

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

Committee on Water Resources
Fourteenth session
Online, 29-30 September 2021

**Information note***1. Background*

The Committee on Water Resources was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution [205 \(XVIII\)](#) of 25 May 1995, which was endorsed by Economic and Social Council resolution [1995/26](#) of 24 July 1995. The decision to establish the Committee on Water Resources took into account the importance of the participation of ESCWA member States in the planning, development and monitoring of the ESCWA programme of work in the field of water resources. The Committee held its first session in Amman in 1997; the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth sessions in Beirut in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2004, respectively; the seventh session in Muscat in 2007; the eighth, ninth and tenth sessions in Beirut in 2008, 2011 and 2013, respectively; the eleventh and twelfth sessions in Amman in 2015 and 2017, respectively; and the thirteenth session in Beirut in 2019.

2. Date and venue

In view of the current health crisis, the fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources will be held virtually on 29 and 30 September 2021. Registration will commence at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 29 September 2021, and the opening session will convene at 10.00 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will conclude by 12 p.m. on Thursday, 30 September 2021.

3. Objectives

The fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources aims to provide ESCWA member States with an intergovernmental forum to discuss regional action towards achieving water-related goals. Discussions will focus on integrated water resources management for improved water security in the Arab region, and on groundwater resources management. Member State representatives will also review progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirteenth session, and the work undertaken by ESCWA in the field of water resources under its programme of work. In addition, regional priorities for the next five years in the field of water resources will be discussed.

4. Participants

Representatives of ESCWA member States will participate in the fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources. Relevant international and regional organizations and institutions and civil society organizations are also invited to attend the session as observers.

5. *Organization of work and adoption of recommendations*

In accordance with the session's online environment, the ESCWA secretariat will provide the necessary support to facilitate proceedings and allow sufficient time for discussions. It will prepare draft recommendations emanating from the session documents, and forward them in advance to the heads of participating delegations for their review and written comments. The secretariat will then amend the draft recommendations based on discussions at the session, and will present them at the closing meeting for adoption. The secretariat hopes that the preparatory work will facilitate the adoption of the recommendations and compensate for the extended discussions enabled by in-person meetings.

6. *Languages of the session*

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. English may be used to present some parliamentary documents. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

7. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following ESCWA officials:

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