

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

Seventh special session  
Amman, 20-21 December 2022



Item 2 of the provisional agenda

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  - (c) Report of the Committee on Financing for Development in the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on its second session ([E/ESCWA/C.9/2021/12/Report](#));
  - (d) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its fourteenth session ([E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/6/Report](#));
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#### **Annotations**

1. Opening of the session

The ESCWA seventh special session will open in Amman on Tuesday, 20 December 2022.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Paragraph 1 of rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda".

Pursuant to that rule, the Commission will adopt the agenda and the organization of work for its seventh special session as submitted in documents E/ESCWA/S-7/L.1/Rev.1 and E/ESCWA/S-7/L.2, respectively, or in amended forms.

3. Consideration of a request from Djibouti for ESCWA membership (E/ESCWA/S-7/3)

Under this item, the Commission will consider a request for ESCWA membership from Djibouti dated 11 July 2022.

#### **Follow-up issues**

4. Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its eighth meeting (E/ESCWA/S-7/4)

The Commission will consider action taken by the ESCWA secretariat to implement the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its eighth meeting, held in Amman on 23 and 24 December 2021.

The Commission is invited to take note of implemented activities and provide comments thereon, and to present national action taken pursuant to the recommendations addressed to member States.

5. Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre (E/ESCWA/S-7/5–E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/6)

The Commission will review the activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre in 2021 and 2022, which included the implementation of projects to support member States in developing their national plans in the areas of science, technology and innovation; enhancing technology transfer and localization; and empowering entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises.

The Commission is invited to take note of the Centre's activities and propose ways to develop them.

6. Activities of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies (E/ESCWA/S-7/6)

The Commission will review the activities carried out by the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies since the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee, and key outcomes of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was hosted by Egypt in Sharm El-Sheikh from 6 to 18 November 2022.

The Commission is invited to take note of the activities of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies and comment thereon.

7. Outcomes of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2022 (E/ESCWA/S-7/7)

The Commission will review the outcomes of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2022, which was held virtually and in Beirut from 15 to 17 March 2022, and the key messages emanating from it that were submitted to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which was held virtually and in New York in July 2022.

The Commission is invited to take note of the Arab Forum's messages and comment thereon.

### **Regional and global issues**

8. Survey of economic and social developments in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/S-7/8)

The Commission will discuss the findings of the ESCWA Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2021–2022, which examines the impact of the war in Ukraine on Arab countries. The Commission will also discuss the main projections for 2023 in this context. The Survey is a publication issued periodically by ESCWA and other United Nations regional commissions to provide updates on the economic and social conditions in groups of countries.

The Commission is invited to discuss Survey findings and comment thereon.

9. ESCWA support to Arab least developed countries: Yemen vision for recovery and development (E/ESCWA/S-7/9)

The Commission will discuss the performance in key development indicators of the Arab least developed countries that are members of ESCWA, and the focus areas of the [Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries](#), which was adopted by the United Nations in March 2022. The Commission will also consider ESCWA efforts to support Yemen in formulating a vision for recovery and development, which include launching a socioeconomic technical dialogue between Yemenis and building institutional capacity to translate the vision into reality.

The Commission is invited to take note of the efforts undertaken by ESCWA in support of Yemen and other Arab least developed countries.

10. Digital transformation in the Arab region and ESCWA efforts to support its acceleration  
(E/ESCWA/S-7/10)

The Commission will discuss digital transformation and related developments in Arab countries in recent years, and will review ESCWA efforts to support member States in this field. It will also consider a proposal to transform the ESCWA Committee on Technology for Development into a committee dedicated to digital transformation, so as to assist Arab Governments in focusing on this vital area and support them in their efforts to accelerate this transformation in the coming years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

At its fourth session, held in Beirut on 14 and 15 November 2022, the ESCWA Committee on Technology for Development made a recommendation in that regard to the ESCWA secretariat, requesting it to focus the Committee's work on digital transformation issues and relevant challenges so as to ensure its effectiveness in supporting member States in view of the multiplicity of issues related to technology for development.

11. Land electric mobility in the Arab region: options and opportunities (E/ESCWA/S-7/11)

The Commission will discuss the prospects of land electric mobility in the Arab region, as it is a megatrend with implications for several economic and social sectors. The Commission will consider available options and recommendations addressed to decision makers, based on a study prepared by ESCWA, with the aim of maximizing the benefits of this trend in the transport sector.

The Commission is invited to review the document presented under this item and to comment thereon.

12. Preparing transport professions in the Arab region and future challenges  
(E/ESCWA/S-7/12-E/ESCWA/C.5/2022/8)

The Commission will review the requirements for preparing transport professionals in the Arab region, in view of the megatrends in the sector discussed under item 11 and their implications for the transport professions in the future, and will consider the policies needed in that regard.

The Commission is invited to make comments on proposed ways to prepare for future developments in the area of transport professions.

**Programmatic issues**

13. Proposal for the establishment of an Arab integrated road safety observatory (E/ESCWA/S-7/13)

The Commission will consider a proposal to establish an Arab integrated road safety observatory. At its twenty-second session, held in Cairo on 6 and 7 December 2021, the ESCWA Committee on Transport and Logistics recommended that the ESCWA secretariat complete the stages of establishing the observatory.

The Commission is invited to consider the proposal to establish an Arab integrated road safety observatory.

14. Proposal for the establishment of an ESCWA centre for advancing emissions reduction  
(E/ESCWA/S-7/14)

The Commission will consider a proposal to establish an ESCWA centre for advancing emissions reduction. The centre's mission will be to promote regional efforts in this field, find innovative solutions by linking policymaking to science, and contribute to the development of global plans for emissions reduction.

The Commission is invited to consider the proposal to establish an ESCWA centre for advancing emissions reduction.

15. Reports of the Commission's subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/S-7/15)

Under this item, the Commission will review the reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies that have held their sessions or prepared their reports in the period since the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee. In addition to recommendations, these reports include topics for discussion, and information on the organization of the sessions and on session participants and documents. The Commission is invited to adopt the following reports:

- (a) Report of the Committee on Transport and Logistics on its twenty-second session ([E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/8/Report](#));
- (b) Reports of the Committee on Women on its ninth session ([E/ESCWA/C.7/2019/13/Report](#)) and tenth session ([E/ESCWA/C.7/2021/8/Report](#));
- (c) Report of the Committee on Financing for Development in the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on its second session ([E/ESCWA/C.9/2021/12/Report](#));
- (d) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its fourteenth session ([E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/6/Report](#));
- (e) Report of the Committee on Energy on its thirteenth session ([E/ESCWA/C.3/2021/8/Report](#)).

16. Proposed programme plan for 2024 (E/ESCWA/S-7/16)

The Commission will review the proposed ESCWA programme plan for 2024, and will discuss the overall orientation of the plan and work under each of the ESCWA subprogrammes.

The Commission is invited to consider the proposed programme plan for 2024 and make comments thereon.

17. Other matters

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

18. Adoption of the resolutions and recommendations made by the Commission at its seventh special session

The Commission will consider draft resolutions and recommendations for adoption.

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