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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Nineteenth session
Beirut, 7-8 May 1997

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the ministerial session

The opening ceremony for the nineteenth session will commence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 7 May 1997, in the Ambassadors Hall of the Coral Beach Hotel in Beirut.

2. Election of officers

Rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) provides that "the Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election."

3. Adoption of the agenda

Rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Commission provides that "the Commission shall at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Chairman as required under rule 12, adopt the agenda for that session" (E/ESCWA/19/L.1).

4. Proposed organization of work

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/19/L.2 containing proposals intended to organize the work of the session which the Commission may wish to adopt in their current form or in an amended form, as may be envisaged by the participants.

5. Invitation to States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the nineteenth session of the Commission

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/19/3 concerning applications by States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the nineteenth session of the Commission in accordance with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) and rule 63 of the rules of procedure of the Commission.

6. Discussion and adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its tenth session

The Commission will have before it, for consideration and adoption, the report of the Technical Committee on the work of its tenth session (E/ESCWA/19/4 - E/ESCWA/C.1/19/14) containing recommendations pertaining to items considered by the Committee.

7. Programme and organizational changes and modifications made by ESCWA since 1994

Document E/ESCWA/19/5 shows steps taken in reforming the Commission and improving its performance in order to enable it to respond to new developments in the region and the world.

8. Current issues and problems of concern to the countries of the region (ESCWA resolution 119 (X)): concerns of ESCWA member States regarding the World Trade Organization (WTO), the related agreements and future trade negotiations (E/ESCWA/19/6)

The above subject is proposed for discussion in accordance with paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 119 (X) of 11 May 1983 on the policy-making structure of the Commission, in which the Commission requested "the Executive Secretary to include in the provisional agenda of future sessions a special item for discussion related to a priority theme, issue or problem facing the countries of the region."

9. Progress made in facilitating the move of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon

Document E/ESCWA/19/7 contains information on the steps and measures taken by the government of Lebanon as well as the plan of the ESCWA secretariat for the move of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut.

10. Call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission, to be held in conjunction with the twentieth session of ESCWA in 1999, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of international and regional developments

Document E/ESCWA/19/8 shows the developments in the region since the Commission's establishment in 1974 as well as any actions the member States may decide to adopt to mark the silver jubilee of the Commission in 1999.

11. Date and venue of the twentieth session of the Commission

Rule 1 (a) of the rules of procedure of the Commission stipulates that the sessions of the Commission shall normally be held in April every other year, at a time to be determined by the members of the Commission. Rule 2 states further that sessions of the Commission shall normally be held at its headquarters; the Commission may, however, recommend holding a particular session elsewhere (on the assumption that a member has offered to host the session and with the concurrence of the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243).

12. Other matters

This agenda item covers any other matters that members of the Commission may deem appropriate to discuss.

13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session

The Commission will examine and adopt its report (E/ESCWA/19/9) together with the draft resolutions.

