



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Technical Committee
Third meeting
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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT
AND ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES**

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED
BY ESCWA MINISTERIAL SESSIONS**

Summary

The present document contains a number of proposals that are intended to be guiding principles for facilitating the implementation of resolutions adopted by ESCWA ministerial sessions, and the processes of monitoring, following up and reporting on the implementation of these resolutions. The secretariat has prepared these proposals pursuant to the recommendations adopted by the Technical Committee at its second meeting on 3-4 November 2008, which called for the establishment of a mechanism for facilitating the implementation of Commission resolutions.

The Technical Committee is invited to review the proposals presented in this document and to advise the secretariat on the course of action that needs to be taken prior to the twenty-sixth session of the Commission which will be held in April 2010.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The secretariat prepared this document pursuant to the recommendations of the Technical Committee at its second meeting on 3-4 November 2008, which called for the establishment of a mechanism for facilitating the implementation of resolutions adopted by ESCWA ministerial sessions. The document contains a number of proposals that are intended to be guiding principles for facilitating the implementation of Commission resolutions and the process of monitoring, follow up to and reporting on that implementation.
2. Pursuant to its Rules of Procedure, the Commission holds its sessions in April every other year, at a time to be determined by member countries. At the end of each session, the Commission adopts resolutions on socio-economic issues of concern to the Western Asia region and then submits them to the Economic and Social Council. Those resolutions, which call for specific action by the secretariat and ESCWA member countries, are legislative mandates that govern the work programme of ESCWA.
3. The Technical Committee is invited to review the proposals on the mechanism for facilitating the implementation of resolutions adopted by ESCWA ministerial sessions and to advise the secretariat on the course of action that needs to be taken prior to the twenty-sixth session of the Commission to be held in April 2010.

II. PROPOSALS BY THE SECRETARIAT

4. The proposals presented by the secretariat cover the frequency of Technical Committee meetings, reporting on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission, the responsibilities of focal points and the support provided by the secretariat in this regard. They are aimed at enhancing communication between the secretariat and the relevant authorities in member countries in order to promote adherence and commitment to the implementation of resolutions adopted by ESCWA ministerial sessions.

A. FREQUENCY OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

5. Pursuant to its terms of reference, the Technical Committee is convened every six months. Three meetings of the Technical Committee have been held since it was first established. The first meeting was held in December 2008, the second in November 2008 and the third in July 2009. The fourth meeting, which will be the last meeting of the Technical Committee for the 2008-2009 biennium, is scheduled to take place in December 2009. The fifth meeting of the Committee is scheduled in June 2009, two months after the twenty-six session of the Commission, and the following meetings are scheduled in December 2010, June 2011 and December 2011. The secretariat proposes the following two options with a view to coordinating the frequency of the Technical Committee meetings with ESCWA ministerial sessions:

(a) Holding one meeting of the Technical Committee instead of two meetings in the year in which the Commission session is held, resulting in a total of three Technical Committee meetings per biennium. This proposal, which shall take effect in 2010, is aimed at prolonging the period between the Commission session and the following Technical Committee meeting from two months to at least six months;

(b) Maintaining the current frequency of one meeting every six months, resulting in a total of four Technical Committee meetings per biennium. In line with this scenario, there will be no change in the frequency of the Technical Committee meetings.

6. The Technical Committee is therefore invited to consider the above two options and decide whether to maintain the existing frequency of the Technical Committee meetings, or to reduce it to three meetings per biennium.

B. REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

7. Following the adoption of resolutions by the Commission, ESCWA member countries and the secretariat, are requested to report on the implementation of these resolutions to the Technical Committee at its subsequent meeting and at each Technical Committee meeting held prior to the following Commission session.

8. The Executive Secretary of ESCWA is requested to present a comprehensive report to Commission sessions on the progress made by the secretariat and ESCWA member countries in implementing the resolutions adopted at the previous session. The report shall be based on the progress reports submitted to the Technical Committee and shall cover the period from the last meeting of the Technical Committee and the following Commission session.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOCAL POINTS

9. The secretariat proposes that existing focal points in charge of coordinating with the secretariat and representing ESCWA member countries in the meetings of the Technical Committee, should take responsibility for coordinating the implementation of adopted resolutions and the follow-up and reporting on the implementation of these resolutions.

10. The secretariat also proposes that, in order to facilitate the process of implementing the resolutions and reporting on the progress achieved, ESCWA focal points should follow up and maintain contacts with representatives of ESCWA member countries in subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, in their respective areas of specialization (for example, water resources, energy, statistics, transport, trade and financing development, social development, conflict mitigation and gender issues).

D. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT

11. ESCWA provides support to member countries through advisory services and capacity-building activities in the areas included in the work programme of the secretariat. Advisory services are provided by regional advisors, short-term advisors and ESCWA staff members upon request by the Governments of member countries.

12. Requests for technical cooperation services (advisory services and capacity-building activities) are usually channeled through the Technical Cooperation Network which was established pursuant to resolution 275 (XXIV) on technical cooperation, partnership development and resource mobilization. This resolution called on the secretariat to take appropriate measures to launch the Network. The Technical Cooperation Network is aimed at strengthening coordination, networking and knowledge sharing on advisory services, organizing training sessions upon the request of member countries, executing pilot projects, identifying priorities, establishing guidance principles to optimize the benefits of technical cooperation services, and contributing to improvements in sharing information and expertise.

13. In order to facilitate the provision of technical advisory services to ESCWA member countries in following-up and monitoring the implementation of Commission resolutions, the secretariat invites the focal points to submit requests for relevant advisory services and capacity-building activities through the Technical Cooperation Network, in consultation with member country representatives in the intergovernmental subsidiary bodies of ESCWA.

III. CONCLUSION

14. If the proposals contained in this document are endorsed by the Technical Committee, they will be submitted by the secretariat to the Governments of ESCWA member countries for consideration and subsequent adoption by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session, to be held in April 2010.
