



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/L.1
5 February 2013
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Water Resources
Tenth session
Beirut, 20-22 March 2013

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.
4. Progress achieved in implementing the Regional Initiative for the Development of a Mechanism to Monitor the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Related to Water and Sanitation in the Arab Region (MDG+ Initiative).
5. Progress achieved in implementing the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR).
6. Regional cooperation on shared water resources:
 - (a) Progress achieved in the development of a legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region;
 - (b) Final report on the preparation of the Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia.
7. Actions taken in the field of water resources since the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources:
 - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its ninth session;
 - (b) Implementation of water resources-related activities under ESCWA programme of work.
8. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of water resources.
9. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Committee on Water Resources.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Water Resources on its tenth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 March 2013, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations House, in Beirut.. Mr. Adel Alhaddad, Chairman of the General Authority of Rural Water Supply Projects in Yemen, the country that assumed the chairmanship of the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources, will make a welcome statement. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, will deliver the inaugural address.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: “Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of 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”.* Pursuant to that rule, Jordan, upon which the rotation by alphabetical order has fallen, shall assume the chairmanship of the tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources, succeeding Yemen, which assumed the chairmanship of the ninth session. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur among its member country representatives. Based on established practice, the vice-chairmen shall be the past chairman of the Committee and the subsequent chairman of the Committee according to alphabetical rotation.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: “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 on the basis of the provisional agenda”. Pursuant to that rule, the Committee on Water Resources will have before it the provisional agenda and annotations in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/L.1. It will also have before it the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Progress achieved in implementing the Regional Initiative for the Development of a Mechanism to Monitor the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Related to Water and Sanitation in the Arab Region (MDG+ Initiative) (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/3)

The report on the subject presented to the Committee reviews activities undertaken by ESCWA, including consultations, coordination and cooperation with partners, to implement the Initiative. ESCWA was entrusted to lead the Initiative in partnership with the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) and in collaboration with the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), the Arab Water Council (AWC), the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and the World Health Organization (WHO), under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC). The Initiative is based on an overall development objective formulated as follows: “By 2015, water and sanitation policy in the Arab region is informed by reliable data, information and analysis based on a set of region-specific indicators endorsed by Arab Governments”.

* ESCWA member countries in the Arabic alphabetical order are: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

5. Progress achieved in implementing the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/4)

The report on the subject presented to the Committee reviews the work undertaken towards assessing the impact of climate change on freshwater resources and socioeconomic development in the Arab region. The assessment consists of collaborative efforts by United Nations and League of Arab States regional and specialized organizations to respond to the request of Arab Governments who wish to increase the understanding of the impact of climate change on water resources and its associated effects on socioeconomic vulnerability in the Arab region. The Regional Initiative is based on four pillars: (1) a baseline review to increase the regional knowledge-base; (2) an integrated assessment that draws upon impact assessment and vulnerability assessment methodologies; (3) capacity-building and institution-strengthening; and (4) awareness-raising and information dissemination. Each Committee member will be invited to propose five areas of interest for examination during the preparation of the vulnerability assessment.

6. Regional cooperation on shared water resources (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/5)

The Committee will be presented with two reports:

(a) Progress achieved in the development of a legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/5(Part I))

This report reviews the process of developing a regional legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region in response to the recommendations of AMWC. It highlights intergovernmental consultative meetings undertaken to review and modify the legal framework taking into account comments made by Arab Governments, and the scope of the framework as requested by AMWC.

(b) Final report on the preparation of the Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/5(Part II))

This report reviews the action taken by the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR)) in cooperation with ESCWA, to compile the first inventory that takes stock of both shared groundwater and surface water resources in the Arab region in a comprehensive, systematic and unified manner. The Inventory covers all surface and groundwater resources shared between Arab countries and also contains data on water resources that are shared with neighboring countries. The Inventory consists of nine surface water and 17 groundwater chapters that address key aspects of hydrology, hydrogeology and water resources development and use, in addition to the status of water cooperation and management at the basin level.

7. Actions taken in the field of water resources since the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/6)

The Committee will be presented with two reports:

(a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its ninth session (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/6(Part I))

This report reviews activities implemented in the field of water resources pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its ninth session (Beirut, 23-25 March 2011). Member country representatives are invited to take note of what has been implemented and make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

(b) Implementation of water resources-related activities under ESCWA programme of work (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/6(Part II))

This report reviews progress achieved in implementing water resources-related activities under ESCWA programme of work since the ninth session of the Committee. Member country representatives are invited to take note of what has been implemented and make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

8. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of water resources (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/7)

This document presents activities and outputs proposed to be implemented by ESCWA in the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of water resources. The proposed programme of work was prepared in line with subprogramme 1, "Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development" of the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015 which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh session (Beirut, 7-10 May 2012). Member country representatives are invited to review the proposed programme of work in the field of water resources and provide comments and suggestions thereon.

9. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Committee on Water Resources

The Committee will decide the date and venue of its eleventh session.

10. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Water Resources on its tenth session

The Committee will consider the draft report on its tenth session, which includes the recommendations, for adoption.
