

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

Statistical Committee  
Fifteenth session  
Beirut, 16-17 November 2022



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

Joint session with the ESCWA Committee on Technology for Development on the theme  
“Data management modernization using new technologies”  
Beirut, 15-16 November 2022

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**Monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:  
reinforcing data with new methods**

5. Improving monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: institutional environment, and production and dissemination of data.
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### **Annotations**

Joint session with the ESCWA Committee on Technology for Development on the theme  
“Data management modernization using new technologies”  
Beirut, 15-16 November 2022

As part of the proceedings of the fifteenth session of the Statistical Committee and those of the fourth session of the ESCWA Committee on Technology for Development (Beirut, 14-15 November 2022), a joint session on the theme “Data management modernization using new technologies” will be held on 15 and 16 November 2022, prior to the opening of the fifteenth session of the Statistical Committee. Member State representatives are invited to participate actively in the discussion, and reflect on means to leverage technology to improve data management and respond to the ever-increasing demand for data and information on sustainable development issues.

1. Opening of the session

The fifteenth session of the Statistical Committee will open at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 16 November 2022. The Chair of the fourteenth session of the Committee will give the opening address, and the ESCWA secretariat will deliver a welcome statement.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: “Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”.<sup>1</sup>

The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from representatives of member States.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: “At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Committee shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda”. Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will have before it the provisional agenda in document E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/L.1 and the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/L.2. Both documents may be adopted by the Committee as submitted or in amended forms.

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<sup>1</sup> ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, and Yemen.

### Follow-up issues

#### 4. Activities implemented in the field of statistics (E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/3)

The Committee will discuss five topics with reference to the following documents under this item:

- (a) Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme plan and of recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its fourteenth session to the ESCWA secretariat (E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/3(Part I))

The Committee will consider activities and key achievements of the ESCWA secretariat in the field of statistics since its fourteenth session, which was held online on 10 and 11 February 2021. These activities include issuing publications, reports and technical material on economic statistics and national accounts, demographic and social statistics, and gender statistics; implementing projects; and carrying out capacity development workshops. The Committee will also consider progress in implementing recommendations made to the ESCWA secretariat at its fourteenth session.

The Committee is invited to take note of progress made in the statistical field and comment thereon.

- (b) Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/3(Part II))

The Committee will consider technical cooperation activities, including advisory services, workshops and capacity development activities, undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat since its fourteenth session in the field of statistics.

The Committee is invited to take note of these activities, make comments thereon and provide guidance on the way forward.

- (c) Implementation of recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its fourteenth session to member States (briefings by State representatives)

Representatives of member States will brief the Committee on national actions taken pursuant to the recommendations addressed to them at its fourteenth session, highlighting challenges faced in implementation. Representatives wishing to give a briefing are invited to submit a request in advance to the ESCWA secretariat.

- (d) Activities of the Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics (E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/3(Part III))

The Committee will consider the work outcomes of the Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics, notably the results of its fourth meeting held online from 6 to 9 December 2021, which considered progress in bridging gaps in data series on the ESCWA Data Portal, and the strategic framework for civil registration and vital statistics 2022-2025.

The Statistical Committee is invited to take note of the work outcomes of the Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics and discuss its recommendations.

- (e) Activities of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics (E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/3(Part IV))

The Committee will consider the work outcomes of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics, notably the results of its fourth meeting held online in 6 and 7 July 2021, which addressed priority topics including accounting for the informal economy in national accounts, and measuring digital trade in general and in national accounts.

The Statistical Committee is invited to take note of the work outcomes of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics and discuss its recommendations.

**Monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:  
reinforcing data with new methods**

5. Improving monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: institutional environment, and production and dissemination of data (E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/4)

The Committee will consider progress made in the statistical monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the realization of the 2030 Agenda. It will examine issues including data availability, data disaggregation, data flow management, and coordination of national statistical systems, including the legislative environment. The Committee will also discuss tools developed by the ESCWA secretariat to support capacity development in those areas.

The Committee is invited to take note of challenges and achievements in the area of statistical monitoring of the SDGs, and provide guidance and recommendations for future work.

6. Evolving use of purchasing power parities in economic assessments and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/5)

The Committee will explore the increasing and diverse use of purchasing power parities (PPPs) in economic and social assessments, and in monitoring progress towards the SDGs, including specific indicators in which PPPs are used.

The Committee is invited to reflect on the sustainability of PPP production in the Arab region, and consider incorporating PPP work into the regular statistical work programmes of national statistical offices.

7. Geospatial information supporting statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/6)

The Committee will discuss the production of geostatistics for the Arab region through examples on applied methodologies that help integrate socioeconomic and environmental statistics with geospatial information.

The Committee is invited to reflect on opportunities for using geospatial information to reinforce statistics and provide insights thereon.

**Programmatic issues**

8. Preparations for the fifty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (New York, 28 February–3 March 2023) (briefing by the ESCWA secretariat)

The Committee will be briefed on preparations for the fifty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, to be held in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2023. It will review available agenda items and discuss regional preparations for the global event.

9. Results of evaluations of previous sessions of the Statistical Committee (presentation by the ESCWA secretariat)

The Committee will review the results of evaluations of previous Committee sessions, based on a presentation by the ESCWA secretariat that provides an analytical reading of key findings.

The Committee is invited to take note of the evaluation results of previous sessions and to evaluate the current session, based on a questionnaire distributed by the ESCWA secretariat for that purpose.

10. Date and venue of the sixteenth session of the Statistical Committee

The Committee will discuss the date and venue of its sixteenth session.

11. Other matters

This item will cover any other matters that members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

12. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Statistical Committee at its fifteenth session

The Committee will review the draft recommendations of its fifteenth session for discussion and adoption.

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