

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

Committee on Water Resources  
Fifteenth session  
Beirut, 19–20 June 2023

**Information note***1. Background*

The Committee on Water Resources was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution [205 \(XVIII\)](#) of 25 May 1995, which was endorsed by Economic and Social Council resolution [1995/26](#) of 24 July 1995. The decision to establish the Committee on Water Resources took into account the importance of the participation of ESCWA member States in the planning, development and monitoring of the ESCWA programme of work in the field of water resources. The Committee held its first session in Amman in 1997; the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth sessions in Beirut in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2004, respectively; the seventh session in Muscat in 2007; the eighth, ninth and tenth sessions in Beirut in 2008, 2011 and 2013, respectively; the eleventh and twelfth sessions in Amman in 2015 and 2017, respectively; the thirteenth session in Beirut in 2019; and the fourteenth session was held virtually owing to the COVID-19 pandemic on 29 and 30 September 2021.

*2. Objectives*

The fifteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources aims to provide ESCWA member States with an intergovernmental forum to discuss regional action towards achieving water-related goals.

Discussions with ESCWA member State representatives will focus on water security and improved groundwater management through innovative knowledge tools. Exchanges will also focus on the midterm comprehensive review of the Water Action Decade in the Arab Region, water sector finance, and progress in implementing the water-related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region. Member State representatives will also review progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its fourteenth session, and the work undertaken by ESCWA in the field of water resources under its programme plan.

*3. Agenda*

The provisional agenda for the current session includes items and annotations related to the above-mentioned issues, and will be presented to the session in document E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/L.1.

*4. Participants*

Representatives of ESCWA member States will participate in the session. Relevant international and regional organizations and institutions and civil society organizations are also invited to attend the session as observers. Participating Governments are responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives, in accordance with United Nations practice, which also applies to participating organizations.

### 5. *Organization of work and adoption of recommendations*

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 session documents, and forward them in advance to the heads of participating delegations for their review and written comments. The secretariat will then amend the draft recommendations based on discussions at the session, and will present them at the closing meeting for adoption.

### 6. *Date and venue*

The fifteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut on 19 and 20 June 2023. Registration will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, 19 June 2023, and the opening session will convene at 9 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will conclude by 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 20 June 2023.

### 7. *Languages of the session*

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

### 8. *Accommodation and transportation*

Names of hotels offering preferential room rates in Beirut will be provided to registered participants upon request. Airport pick-up can be arranged with the hotel management.

### 9. *Entry visas*

Participants are required to secure their own visas for travel to Lebanon, as necessary. A personalized letter of invitation can be provided by ESCWA for nominated participants to facilitate the visa application process. Lebanese visa and entry requirements are available at the following website: [www.general-security.gov.lb/en/posts/159](http://www.general-security.gov.lb/en/posts/159).

ESCWA can coordinate with the Government of Lebanon to assist in obtaining entry visas for participants who are unable to secure visas in their home countries. Those who need assistance in this matter should send a colour scanned copy of their national passport to the ESCWA secretariat by Monday, 15 May 2023, as visas may take four weeks to process.

### 10. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following ESCWA staff members:

Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane  
Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change  
Policies  
Cluster Leader, Climate Change and Natural  
Resource Sustainability Cluster  
ESCWA  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: + 961-1-978-518  
Email: [chouchanicherfane@un.org](mailto:chouchanicherfane@un.org)

Mr. Ziad Khayat  
Coordinator, Integrated Water Resources  
Management for Improved Water Security  
Climate Change and Natural Resource  
Sustainability Cluster  
ESCWA  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: + 961-1-978-517  
Fax: + 961-1-981-510  
Email: [khayat@un.org](mailto:khayat@un.org)

-----