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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Technical Committee
Second meeting
Beirut, 3-4 November 2008

Item 2 of the agenda

AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
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5. Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha, 29 November – 2 December 2008): recommendations and proposals.
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 - (ii) Eighth session of the Statistical Committee (Beirut, 14-16 October 2008);
 - (b) Activities to be carried out by the end of 2008:
 - (i) Convening the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources (Beirut, 17-19 December 2008);
 - (ii) Convening the seventh session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 5-6 February 2009).

7. Proposed regional conference for Western Asia in preparation for the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health.
8. Coordination between ESCWA and the League of Arab States for a uniform text of the Convention on Multimodal Transport in the Arab Countries.
9. Date and venue of the third meeting.
10. Other business.
11. Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its second meeting.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the second meeting of the Technical Committee

The inaugural session will begin at 10:00 on Monday, 3 November 2008, at ESCWA headquarters, United Nations House, Beirut.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Section II, rule 8, which applies to subsidiary bodies, "At the beginning of each session, once the Chairman has assumed his duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session". The provisional agenda was drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Yemen, which is responsible for coordination with ESCWA. It should be noted that Yemen currently assumes the chairmanship of both the Technical Committee and the twenty-fifth session, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Technical Committee, which stipulates that the chairmanship of the Committee shall coincide with the chairmanship of the session of the Commission. The Technical Committee shall have before it the provisional agenda and annotations (document E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/L.1).

The Committee will also have before it document E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/L.2, which contains proposals on the organization of work of its second meeting, which it may adopt as submitted or in an amended form.

3. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011

The Technical Committee will consider the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 which is presented to it in document E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/3 and which contains the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for each of the seven subprogrammes comprising the programme of work of ESCWA. The proposed programme of work also contains the activities of the regular programme for technical cooperation activities funded from the United Nations Development Account, and activities funded from extra-budgetary resources. In preparing the proposed programme of work, the secretariat took into consideration new global and regional priorities as well as amendments suggested by delegates of member countries at the twenty-fifth session (Sana'a, 26-29 May 2008) regarding the strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011.

The Technical Committee is requested to review the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011, issue instructions thereon and adopt it in a preliminary step towards its presentation to the governments of member countries for their approval.

4. Follow-up to the twenty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Sana'a, 26-29 May 2008)

Under this agenda item, the Committee will have before it a document made up of two parts:

(a) Implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session (E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/4(Part I))

The Technical Committee will be presented with the action to be taken by the secretariat and the member countries in implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session. The Technical Committee will be requested to take note of that action and follow it up with the member countries concerned as well as to review developments at periodic meetings of the Commission to be held before its twenty-sixth session.

(b) Outcome of the evaluation of the twenty-fifth session (E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/4(Part II))

The Technical Committee will consider the outcome of the evaluation of the twenty-fifth session of ESCWA, which is a summary of the responses to the questionnaire filled out by delegations participating in the twenty-fifth session. The questionnaire requested all members of the delegations to express their opinions and make recommendations to guide the secretariat in its efforts to improve the work and topics of the sessions in a manner consistent with the priorities and aspirations of the member countries.

5. Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha, 29 November – 2 December 2008)

The Technical Committee will consider document E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/5 which reviews the goals of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development and the role of ESCWA in preparation for that important conference; the document also contains some practical suggestions and recommendations aimed at reaching a common position for member countries and ensuring their effective participation in the conference.

6. Activities of the secretariat

(a) Activities carried out since May 2008

The Technical Committee will have before it a document made up of four parts: the first and second parts on implemented activities; the third and fourth parts on the activities scheduled to be implemented by the end of 2008.

(i) Twelfth Meeting of the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism (RC) (Beirut, 13-14 September 2008) (E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/6(Part I))

The secretariat will make a brief presentation on the Twelfth Meeting on the United Nations Coordination Mechanism, addressing its goals, topics of discussion, resolutions and recommendations.

(ii) Eighth session of the Statistical Committee (Beirut, 14-16 October 2008) (E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/6(Part II))

The Technical Committee will receive a brief presentation on the results of the eighth session of the Statistical Committee of ESCWA, including its recommendations to be implemented by the member countries of ESCWA.

(b) Activities to be carried out by the end of 2008

- (i) Convening the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources (Beirut, 17-19 December 2008) (E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/6(Part III))

The Technical Committee will have before it a brief report on the current preparations for the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources to be held in Beirut, from 17 to 19 December 2008; the report will also contain the main topics to be addressed at that session.

- (ii) Convening the seventh session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 5-6 February 2009) (E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/6(Part IV))

The Technical Committee will have before it a brief report on the current preparations to the seventh session of the Committee on Energy to be held in Beirut, 5-6 February 2009; the report will also contain the main topics to be addressed at that session.

7. Proposed regional conference for Western Asia in preparation for the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health

The Technical Committee will have before it document E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/7(CRP) which contains the secretariat proposal on convening a regional conference for the countries of Western Asia in preparation for the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council. The Annual Ministerial Review for 2009 will address the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health. In this context, it is the role of the five regional commissions of the United Nations to assist member countries in their geographical regions in preparing for the Annual Ministerial Review by holding regional conferences for that purpose. Therefore, the Technical Committee is requested to consider this proposal and take action thereon.

8. Coordination between ESCWA and the League of Arab States for a uniform text of the Convention on Multimodal Transport in the Arab Countries

The Technical Committee will have before it document E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/8 which summarizes the steps and actions taken in the light of the agreement reached at its twenty-fifth session, which called for coordination and consultation between the secretariat of ESCWA and the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States with a view to presenting member countries with a uniform text of the Convention on International Multimodal Transport of Goods for adoption and signature at the next meeting of the Arab Council of Ministers of Transport to be held in October 2008. The Committee is requested to take note of the progress made in this regard.

9. Date and venue of the third meeting

The Committee will discuss the date and venue of its third meeting.

10. Other business

Under this item, members of the Technical Committee may raise any other issues that they may wish to discuss.

11. Adoption of the report of the Technical Committee on its second meeting

The Technical Committee will consider its draft report, including recommendations, which is contained in document E/ESCWA/2008/C.2/L.9, with a view to its adoption.
