries and areas. Moreover, the agenda of the seventh session includes such recurrent items as the review of progress achieved in the implementation of activities related to the advancement of women under the ESCWA programme of work and the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixth session, in addition to the presentation of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the advancement of women.

3. Agenda

The provisional agenda and annotations for the seventh session of the Committee on Women are contained in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/L.1. The proposed organization of work is presented in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/IG.1/L.2.

4. Documents

The session documents can be downloaded from the session web page available at: <http://goo.gl/5X1qpl>.

5. Participants

Participants include representatives of Governments, national machineries for the advancement of women and line ministries as well as councils, governmental organizations and committees on women in member States.

Representatives of States not members of ESCWA, the League of Arab States, the Committee of Arab Women, the United Nations programmes and specialized agencies and relevant civil society organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, will attend the session as observers.

The ESCWA secretariat hopes that country representation would be at the ministerial level and that delegations would include experts in issues related to the development of women and the issues listed in the agenda of the seventh session. In preparation for the session, the secretariat encourages representatives of member States to prepare reviews of actions taken by their Governments to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixth session with a view to presenting those reviews under agenda item 4 (c).

6. Date and venue of the session

The seventh session of the Committee on Women will be hosted by Oman. It will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Muscat, on 20 and 21 January 2016.

7. Registration and opening session

Registration will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday 20 January 2016. Participants will be provided with identification badges, which are required to be worn at all times at the session venue.

The meetings will start with an opening session at 9 a.m. on the same day during which the Committee will also elect the session bureau officers.

8. Language of the session

Session proceedings will be in Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation into and from English and Arabic.

9. Entry visas to Oman

Participants may apply for entry visas to Oman at the Omani Consulate or Embassy in their respective countries. They may present a copy of the ESCWA invitation to the session with the visa application in order to facilitate the visa issuance process.

10. Travel, accommodation and transportation

In accordance with the United Nations regulations for such intergovernmental meetings, member States participating in the session are responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives. Participants are responsible for their transportation arrangements from and to the airport.

Below is a list of suggested hotels that offer special rates and are located in the proximity of the session venue. Participants may contact directly the reservation service at the selected hotel and mention that they participate in the meetings organized by ESCWA in order to obtain the reduced rates.

Hotel	Rating	Rates are in Omani rial			Contact	Remarks
		Single with breakfast	Double with breakfast	Suite with three meals		
Intercontinental	*****	122.850	163.800	292.500	0096896644161 Salim.alharthy@ihg.com	
Crowne Plaza	*****	Regular room 129.140	Sea view room 111.530	199.580	0096892443283 Mouza.alrajhj@ihg.com	
Grand Hyatt Muscat	*****	146.250	169.650	216.200	0096895077699 Badar.alsiyabi@hyatt.com	2015 rates
City Seasons	****	65	80	-	0096895530005 Yousuf.balushi@cityseasonsmuscat.com	
Rotana	****	30	38	-	0096895879000 SUHAIL.B.ALJI@GMAIL.COM	
Dmas	****	30	35	-	0096898818888 www.dmashhotel.com	
Safeer Hotels & Tourism Company	***	28	42	-	0096895760277 Majid.Ahmed@safeerhotels.com	
Venus	***	28	32	-	0096824482294 Reservation@venusmuscat.com	

Participants must settle hotel accommodation and other expenses directly with the hotel before departure.

11. Correspondence

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following ESCWA officials with a copy to the Ministry of Social Development in Oman:

Mr. Imad El-Nahlawi
ESCWA Centre for Women
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel.: +961-1-978678
Fax: +961-1-981510
E-mail: elnahlawi@un.org

Ms. Jamila Bint Salem Jaddad
Ministry of Social Development
Muscat, Oman
Tel: +96824693975
Fax:+95824699397
E-mail: ja.milas@hotmail.com
