



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Technology for Development
Fourth session
Beirut, 14-15 November 2022



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme plan and of recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session to the ESCWA secretariat.
5. Technical cooperation activities.
6. Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session to member States.
7. Meetings of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States.
8. Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre.

Technological perspectives for the Arab region

9. Metaverse: challenges and opportunities for the Arab region.
10. Enhancing the enabling environment for tech-driven entrepreneurship in the Arab region.
11. Use of technology and innovation for enhanced operations in Arab public institutions.
12. Arab States action programme on advancing digital cooperation and digital development in the next five years.

Programmatic issues

13. Results of evaluations of previous sessions of the Committee on Technology for Development.
14. Date and venue of the fifth session of the Committee on Technology for Development.
15. Other matters.
16. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its fourth session.

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

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The fourth session of the Committee on Technology for Development will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 14 November 2022 at the United Nations House in Beirut. The Chair of the third session 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”.¹ 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.8/2022/L.1, and the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/L.2. Both documents may be adopted by the Committee as submitted or in amended forms.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme plan and of recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session to the ESCWA secretariat (E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/3)

The Committee will consider activities carried out in the field of technology for development under the ESCWA programme plan and in implementation of recommendations made to the ESCWA secretariat

¹ 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.

at its third session, held online on 15 and 16 February 2021. These activities include holding meetings, issuing publications and technical papers, implementing projects, and advocating for evidence-based policymaking.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and provide guidance to the ESCWA secretariat on the way forward.

5. Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/4)

The Committee will consider technical cooperation activities carried out by the ESCWA secretariat in the field of technology for development since its third session, which include advisory services and capacity-building workshops implemented upon the request of member States.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and discuss technical cooperation priorities and needs for the coming years.

6. Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session to member States (briefings by member State representatives)

Representatives of member States are invited to brief the Committee on national actions taken pursuant to the recommendations addressed to them by the Committee at its third session, and on challenges faced in that regard. Representatives wishing to brief the Committee are invited to submit a request in advance to the ESCWA secretariat.

7. Meetings of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States (E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/5)

The Committee will consider activities of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States, in particular meetings held since its third session, and proposals to increase regional cooperation on e-government issues.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and provide comments thereon.

8. Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre (E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/6)

The Committee will consider activities carried out since its third session by the ESCWA Technology Centre, including meetings, advisory services, and support in technology-related policymaking.

The Committee is invited to take note of the Centre's activities and provide comments thereon.

Technological perspectives for the Arab region

9. Metaverse: challenges and opportunities for the Arab region (E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/7)

The Committee will consider opportunities offered by the metaverse for advancing the use of digital technologies in society, and linking the digital world to the physical world. The Committee will also discuss the challenges posed by the metaverse, related technical and regulatory requirements, and suitable applications for the Arab region.

The Committee is invited to discuss national initiatives and regional priorities in this field for the coming years.

10. Enhancing the enabling environment for tech-driven entrepreneurship in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/8)

The Committee will be presented with an overview of current and planned efforts by the ESCWA secretariat to enhance the enabling environment for tech-driven entrepreneurship in the Arab region. It will discuss the framework and main requirements for such an enhancement, and means to further support young entrepreneurs through technology.

The Committee is invited to propose means to support tech-driven entrepreneurship in the Arab region, and make comments on the way forward in that regard.

11. Use of technology and innovation for enhanced operations in Arab public institutions
(E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/9)

The Committee will discuss a new project by the ESCWA secretariat aimed at developing practical mechanisms to facilitate the use of new technologies and innovation to enhance operations and services in public institutions. In times of crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, technologies including artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain offer opportunities to improve trust in and the effectiveness and responsiveness of public institutions.

The Committee is invited to comment on the project proposal and discuss means to enhance inclusiveness, effectiveness and responsiveness of public institutions in Arab countries.

12. Arab States action programme on advancing digital cooperation and digital development in the next five years (E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/10)

The Committee will consider the main pillars of the Arab States action programme on advancing digital cooperation and digital development, including strategic work by the ESCWA secretariat and the League of Arab States on the development of the Arab Digital Agenda and the Arab Information and Communications Technology Strategy; the partnership and collaboration framework established to develop and deploy the agenda and strategy; Arab national digital development reviews; a digital development maturity measurement model; the Arab Digital Cooperation and Development Forum; the digital cooperation and development interactive smart online platform; and related work at the national level.

The Committee is invited to comment on the programme and highlight key national and regional priorities in the field for the coming years.

Programmatic issues

13. Results of evaluations of previous sessions of the Committee on Technology for Development
(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.

14. Date and venue of the fifth session of the Committee on Technology for Development

The Committee will agree on the date and venue of its fifth session.

15. Other matters

This item covers any other issues that Committee members may wish to discuss.

16. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its fourth session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations of its fourth session for discussion and adoption.

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

As part of the proceedings of the fourth session of the Committee on Technology for Development and those of the fifteenth session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee (Beirut, 16-17 November 2022), a joint session on the theme “Data management modernization using new technologies” will be held on 15 and 16 November 2022. 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.
