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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

Twenty-first session  
Beirut, 8-11 May 2001

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening of the twenty-first session

The opening ceremony for the twenty-first session will commence at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 10 May 2001, 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/21/L.1).

4. Proposed organization of work

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/21/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 twenty-first session of the Commission

The Commission will have before it for its consideration document E/ESCWA/21/3 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 twenty-first 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. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the activities of the Commission

The Commission will have before it, for consideration and adoption, the report of the Preparatory Committee on the activities of the Commission (E/ESCWA/21/4 – E/ESCWA/C.1/21/9) containing recommendations pertaining to item 6 of the provisional agenda,\* which comprises the following sub-items:

(a) Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999 (regular programme and technical cooperation activities) (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/3)

The document under this sub-item provides a brief review of the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999.

(b) Progress made during 2000 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 (regular programme and technical cooperation activities) (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/4 (Part I), E/ESCWA/C.1/21/4 (Part II) and E/ESCWA/C.1/21/4 (Part III))

The documents under this sub-item provide a brief review of the implementation of regular programme activities (Parts I and II) and technical cooperation activities (Part III) during the current biennium.

(c) Follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/5)

The document under this sub-item reviews the regional follow-up to the four major United Nations world conferences in the field of social development since the twentieth session of the Commission.

(d) Summaries of reports of sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/6)

This sub-item includes six summary reports of the sessions held by the Commission's subsidiary bodies during the biennium 2000-2001, as follows:

- (i) Report on the second session of the Committee on Energy (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/6/Add.1);
- (ii) Report on the fourth session of the Committee on Water Resources (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/6/Add.2);
- (iii) Report on the second session of the Committee on Transport (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/6/Add.3);
- (iv) Report on the third session of the Committee on Social Development (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/6/Add.4);
- (v) Report on the fourth session of the Statistical Committee (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/6/Add.5);
- (vi) Report on the second session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/6/Add.6).

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\* Each document under item 6 is issued under the main heading "Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission".

(e) Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2002-2003 (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/7)

Under this sub-item, the Committee will have before it a report on the orientation of the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2002-2003 and related outputs for both regular programme and technical cooperation activities.

(f) Financial status of the Commission's programmes (E/ESCWA/C.1/21/8)

The document under this sub-item shows the various financial aspects of the Commission's programmes, including the regular budget, extrabudgetary resources, the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities and the Trust Fund for the Operation of ESCWA in Beirut.

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

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/21/5 concerning the role of the ESCWA secretariat in coordinating the various activities of the United Nations system in the ESCWA region.

8. Adoption of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/21/6 containing the draft agreement on international roads in the Arab Mashreq. The draft agreement, prepared by the ESCWA Committee on Transport at its second session, held at United Nations House in Beirut, on 6 and 7 February 2001, is being submitted to the Commission for adoption. A brief outline of the stages of the preparation of the agreement will also be issued (E/ESCWA/21/6/Add.1).

9. Efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in the ESCWA region

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCWA/21/7, prepared by the Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO). This item is included in the agenda in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/13, paragraph 11, of 3 November 2000. The document submitted is for the information of the Commission.

10. Selected issues of importance for the future of the ESCWA region (E/ESCWA/21/8)

This item is included pursuant to ESCWA resolution 119 (X), paragraph 4, of 11 May 1983. The Commission will have before it for its consideration the following six documents on selected issues of importance for the future of the ESCWA region:

(a) Facilitation of international transport of goods in the ESCWA region (E/ESCWA/21/8/Add.1);

(b) Strengthening expertise and networking in the field of foreign direct investment in ESCWA member countries (E/ESCWA/21/8/Add.2);

(c) Sustainable development: the role of trade and environment (E/ESCWA/21/8/Add.3);

(d) Information technology and development (E/ESCWA/21/8/Add.4);

(e) Social policy for sustainable development (E/ESCWA/21/8/Add.5).

11. Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources

The Commission will have before it for its consideration document E/ESCWA/21/9 relating to (a) ESCWA policy on the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources and (b) the use of those resources.

12. Date and venue of the twenty-second 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).

13. Other matters

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

14. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-first session

The Commission will examine and adopt its report (E/ESCWA/21/10) together with the draft resolutions.

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