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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

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**Women's economic empowerment as a catalyst for prosperous
national economies**

8. Women's economic empowerment as a catalyst for prosperous national economies:
 - (a) Legislative reforms for women's economic empowerment in the Arab region;
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 - (d) Access to land, property and immovable assets and women's entrepreneurship;
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9. Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Committee on Women.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eleventh session.

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The eleventh session of the Committee on Women opens at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 10 October 2023. The representative of Kuwait, Chair of the tenth session of the Committee on Women, will deliver a welcome statement, followed by an opening statement by the representative of the ESCWA secretariat.

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".* 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 applies to subsidiary bodies 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 Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted in documents E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/L.1 and E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/L.2, respectively, or with the required amendments.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities on women's issues under the ESCWA programme plan and of recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth session (E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/3)

The Committee will review activities on women's issues implemented since its tenth session, held in Beirut on 16 and 17 November 2021, including activities under the ESCWA programme plan and those undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its tenth session.

The Committee is invited to review the progress made and express its views and recommendations.

5. Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/4)

The Committee will take note of the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat since the tenth session of the Committee on Women at the request of member States in support of their efforts to achieve gender equality and empower women. These activities include advisory services, field projects and capacity-building activities.

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

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

6. Supporting the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/5)

The Committee will review the activities undertaken in support of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, established pursuant to a recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its seventh session (Muscat, 20–21 January 2016). The activities carried out are based on the terms of reference and priorities of the Subcommittee and on the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its tenth session.

The Committee is invited to take note of implemented activities and make suggestions regarding avenues to continue supporting the Subcommittee in the coming period.

7. National action to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its tenth session (E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/6)

Representatives of member States will make presentations on national actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee at its tenth session. They are invited to highlight their countries' needs for completing implementation, in order for ESCWA to determine its interventions in this respect for the period ahead.

Representatives of ESCWA member States wishing to give a presentation or make an intervention under this item are invited to submit a request in advance to the Committee Bureau.

8. Women's economic empowerment as a catalyst for prosperous national economies
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/7):

(a) Legislative reforms for women's economic empowerment in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/7(Part I))

The Committee will review legislation promoting women's economic empowerment through examples of good practices and the experiences of countries that have implemented legislative reforms which have contributed to enhancing women's access to their rights in the workplace without discrimination or violence, and thus to their economic empowerment.

The Committee is invited to express its views on the legislative reforms that would increase women's participation in the economy.

(b) Safe, accessible, efficient and affordable transport systems as enablers of women's economic empowerment (E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/7(Part II))

The Committee will discuss transport system services and their importance for empowering women. It will also address the barriers affecting women's safe mobility and the economic, social and psychological consequences arising from women's limited access to safe and efficient public transportation.

The Committee is invited to comment on ways to develop the transport sector and benefit from technology for that purpose, as well as from successful international and regional experiences.

(c) Addressing sexual harassment in the public sphere (E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/7(Part III))

The Committee will discuss ways to combat all forms of sexual harassment against women in the workplace and the public sphere, in order to encourage women's economic participation.

The Committee is invited to express its views on means to establish an enabling environment that values the contributions of women and girls and increases their access to protection from sexual harassment.

(d) Access to land, property and immovable assets and women's entrepreneurship (E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/7(Part IV))

The Committee will discuss women's land and property rights in the Arab region and their impact on women's contributions to entrepreneurship. It will also review best global and regional practices in that area, and relevant policy recommendations.

The Committee is invited to provide comments on ways to enhance women's entrepreneurship through gender-sensitive solutions.

(e) Advancing care policies in Arab countries (E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/7(Part V))

The Committee will consider challenges faced by women in unpaid care work and successful actions taken by countries such as Lebanon, Morocco, Oman and Saudi Arabia that have contributed to overcoming some of the barriers impeding women's economic participation.

The Committee is invited to express its views on reinforcing the care economy and on support required for designing care-related policies.

(f) Gender-inclusive social protection for fostering women's economic empowerment (E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/7(Part VI))

The Committee will address the challenges faced by women in accessing pension schemes and their reliance on social assistance due to their exclusion from formal employment. The Committee will also explore gender-sensitive measures for increasing women's access to social protection policies and their impact on women's economic empowerment.

The Committee is invited to reflect on ways to mainstream a gender equality perspective in social protection policies and programmes.

9. Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Committee on Women

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

10. Other matters

This item will cover any other matters that the Committee may wish to raise and discuss.

11. Adoption of recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eleventh session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations for discussion and adoption.
