

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

Committee on Women
Eleventh session
Beirut, 10–11 October 2023

**Information note***1. Background information*

The Committee on Women was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution [240 \(XXII\)](#) of 17 April 2003, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2003/9](#) of 18 July 2004. The mandate of the Committee includes participating in defining priorities for women-related programmes and activities and in formulating the programme of work of ESCWA in the area of advancement and empowerment of women; monitoring developments in the situation of women and relevant indicators and statistics in ESCWA member States; and following up on international and regional conferences and coordinating regional efforts to implement resulting resolutions and recommendations.

The Committee on Women holds its sessions biennially. Its tenth session was held in Beirut, on 16 and 17 November 2021.

2. Date and venue

The eleventh session of the Committee on Women will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut, on 10 and 11 October 2023. Registration will commence at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 10 October 2023 and the session will open at 10:00 a.m. on the same day. It will conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 11 October 2023.

The session may be attended online for those who prefer to participate virtually. Participants will be provided with the link to the meeting by email.

3. Participants

Participants include representatives of Governments, national women's machineries and line ministries as well as councils and governmental organizations on women in member States. Representatives of the League of Arab States, the Arab Women's Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, and relevant civil society organizations were also invited to attend the session.

The ESCWA secretariat hopes that Arab countries will be represented at the ministerial level, and that delegations will include experts specialized in women's advancement and in issues related to the agenda of the session. As part of the preparations for the session, representatives of member States are requested to prepare presentations on the measures taken by their countries to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its tenth session and to present them under item 7 of the agenda.

4. *Organization of work and adoption of recommendations*

In accordance with the session's hybrid 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 documents presented, and forward them in advance to the heads of participating delegations for their review and written comments. The secretariat will add to the draft recommendations emanating from the discussions and will present them at the closing meeting for adoption. The secretariat hopes that this preparatory work will facilitate the adoption of recommendations.

5. *Visas*

Participants may obtain entry visas to Lebanon through the Lebanese Embassy in their respective countries. It is recommended to attach the invitation letter sent by ESCWA to the visa application. Participants who need assistance in this matter should send a scanned colour copy of their passport containing all the required information to the secretariat as early as possible.

6. *Travel, accommodation and mobility costs*

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations, the participating Governments are responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives.

The ESCWA secretariat suggests that participants make reservations at hotels close to ESCWA headquarters in Beirut. The secretariat has prepared a list of hotels offering preferential rates and will send it to participants by email. To benefit from the preferential rate, participants may wish to inform the hotel that they are participating in the eleventh session of the Committee on Women. Participants are also kindly invited to organize transport to and from the airport with their respective hotel.

7. *Languages of the session*

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

8. *Medical services*

Medical facilities in cases of emergency will be provided at ESCWA during official working hours from Monday to Friday, from 7.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The ESCWA clinic is located on the fourth floor of the United Nations House (rooms F-441 and F-442, ext. 1145 and 1146).

The following ESCWA staff can be contacted for assistance and guidance:

Name	Position	Telephone
Dr. Josette Sfeir	Doctor	+961-1-978144
Dr. Hala Kahi	Doctor	+961-1-978147
Ms. Lina Soubra	Nurse	+961-1-978145
Ms. Maya Louka	Nurse	+961-1-978146
Ms. Lamia el-Hage	Administrative Officer	+961-1-978139

There are many hospitals in Beirut with efficient medical equipment, including the following four major university hospitals within a short drive from the United Nations House:

Hospital	Telephone
American University of Beirut Medical Centre	+961-1-350000/374374
Hôtel-Dieu de France Hospital	+961-1-615400/615300
Saint-George Hospital University Medical Centre	+961-1-441000 +961-1-575700/1287
Rafic Hariri University Hospital	+961-1-830000

9. *Security and safety*

The ESCWA Security and Safety Section (ground floor, ext. 1025) operates on a 24-hour basis and maintains contact with all local emergency services and relevant authorities. Security officers assist in all matters relating to security and safety and may provide information on how to contact ESCWA staff members, if necessary.

10. *Internet access*

Wireless Internet is available on all floors, including MZ and B1 conference areas.

11. *Communications services*

The country code for Lebanon is (+961). The area code is (01) for Beirut and (03), (70), (71), (76), (80) or (81) for mobile phones. If you are dialling Lebanon from outside the country, you must omit the (0) in the area code and for mobile phones starting with (03). For example, to call from outside Lebanon, you must dial the country code +961 followed by the mobile or area code then by the six-digit phone number (+961-1-xxxxxx for calls to Beirut, or +961-3-xxxxxx or +961-70-xxxxxx for calls to mobile phone numbers).

The main listed telephone number of ESCWA is +961-1-981301. Direct calls can be made to staff members from inside Lebanon by dialling 01-978 followed by the last three digits of the four-digit extension of the party sought. For example, if the extension sought is 1900 then the number to dial from inside Lebanon would be 01-978900. Direct internal calls from within the United Nations House can be made by dialling the four-digit extension.

Information on telephone calls may be obtained from the ESCWA Communications Unit (room F-671B, ext. 1229). The operator can be reached from within the building by dialling "9". Personal telephone calls, fax, mail and courier services are provided against cash payment.

12. *Tourism*

Lebanon is home to several historical sites and tourist attractions. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lebanon.com/tourism>. Many tourism agencies in Beirut provide modern buses for sightseeing trips across Lebanon.

13. *Transport*

There are numerous car rental and taxi offices in Beirut. Popular online taxi apps are widely used in Lebanon.

The following are telephone numbers for popular taxi companies:

Company name	Telephone
Charlie Taxi	1514
Allo Taxi	1213
Trust Taxi	961-1-427777
Geryes Taxi	+961-1-333666 +961-3-222600
Alliance Taxi	+961-1-245555 +961-3-010555
White Taxi	+961-1-513593 +961-71-722199

14. *Time zone*

Beirut time is three hours ahead of G.M.T.

15. *Weather*

During the meeting, the temperature in Beirut is expected to range between 20°C and 27°C.

16. *Electrical current*

The electrical current is 220 volts AC. Plug sockets in Lebanon have two pins.

17. *Useful numbers in Lebanon*

Internal security forces (police)	112
Civil defense	125
Fire brigade	175
Red Cross	140
Telephone directory (Ogero)	1515
Beirut International Airport inquiries	150

18. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to:

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