

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

Thirtieth session
Beirut, 25-28 June 2018

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Organization of work****Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat has prepared the proposed organization of work for the thirtieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to facilitate the consideration of the agenda items within time limitations. The Commission will be presented with the proposed organization of work contained in the present document and shall adopt it in that or an amended form.
2. The senior officials segment will start with an inaugural meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 25 June 2018, and resume at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 26 June 2018, according to the annexed organization of work. The senior officials segment will end at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 26 June 2018 upon agreement by the participants on the recommendations and resolutions to be submitted for adoption at the ministerial segment.
3. Each presentation made by the secretariat will last for 10-15 minutes and the related discussion for 20-45 minutes. Should the discussion of one item be completed before the specified time, the meeting will move on to the next item.
4. The ministerial segment of the session will open at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 27 June 2018, with a debate on its main theme "Technology for sustainable development in the Arab region". Three round-table discussions will be held, two on Wednesday and one on Thursday, 28 June 2018. The session will conclude at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, with the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Commission on its thirtieth session, which contains the recommendations and resolutions.
5. A series of events will be organized on the sidelines of the thirtieth session of the Commission, at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 27 June 2018, and at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 28 June 2018, at the United Nations House.

Annex**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

Date/time	Agenda item and documentation	
A. SENIOR OFFICIALS SEGMENT (25-26 JUNE 2018)		
<u>Monday, 25 June 2018</u>		
Morning		
9-10 a.m.		Registration of participants
10-10.15 a.m.	<u>Item 1</u>	Opening of the senior officials segment
		Address by the representative of Qatar, as Chair of the twenty-ninth session
		Address by the representative of the ESCWA secretariat
10.15-11 a.m.		First meeting
	<u>Item 2</u>	Election of officers
	<u>Item 3</u>	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Documents E/ESCWA/30/L.1 and E/ESCWA/30/L.2
	<u>Item 4</u>	Consideration of requests by States Members of the United Nations and/or its specialized agencies that are not members of ESCWA to participate as observers in the thirtieth session of the Commission
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Document E/ESCWA/30/3
11 a.m.-1 p.m.		Second meeting: Global and regional developments
	<u>Item 5</u>	Survey of economic and social developments in the Arab region 2017-2018
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Document E/ESCWA/EDID/2018/1/Summary
	<u>Item 6</u>	Megatrends in the transport sector and their impact on the Arab region
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Document E/ESCWA/30/4

Date/time	Agenda item and documentation
<u>Monday, 25 June 2018</u> (<i>continued</i>)	
<u>Item 7</u>	Support for the Palestinian people: impact of the Israeli occupation and practices <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/5
1-2 p.m. Lunch break	
Afternoon	
2-5 p.m.	Third meeting: Work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies
<u>Item 8</u>	Outcomes of the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/6
<u>Item 9</u>	Links between information and communications technology processes and sustainable development <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/7
<u>Item 10</u>	Proposal for the establishment of an Arab centre for climate change policies at ESCWA <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/8
<u>Item 11</u>	Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre over the period 2016-2017 <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/9
5-6 p.m.	Closed meeting of the drafting committee Consideration of the recommendations of the senior officials segment

Date/time	Agenda item and documentation
<u>Tuesday, 26 June 2018</u>	
Morning	
10-11.45 a.m.	Third meeting: Work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (<i>continued</i>)
<u>Item 12</u>	Implementation of the Doha Declaration and other resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/10
<u>Item 13</u>	Reports of the Executive Committee Document E/ESCWA/30/11 - Report of the third meeting of the Executive Committee E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/8/Report - Report of the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/9/Report
<u>Item 14</u>	Reports of the Commission's subsidiary bodies Document E/ESCWA/30/12 (a) Report of the eighth session of the Committee on Women E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/IG.1/7/Report (b) Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Social Development E/ESCWA/SDD/2017/IG.1/6/Report (c) Report of the eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/9/Report (d) Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development (liberalization of foreign trade) E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.3/11/Report (e) Report of the twelfth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development (focus on finance) E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.2/9/Report

