

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

Committee on Women
Twelfth session
Muscat, 8 December 2024

Information note*1. Background information*

The Committee on Women was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution [240 \(XXII\)](#) of 17 April 2003, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2003/9](#) of 18 July 2004. The mandate of the Committee includes participating in defining priorities for women-related programmes and activities and in formulating the programme of work of ESCWA in the area of advancement and empowerment of women; monitoring developments in the situation of women and relevant indicators and statistics in ESCWA member States; and following up on international and regional conferences and coordinating regional efforts to implement resulting resolutions and recommendations.

The Committee on Women holds its sessions biennially. Its eleventh session was held in Beirut on 10 and 11 October 2023. The Committee will hold its twelfth session exceptionally on 8 December 2024, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation at the previous session, to accompany the work of a high-level meeting on the regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 30 years, which will be held in Muscat on 9 December 2024.

2. Date and venue

The Committee on Women will hold its twelfth session at the St. Regis Hotel, Al Mouj, Muscat on Sunday, 8 December 2024.

3. Registration and opening of the session

Registration for the session will begin at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday, 8 December 2024, and the session will open at 9 a.m.

4. Participants

Participants at the twelfth session will include representatives of Governments, national women's machineries, ministries, councils and governmental organizations concerned with women's issues in member States. Invitations were also extended to representatives of the League of Arab States, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, and relevant civil society organizations to participate as observers.

The ESCWA secretariat hopes that Arab countries will be represented at the ministerial level, and that delegations will include experts specialized in women's advancement and in issues related to the agenda of the session. As part of the preparations for the session, representatives of member States are requested to prepare presentations on the measures taken by their countries to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eleventh session and to present them under item 7 of the agenda.

5. *Languages of the session*

Session proceedings and discussions will be in Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic, English and French will be provided.

6. *Organization of work and adopting recommendations*

The ESCWA secretariat will provide the necessary support to facilitate the session and allow sufficient time for discussions. It will prepare a draft of the recommendations, based on the documents presented and the discussions, and share it with the heads of participating delegations for review and written comments before adoption.

7. *Visas*

Oman will assist participants in obtaining an entry visa. Therefore, please provide the following information as soon as possible to colleagues Ghya Baccar (baccar@un.org) and Iman Bakkar (bakkari@un.org), so that colleagues in Oman can complete the visa application process:

- (a) A colour copy of your passport;
- (b) A personal photo;
- (c) Marital status;
- (d) Mother's name.

Please keep your visa fee receipt to receive a refund; you will not be refunded without a receipt.

8. *Travel, accommodation and mobility costs*

ESCWA will cover the travel costs of one representative of the national women's machinery from each participating State at the twelfth session of the ESCWA Committee on Women and the high-level meeting, in accordance with United Nations regulations. Participants are requested to make their own transport arrangements to and from the airport.

9. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to:

Ms. Mehrinaz Elawady
Leader, Gender Justice, Population
and Inclusive Development Cluster
Tel.: +961-1-978650
Email: elawady@un.org

Ms. Nada Darwazeh
Chief, ESCWA Centre for Women
Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive
Development Cluster
Tel.: +961-1-978658
Email: nada.darwazeh@un.org
