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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Twentieth session
Beirut, 27-28 May 1999

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the ministerial session

The opening ceremony for the twentieth session will commence at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 27 May 1999, at the permanent headquarters of ESCWA in Beirut.

2. Election of officers

Rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia 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/20/L.1).

4. Proposed organization of work

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/20/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 and/or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the twentieth session of the Commission

The Commission will have before it for its consideration document E/ESCWA/20/3 regarding applications received from States Members of the United Nations and/or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the twentieth 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 eleventh session

The Commission will have before it, for consideration and adoption, the report of the Technical Committee on the work of its eleventh session (E/ESCWA/20/4 – E/ESCWA/C.1/20/13) containing recommendations pertaining to items considered by the Committee.

7. The role of ESCWA in the coordination of the regional activities of the United Nations system

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/20/5 concerning the Commission's role in coordinating the various regional activities of the United Nations system in the ESCWA region.

8. Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region. Trade efficiency in ESCWA member countries: a comprehensive study

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/20/6. The document is submitted 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. Relocation of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/20/7 containing information on the completion of the relocation of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut.

10. Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission

In accordance with its resolution 217 (XIX) of 7 May 1997, the Commission will have before it documents E/ESCWA/20/8 and E/ESCWA/C.1/20/5/Add.6, summarizing the various courses of action undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat in response to the resolution.

11. Date and venue of the twenty-first 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 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 will cover any other matters that members of the Commission may deem appropriate to discuss.

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

The Commission will examine and adopt its report (E/ESCWA/20/9) together with the draft resolutions.