Date/time	Agenda item and documentation	
<u>Tuesday, 26 June 2018</u> (<i>continued</i>)		
11.45 a.m.-1 p.m.	Fourth meeting: Management issues	
	<u>Item 15</u>	Programme performance in the biennium 2016-2017 <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/13
	<u>Item 16</u>	Technical cooperation and regional advisory services <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/14
1-2 p.m.	Lunch break	
Afternoon		
2-5 p.m.	Fourth meeting: Management issues (<i>continued</i>)	
	<u>Item 17</u>	Financial status of the Commission <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/15
	<u>Item 18</u>	Proposed amendments to the strategic framework and programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/30/16
	<u>Item 19</u>	New vision for reform in the United Nations
5-6 p.m.	Closed meeting of the drafting committee Consideration of the recommendations of the senior officials segment	
B. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT (27-28 JUNE 2018)		
<u>Wednesday, 27 June 2018</u>		
Morning		
9.30-11 a.m.	<u>Item 20</u>	Opening of the ministerial segment Address by the representative of Qatar, as Chair of the twenty-ninth session Address by the representative of Tunisia, as Chair of the thirtieth session Address by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Address by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ali Alhakim, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA Address by H.E. General Michel Aoun, President of the Lebanese Republic

Date/time	Agenda item and documentation
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Wednesday, 27 June 2018 (*continued*)

Main theme of the session: Technology for sustainable development in the Arab region

Document [E/ESCWA/30/17](#)

Technology for sustainable development: creating decent employment opportunities and empowering young people in the Arab countries

Item 21

Technology for sustainable development in the Arab region:
round tables

For discussion

Document [E/ESCWA/30/17/CRP.1](#)

11.15 a.m.-1 p.m.

First meeting

First round-table discussion

- (a) Integrating technology and innovation into national development planning

1-2 p.m.

Lunch break

Afternoon

2-4 p.m.

Second meeting

Item 21
(*continued*)

Second round-table discussion

- (b) The role of technology in tackling the challenges of the Arab region

4-5 p.m.

On the sidelines of the session

Launching of the tenth report of the Arab Thought Foundation on cultural development

Innovation or Extinction? Scientific Research in the Arab World: Realities, Challenges and Perspectives

MZ Hall, the United Nations House, Beirut

Symposium

Climate Change in the Arab Region: Technological Tools for Enhancing the Science-Policy Interface

Conference Room 1 (CR1), the United Nations House, Beirut

Date/time	Agenda item and documentation		
<u>Thursday, 28 June 2018</u>			
Morning			
<p>9-10 a.m.</p> <p>On the sidelines of the session</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Launching of the ESCWA study: Perspectives on the Digital Economy in the Arab Region <i>MZ Hall, the United Nations House, Beirut</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Launching of the ESCWA study: Fostering Open Government in the Arab Region <i>Conference Room 1 (CR1), the United Nations House, Beirut</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Launching of the ESCWA study: Perspectives on the Digital Economy in the Arab Region <i>MZ Hall, the United Nations House, Beirut</i></p>	<p>Launching of the ESCWA study: Fostering Open Government in the Arab Region <i>Conference Room 1 (CR1), the United Nations House, Beirut</i></p>
<p>Launching of the ESCWA study: Perspectives on the Digital Economy in the Arab Region <i>MZ Hall, the United Nations House, Beirut</i></p>	<p>Launching of the ESCWA study: Fostering Open Government in the Arab Region <i>Conference Room 1 (CR1), the United Nations House, Beirut</i></p>		
10 a.m.-12 p.m.	<p>Third meeting</p> <p><u>Item 21</u> <i>(continued)</i></p> <p><i>Third round-table discussion</i></p> <p>(c) Frontier technologies: opportunities, challenges and the way forward</p>		
12-12.30 p.m.	Closed meeting of the heads of delegations		
12.45-1.30 p.m.	<p>Fourth meeting</p> <p><u>Item 22</u> Date and venue of the thirty-first session of the Commission</p> <p><u>Item 23</u> Other matters</p> <p><u>Item 24</u> Adoption of the outcome document and resolutions emanating from the session</p> <p><u>Item 25</u> Adoption of the report of the thirtieth session of the Commission Document E/ESCWA/30/18/Report</p>		
1.30-2.30 p.m.	Lunch		
